

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC, GOVERNMENT  
PLENIPOTENTIARY FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES**

**Report on the Status and Rights of  
Persons Belonging to National  
Minorities  
2021 – 2022**

**Bratislava May 2023**

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## Introduction

Pursuant to Art. 4(1)(a) of the Statute of the Government Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities, the Government Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities monitors, analyses and evaluates the observance of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities by the state administration bodies, local authorities and other relevant entities, and submits a Report on the Status and Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities to the Government every two years no later than by 31 May of the calendar year. The Report on the Status and Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Report") must be approved by the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") before it can be submitted to the Government. The Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Plenipotentiary") has the status of an advisory body to the Government; performs tasks in the field of preservation, development and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Their activities are provided by the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter also referred to as the "Office of the Plenipotentiary"), which is organizationally integrated into the structure of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

Three types of reports are prepared in the Slovak Republic in the field of the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities:

1. The Report on the State of the Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic, which is drawn up every two years and submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic for approval by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic,

2. The Evaluation Report on the Promotion of National Minority Cultures, the State of National Minority Education and the Use of National Minority Languages, which is submitted every two years by the Committee for approval to the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (hereinafter also referred to as the "Government Council"),

3. The Report on the Status and Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities, which the Plenipotentiary submits to the Government of the Slovak Republic for approval, also at two-yearly intervals.

The present Report, the eighth in the series, maps the situation regarding the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 – 2022. Its aim is to provide readers with an up-to-date overview of the development of individual areas of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The content of the Report has been drawn up on the basis, inter alia, of information provided to the Office of the Plenipotentiary by the relevant government authorities and institutions concerned.

Traditionally, the Report consists of five parts, which deal with the implementation of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities guaranteed by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, international conventions to which the Slovak Republic is bound, as well as the national legal order, the protection of the culture and language of national minorities, the education and training of national minorities, and their participation in public affairs. Where the context so requires, information outside the reference period is also provided.

Through this Report, the Plenipotentiary submits recommendations to the Government of the Slovak Republic for the next period, serving to address issues related to the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

The first part of the Report maps the national and international obligations of the Slovak Republic in the field of the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities, with an emphasis on the legislative and non-legislative changes adopted in this area, compliance with the international obligations of the Slovak Republic in the field of the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities resulting from the membership of the Slovak Republic in multilateral organisations (UN, Council of Europe), pointing in particular to the current situation with regard to the level of implementation of Slovakia's obligations under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Framework Convention") and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as the "Language Charter").

The second part of the Report summarises the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in matters affecting them, particularly in terms of the legislative, conceptual and institutional frameworks for participation, and also analyses the participation of representatives of national minorities in decision-making processes and in elected bodies at state and local level. At the same time, the relevant part of the Report deals with the results of the latest Census of Population, Housing Dwellings and the participation of national minorities in various forms of consultation mechanisms.

The third part deals primarily with the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the field of culture, offering a detailed overview of the activities and activities of individual cultural institutions and the Fund for the Promotion of National Minority Culture, as well as an insight into the various ways of providing financial support for the culture of national minorities in the reporting period.

The fourth part of the Report deals with the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the field of education, analysing specific data on the education system, with an emphasis on the teaching of national minority languages as well as on the languages of instruction of national minorities.

The fifth part provides a comprehensive summary of information on the linguistic rights of persons belonging to national minorities. It focuses in particular on the issues of providing professional and methodological assistance in the use of minority languages, compliance with the obligations arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of National Minority Languages, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 184/1999 Coll.") on the part of the obliged entities, and also on the challenges in the field identified in the Report on the State of the Use of National Minority Languages on the Territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 – 2022.

The Report also contains conclusions and recommendations which, following the findings of its individual sections, provide an assessment of the current state and suggestions for improvement. The Report is supplemented by a separate Annex section which provides more detailed and supplementary information on each section of the Report.

## **Part I - National and International Obligations of the Slovak Republic in the Field of Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities**

### **1.1 National Legislation of the Slovak Republic in the Field of Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities**

The rights of citizens of the Slovak Republic who are persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups are regulated domestically mainly in the fourth section of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, namely in Articles 33 and 34. This legislation is followed by a number of laws regulating the rights of national minorities and their members. These provide them with direct or indirect protection of their rights and legally protected interests. A list of legislation on the subject is available on the Plenipotentiary's website.<sup>1</sup>

During the reporting period, a number of legal provisions affecting the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities were adopted or amended. These are:

- **Act No. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund for the Promotion of the Culture of National Minorities and on amendments and supplements to certain acts**, as amended, which was amended a total of four times in the reporting period, namely by the adoption of the following acts:
  - **Act No. 297/2021 Coll. amending Act No. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund for the Promotion of National Minority Culture and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended:** the aim of this amendment, which entered into force on 1. 8. 2021, was a change in the conditions that must be met by the organisation of the national minority concerned in order to be entitled to nominate a representative to attend the assembly of the organisation of the national minority concerned at which members of the individual expert councils are elected. The condition for the participation of the proposed representative in the assembly of the organisations of the national minority concerned is the registration of the organisation that proposed them in the newly created Register of Cultural Organisations of National Minorities;
  - **Act No. 310/2021 Coll. amending Act No. 177/2018 Coll. on Certain Measures to Reduce the Administrative Burden through the Use of Public Administration Information Systems and on amending and supplementing certain acts (the Anti-Bureaucracy Act), as amended by Act No. 221/2019 Coll. and amending and supplementing certain acts**, effective from 1. 11. 2022: the Act in relation to the functioning of FPNMC responds to the requirements of application practice, which are to achieve greater efficiency in the de-bureaucratisation of processes;
  - **Act No. 126/2022 Coll. amending Act No. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund for the Promotion of National Minority Culture and on amendments and supplements to certain acts**, as amended, effective from 15. 4. 2022, constitutes a major amendment to the FPNMC Act. According to the explanatory memorandum to the draft act, the primary objective of the amendment was to ensure sufficient financial resources to cover the personnel and material capacities for the full, systematic and timely performance of the tasks of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/legislativa-metodicka-a-odborna-pomoc/legislativa/>

FPNMC, and thus to streamline and improve its functioning. The amendment increased the proportion of the resources that the Fund is entitled to use for its own operations from 5% to 6% of the state budget contribution. At the same time, in order to avoid a negative impact of the change on the amount of funding for support activities, the total amount guaranteed by the law was also increased from the previously allocated EUR 8,000,000 from the state budget to EUR 8,300,000;

- **Act No. 264/2022 Coll. on Media Services and on amendments and supplements to certain acts (the Media Services Act)** - effective from 1. 8. 2022. With regard to the adoption of this Act, among other things, the legal regulation concerning public funds, and thus also the Fund for the Promotion of National Minority Culture, was extended by a provision which stipulates that when providing financial support, FPNMC also takes into account, to a significant extent, the fair remuneration of authors, co-authors and performers in accordance with the Copyright Act;
- **Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended** was amended by Act No. 417/2021 Coll., amending Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, with effect from 1 January 2022. The amendment had the character of a parliamentary proposal, the aim of which was, among other things, to explicitly establish the possibility of installing information road signs with the names of designated destinations used to guide road users also in the languages of national minorities. A sentence has been added to Sec. 4(7) regulating bilingual information, signs and notices: "Such signs and notices include information to road users by means of road signs, including the designations of municipalities and other established and customary geographical names in the language of a national minority." The amendment also modifies the Act so that, in addition to the beginning and end of a municipality, parts of that municipality are also marked in the language of a minority. In connection with the above, it should be noted that the Act in this matter sets a condition, which is that such a sign in the language of the minority is part of the regulation pursuant to Sec. 2(2) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
- **Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Training (the Education Act) and on amendments and supplements to certain acts** was amended by Act No. 415/2021 Coll. amending Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Training (the Education Act) and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended and supplementing certain acts, which, with effect from 1 January 2022, amends a number of provisions relating to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The adopted Act was a major amendment to the Education Act, which had several important objectives. One of these objectives was to introduce legal definitions of the terms national schools and national school establishments. In addition to defining these terms, the terms national education, national classroom and inclusive education were also defined under Sec. 2 of the Education Act. The introduction of the concept of inclusive education has also been taken up in other provisions among the principles of education and training (Sec. 3) and among the rights of a child or a pupil. In order to maintain an individual approach to a child, Sec. 11(6) introduces the right for schools and school establishments to ascertain and process, in addition to the previously ascertained data, information on mother tongue. Provisions concerning the language of instruction have also been

amended. In contrast to the previous wording of Sec. 12(3) of the Education Act, according to which the subject “Slovak Language and Literature” was compulsorily taught in primary schools and secondary schools with a language of instruction other than the national language to the extent necessary for its acquisition, the teaching of the subject “Slovak Language and Slovak Literature”, which is taught by methods and forms of education and training as a foreign language, is introduced in the above-mentioned schools. In accordance with the introduction of new concepts in the field of national minority education, children and pupils of citizens belonging to national minorities are guaranteed education and training in national minority schools, national minority classes and national minority school establishments pursuant to Sec. 12(5). An important change in the field of education is also the fact that, pursuant to Sec. 11(4) of the Education Act, the details of pedagogical documentation and other documentation and the scope of pedagogical documentation and other documentation, which is kept bilingually, were established by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic by Decree No. 21/2022 Coll. on pedagogical documentation and other documentation. This Decree came into force on 1 February 2022 (except for Sec. 5(3) which came into force on 1 September 2022).

- As part of the amendment of **Act No. 180/2014 Coll. on the Conditions of Exercising the Right to Vote and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended**, on the initiative of the Plenipotentiary, with effect from 1 January 2022, the obligation to publish on the official board of the municipality and on the municipality's website information on the establishment of polling stations with the definition of their territorial area and information on the designation of polling stations in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language (Sec. 8(1) of this Act) was explicitly established in accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
- **Decree of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 30/2020 Coll. on Traffic Signs** was amended with effect from 1 March 2022 in connection with the amendment to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. already in force at that time, namely by adding Annex 4 on marking the beginnings and ends of parts of municipalities with traffic signs in the language of the national minority.
- **Act No. 182/2022 Coll. on Financial Support for the Hungarian Social and Cultural Association in Slovakia - Csemadok**, which with effect from 1 July 2022 regulates the financial support provided by the state to support its activities.
- **Act No. 264/2022 Coll. on Media Services and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts (the Media Services Act)**, which was adopted in the reporting period and entered into force on 1 August 2022. The primary objective of the adoption of this Act was to introduce new comprehensive legislation in the field of audiovisual media services. This Act replaced Act No. 308/2000 Coll. on Broadcasting and Retransmission and on amendments to Act No. 195/2000 Coll. on Telecommunications, as amended (hereinafter the “Broadcasting and Retransmission Act”) and Act No. 220/2007 Coll. on Digital Broadcasting of Programme Services and the Provision of Other Content Services through Digital Transmission and on amendments and supplements to certain acts (the Digital Broadcasting Act), as amended. In connection with its adoption, the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language of the Slovak Republic, as amended, was amended. In order to clarify the



legal regulation, the provision according to which the state language was used in the periodical press, agency news and non-periodical publications, unless a special regulation provided otherwise, has been deleted altogether, due to the fact that the special regulation, which was Act No. 212/1997 Coll. on Compulsory Copies of Periodical Publications, Non-Periodical Publications and Reproductions of Audio-Visual Works in Sec. 2(8) explicitly provided that the publication of periodical publications, non-periodical publications and the production of reproductions of audio-visual works in languages other than the national language are not restricted. Act No. 212/1997 Coll. on Compulsory Copies of Periodical Publications, Non-Periodical Publications and Reproductions of Audio-Visual Works, as amended, was also repealed with effect from 1 August 2022 and replaced by Act No. 265/2022 Coll. on Publishers of Publications and on the Register in the Field of Media and Audio-Visual and on amendment and supplements to certain acts (Act on Publications). Act No.532/2010 Coll. on the Radio and Television of Slovakia and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, was also amended with the adoption of the Media Services Act, which introduced more significant changes in relation to the use of languages of national minorities. In particular, the obligation to broadcast programmes with balanced content and regional representation for national minorities and ethnic groups living in the Slovak Republic was amended to the extent that the time span corresponds to the national and ethnic composition of the Slovak population according to the latest results of the Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings carried out in the Slovak Republic, in radio broadcasting (via a dedicated programme service), via a separate website reflecting current digital capabilities and public requirements, and in television broadcasting for at least 120 minutes on weekdays, so as to ensure at least 500 hours of such broadcasting per year, jointly across all television programme services. In relation to this obligation, there is a transitional period until 2024, during which RTVS is obliged to reach the set number of hours by continuously increasing their number (until 31 December 2022 – 240 hours per year, from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 – 360 hours). However, the adoption of the Act also had a negative impact on the use of national minority languages, specifically in relation to private television broadcasters, which were granted a licence by the Broadcasting and Retransmission Council to broadcast exclusively in one or more languages of the European Union, which is not a national language of the Slovak Republic, under the legislation in force until 31 July 2022. Following the amendment to the State Language Act, these broadcasters are obliged to provide a Slovak language version of their broadcasts, which they do primarily through subtitles in the state language. The exemption from the obligation to provide a Slovak language version of the broadcast remained only for the broadcaster of a radio programme service that broadcasts in the language of national minorities or in an official language of the European Union that is not a state language of the Slovak Republic.

- **Act No. 576/2004 Coll. on Health Care, Services related to the provision of health care and on amendment and supplements of certain acts, as amended**, the amendment of which, with effect from 1 August 2022, introduced a reference to Sec. 5(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in the provisions of Sec. 6(2) concerning instruction and informed consent. Although the Office of the Plenipotentiary was involved in the inter-ministerial comment procedure with a proposal to explicitly enshrine the obligation to

provide instruction and informed consent by a health care provider under Act No. 184/1999 Coll. also in the language of a national minority in the legislation in question, this comment was not accepted by the Ministry of Health.

- **Slovak Government Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll.**, which issues a list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 15% of the population (hereinafter referred to as the "Slovak Government Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll."). The said regulation repealed Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll., which issues a list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 20% of the population, as amended by the Slovak Government Regulation No. 534/2011 Coll. (hereinafter referred to as the "Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll."). The preparation of this regulation took place within the reporting period and it was submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic for discussion at the end of 2022. The issue of the new regulation puts into practice the 15% threshold set by the amendment to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. of 2011. The Government Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll. with effect from 1. 3. 2023 contains a list of municipalities that included the repealed regulation and another 125 municipalities in which persons belonging to national minorities have the right to use their mother tongue in official dealings, which were added to the list on the basis of the results of the CPHD 2021 (of which four municipalities had at least 15% of the population from two national minorities). One more national minority was added in the 28 municipalities that were also included in the original regulation. Thus, the Regulation in its current form contains a total of 763<sup>2</sup> towns and municipalities in which members of five national minorities (Hungarian, German, Ruthenian, Roma, and Ukrainian) make up more than 15% of the population. In addition to the municipal designations in the language of the national minority concerned, the present regulation also provides for the designations of parts of municipalities in the minority language, which municipalities are obliged to indicate in the language of the national minority in addition to the state language, pursuant to the amendment to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. effective from 1 January 2022, thus making the relevant part of the said amendment to the Act enforceable.
- other legislative changes that took place during the reporting period are also set out in the following sections of this Report.

In this area, it should be noted that during the reporting period, a working version of the draft Act on the Status of National Minorities was prepared at the Office of the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities under the direction of the Plenipotentiary. The participatory proposal was also consulted with some minority organisations and CNMEG members. An international conference on the topic was organised under the auspices of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic Eduard Heger, entitled *Minority Rights and their Legislative Arrangements*, which took place online on 27 January 2022. The conference consisted of three panel discussions on: *Expectations associated with the adoption of one comprehensive minority act*, *Legislative settlement of the rights of national minorities in Slovakia in the context of the recent past*, and *Ensuring the rights of national minorities abroad – taking into account experiences and applications*. The working draft act comprehensively regulated and specified all areas of rights

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<sup>2</sup> This brings the total number of "language" municipalities added to the list to 157. A list of these municipalities is provided in Annex 1.

guaranteed to persons belonging to national minorities in Slovakia by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and the international obligations of the Slovak Republic. However, the preparation of the act was suspended during 2022.

### **1.1.1 Strategy, Concept Papers and Action Plans**

The Plenipotentiary, in accordance with its statute, prepares, proposes and implements, in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic"), ministries and other central state administration bodies, medium- and long-term measures in the field of the preservation, development and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The most important non-legislative document concerning the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities, which was adopted during the reporting period and whose implementation was subsequently ensured by the Plenipotentiary, is the Action Plan for the Protection of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2021 – 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the "Action Plan"). The Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Report on the Implementation of the Tasks of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2016–2020<sup>3</sup> and the Action Plan by Resolution No. 461 of 25 August 2021. At the same time, the Government of the Slovak Republic by this resolution assigned the relevant entities the task of ensuring the implementation of individual tasks resulting from the Action Plan.

The aim of the Action Plan is to set the conditions for the implementation of new tasks arising from priorities, work in progress or innovative proposals, using a broad participatory approach. It builds on the experience of the previous Action Plan, while taking into account the interests and needs of national minorities, as well as the priorities set out in programming, conceptual and strategic documents and international requirements as well.

The Action Plan sets out 6 operational objectives and, compared to the Action Plan of the previous period, which contained 28 actions, it includes 34 actions, which are systematically broken down into the following areas:

- comprehensive legislative and institutional provision for the protection of the rights of national minorities,
- streamlining mechanisms for the participation of national minorities in decision-making on matters affecting them,
- ensuring consistent analysis of data on the population in terms of their nationality,
- improving conditions for the use of minority languages,
- improving conditions for the development of minority culture and media; and
- improving the conditions of national education.

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<sup>3</sup> The Report on the implementation of the tasks of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2016 – 2020 contains, in addition to basic information, a detailed account of the activities and measures set out. The Report on the implementation of the tasks is available on the Plenipotentiary's website: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3563/sprava\\_o\\_plneni\\_uloh\\_akneho\\_planu\\_ochrany\\_prav\\_osob\\_patriacich\\_k\\_narodnostnym\\_mensinam\\_a\\_etnickym\\_skupinam\\_na.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3563/sprava_o_plneni_uloh_akneho_planu_ochrany_prav_osob_patriacich_k_narodnostnym_mensinam_a_etnickym_skupinam_na.pdf).

At the same time, it should be pointed out that, compared to the previous Action Plan, the current Action Plan commits to the implementation of the activities of more entities that are in the position of a gestor or cooperating entity. These are almost all ministries.

Following the approval of the Action Plan, the Plenipotentiary established the Coordination Council for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups 2021 – 2025 (hereinafter the "Coordination Council"). The Coordination Council was established for the period from 15 October 2021 to 30 June 2026. It consists of 8 representatives of the state administration (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization, Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic and Slovak National Centre for Human Rights), who are responsible for individual activities/measures. The Coordination Council was established due to the need to set up cooperation between the Office of the Plenipotentiary as the main promoter of the Action Plan and the promoter of individual activities and measures and to propose a procedure for their implementation. The Coordination Council met once during the reference period to inform the individual Action Plan promoters on specific tasks so that its objectives and activities are translated into departmental and institutional strategies, concepts and plans.

At the end of 2022, the members of the Coordination Council were asked to send detailed reports on the implementation of the individual tasks resulting from the Action Plan to their department. Subsequently, a further working meeting was agreed to review the implementation of the tasks so far and to set up further cooperation.

Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 412 of 22 June 2022 is a significant fact in terms of the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Based on the CNMEG resolution, the Plenipotentiary, through the Head of the Office of the Government, proposed to interpret the results of the CPHD 2021 on nationality and other nationality as the sum of the two nationality categories, which are equivalent. The Government accepted this draft interpretation of the results of the CPHD 2021 and instructed the Head of the Government Office and the Plenipotentiary to prepare and submit to the Government of the Slovak Republic an amendment to the Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll., and subsequently the Plenipotentiary's Office prepared a draft of a new Government Regulation, which, in addition to the results of the CPHD 2021, also reflected the latest amendments to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. (more detailed information on the Regulation is provided above).

The status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities are also related to a number of non-legislative materials from some ministries, such as: *Concept of the fight against radicalisation and extremism until 2024*<sup>4</sup>; *Vision and strategy for the development of Slovakia until 2030 – long-term strategy for sustainable development of the Slovak Republic – Slovakia 2030*<sup>5</sup>; *Strategy for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma until 2030*; *Vision for the Development of Roma Culture, Language and Identity Promotion and Action Plan for 2022–*

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<sup>4</sup> The material is available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25631/1>

<sup>5</sup> The material is available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25655/1>

2024<sup>6</sup>; *Strategy for an Inclusive Approach in Education*<sup>7</sup>; *First Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for an Inclusive Approach in Education for 2022 – 2024*<sup>8,9</sup>.

## **1.2 International Obligations of the Slovak Republic in the Field of the Status and Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities**

On the basis of their status, the Plenipotentiary participates in the preparation of reports on the implementation of international treaties, which, in accordance with Art. 7(5) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, take precedence over laws and by which the Slovak Republic is bound in the field of the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

The Slovak Republic regularly participates in various monitoring mechanisms, in particular the monitoring of the level of implementation of the Language Charter and the Framework Convention, as well as the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council. At the bilateral level, the Slovak Republic also develops bilateral relations in the field of the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, especially with Hungary and Ukraine. Bilateral cooperation in the area in question continues to be institutionalised in two commissions – the Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Minority Affairs and the Intergovernmental Slovak-Ukrainian Commission for National Minorities, Education and Culture.

### **1.2.1 Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities**

The Framework Convention is the first general legally binding multilateral instrument dedicated to the protection of national minorities. It aims to specify the legal principles that states undertake to respect in order to ensure the protection of national minorities. In doing so, the Council of Europe has put into practice the Vienna Declaration's call for the political commitments made by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to be transformed as far as possible into legal commitments.<sup>10</sup>

The Slovak Republic, as one of the parties to the Framework Convention, is obliged to report at regular intervals on the legislative and other measures implemented to fulfil its obligations under the Convention.

In the framework of the 5th round of monitoring of the implementation of the Framework Convention, a visit to the Slovak Republic by the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention took place from 6. – 10 September 2021. The Committee, composed of experts from Moldova, Portugal, Finland and an expert from the Council of Europe, held meetings with representatives of the governmental and non-governmental sectors, representatives of local authority and representatives of minorities.

Following the Advisory Committee visit, the Advisory Committee will normally prepare an evaluation report for the Committee of Ministers on the basis of all available information, on which the Slovak Republic will have the opportunity to submit its views.

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<sup>6</sup> The material is available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/27460/1>

<sup>7</sup> The material is available at: [Material detail | OG Portal \(gov.sk\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> The material is available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/27294/1>

<sup>9</sup> More information on the materials referred to is available in section 1.2.4 of the Report on the State of the Use of National Minority Languages on the Territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 – 2022: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3562/vlastny\\_material.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3562/vlastny_material.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> [vykladova\\_sprava\\_k\\_ramcoveho\\_dohovoru\\_na\\_ochranu\\_narodnostnych\\_mensin.pdf \(gov.sk\)](#)

Monitoring is formally concluded with the adoption of a resolution of the Committee of Ministers, which includes recommendations to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention. Following the formal conclusion of the monitoring exercise, it is customary to hold a workshop at the national level as a form of continued dialogue with the Advisory Committee.

The Resolution of the Committee of Ministers' Representatives ("CMD") in relation to the Slovak Republic was adopted on 3 November 2022. In the resolution in question, the VZNM calls on the authorities to take immediate measures to address the Roma situation, namely in the field of education (immediate end to the segregation of Roma children in schools), in the field of health (investigation of forced sterilizations of Roma women) and in the field of housing (elimination of the territorial segregation of Roma communities). Immediate measures also concern the staffing and financial strengthening of the Office of the Public Defender of Rights and the improvement of the effectiveness of the mechanism for the promotion of the culture of national minorities. The category of so-called other measures address a wide range of issues: access to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as an integral part of human rights; raising awareness of anti-discrimination legislation; addressing hate crime and anti-minority rhetoric; rethinking the narrative in relation to Roma; ensuring the implementation of legislation on minority languages; developing intercultural education programmes; extending pre-school attendance of Roma children; expanding the offer of education in minority languages; increasing the level of effectiveness of the consultation mechanism with representatives of national minorities and full implementation of the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages.<sup>11</sup>

The Slovak Republic will continue its dialogue with the Advisory Committee in the period between the adoption of the resolution and the submission of the subsequent implementation report by organising a seminar scheduled for 28 June 2023. The event will focus on discussing recommendations to further improve the implementation of the Framework Convention.

The next periodic report will be submitted by the Slovak Republic to the Council of Europe by 1 January 2024.

### **1.2.2 European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**

The Slovak Republic, as a party to the Language Charter, has undertaken to create conditions for the preservation and development of regional or minority languages.

On 22 March 2021, the Committee of Experts of the Language Charter for Languages approved the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee's Fifth Evaluation Report for the Slovak Republic (the "Evaluation"). The Evaluation was based on the Information Document as well as on information received from associations representing persons using a regional or minority language under Art. 16.2 of the Language Charter.

The institution of this interim evaluation is new. It was adopted in the Council of Europe in 2018 and applied for the first time in relation to the Slovak Republic. At the mid-point of each five-year monitoring cycle, i.e. two and a half years after the date of the periodic report, the State Party must submit information on the implementation of the measures identified by

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<sup>11</sup> The resolution is available on the Council of Europe website under: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/minorities/slovak-republic>

the Committee of Experts in its evaluation report. The Committee of Experts will subsequently adopt the Evaluation of the implementation of these recommendations.

The Resolution of the Committee of Ministers' Representatives ("CMD") in relation to the Slovak Republic was adopted on 16 June 2021. In the resolution, CMD took note of the Evaluation of the Committee of Experts; invited the Slovak authorities to forward it to the relevant national authorities and stakeholders and recalled its previous recommendation CM/RecChL(2019)5.<sup>12</sup>

The next periodic report will be submitted by the Slovak Republic to the Council of Europe by 1 January 2024.

### **1.2.3 Other International Mechanisms**

#### **European Commission against Racism and Intolerance of the Council of Europe (ECRI)**

The Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is the Council of Europe's independent human rights monitoring body, specialising in issues related to combating racism, discrimination (on the grounds of "race", ethnic/national origin, colour, citizenship, religion, language, sexual orientation and identity), xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance.

ECRI conducted its sixth monitoring of the Slovak Republic in 2019 – 2020. The monitoring resulted in the ECRI report on the Slovak Republic together with recommendations addressed to the Government of the Slovak Republic on how to improve the situation in the area of combating racism, discrimination and intolerance and in the area of further development of related human rights. The information on the results of the monitoring together with the ECRI Report and its recommendations was also discussed by the Slovak Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality on 18 October 2021. One of ECRI's recommendations was the adoption of measures in the area of pre-school education for Roma children and the provision of training and recruitment of teaching staff in order to achieve the required standard of education, including the teaching of Slovak to children who do not speak the language in their families. The ECRI report is available on the Council of Europe website<sup>13</sup>.

#### **Universal Periodic Review by the UN Human Rights Council and Implementation of Universal Human Rights Conventions**

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a special mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council, and since 2008 it has served to provide a comprehensive and universal assessment of the human rights situation in UN member states. The State concerned is reviewed by other UN Member States in this universal process. The periodicity of the review is set at 4.5-year cycles and represents a key event in terms of the human rights agenda at the national level.

Most recently, the Slovak Republic was the subject of a third round of UPR review on 28 January 2019. The review made 195 recommendations to the Slovak Republic. The recommendations most often concerned the inclusion of the Roma population, the application of the principle of equality between women and men, whether in the area of employment

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<sup>12</sup> The CMD Resolution is published on the Council of Europe website under: [https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-charter-regional-or-minority-languages/reports-and-recommendations#{"28993157":181}](https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-charter-regional-or-minority-languages/reports-and-recommendations#{)

<sup>13</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/ecri-6th-report-on-the-slovak-republic/1680a0a08a>

relations or in relation to gender-based violence, as well as the fight against extremism. The interim status of implementation of the recommendations addressed to the Slovak Republic under the 3rd round of the Universal Periodic Review in the middle of the evaluation cycle was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution No. 636 of 3 November 2021.

In August 2022, the Slovak Republic defended before the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (the "Committee") the Thirteenth Periodic Report on the Implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in the Slovak Republic (the "Report"). The Committee appreciated a large and competent delegation. The Committee highly appreciated the apology of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the manner in which the police forces of the State intervened against the Roma in Moldava nad Bodvou in 2013, as well as the apology to the women who underwent sterilizations in violation of the law. The Committee highlighted the change in methodology for the 2021 census, which had made it possible to obtain a more accurate picture of the ethnic composition of the Slovak Republic. The Committee also commended the adoption of the Roma Action Plans and the Strategy for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2030. Measures to combat hate crime and hate speech were also positively assessed. The experts addressed questions to the Slovak delegation on human rights institutions; the situation of Roma in the field of education and access to health care; the migration and refugee agenda; the fight against hate speech; access to asylum; anti-discrimination law; financing of cultural activities of minorities and others. At the same time, the Committee noted the still low rate of the Slovak population declaring itself to be Roma. At the end of the dialogue, the rapporteurs requested that the Slovak Republic pay increased attention to children, especially those from Roma communities, who deserve special attention due to their vulnerability. On the basis of the discussion of the report and the additional information sent, the Committee has drawn up an evaluation of the Slovak Republic – Concluding Observations, which is published on the website of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination<sup>14</sup>. László Bukovszky, the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities, was also a member of the Slovak delegation at the defence in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Slovak Republic will be the subject of the fourth UHP on human rights in 2024.

### **Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe**

During the reference period, several regular OSCE events were cancelled or held online due to the pandemic. At the end of 2020, the mandate of the then OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Lamberto Zannier, came to an end. Kairat Abdrakhmanov of Kazakhstan took office on 4 December 2020.

### **Bilateral Cooperation for Minority Affairs**

Bilateral cooperation for minority affairs in the Slovak Republic is framed by the fundamental act of the Slovak Republic – Articles 33 and 34 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic on the rights of national minorities and ethnic groups, which have the status of "lex specialis", and by the international obligations of the Slovak Republic. Citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic are guaranteed all-round development by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, in particular the right to develop their own culture

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<sup>14</sup> [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2556&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2556&Lang=en)



together with other members of the minority or group, the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue, to associate in national associations, and to establish and maintain educational and cultural institutions. The details of the regulation of the rights and status of national minorities or ethnic groups are set out in the legislation in force in the Slovak Republic. As of 31 December 2022, bilateral cooperation in the field of national minorities is institutionalised in two commissions – the Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Minority Affairs and the Intergovernmental Slovak-Ukrainian Commission for National Minorities, Education and Culture.

### **Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Minority Affairs**

Bilateral cooperation with Hungary is conducted on the basis of the Treaty of Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation signed in Paris on 19 March 1995. In accordance with Art. 20 of the Treaty, 12 expert commissions have been set up. One of them is the Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Minority Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the "Mixed Commission"), within the framework of whose meetings recommendations are normally adopted with the aim of improving the quality, development and guaranteeing the protection of the rights of citizens belonging to the Slovak national minority in Hungary and the Hungarian national minority in the Slovak Republic. The meetings evaluate the implementation of the recommendations from previous meetings on an ongoing basis and the parties agree on the adoption of new recommendations.

The 14th meeting of the Mixed Commission took place on 20 February 2019. The recommendations arising from this meeting were taken note of by the Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution No. 305 of 19 June 2019. The current issues on the agenda of the Commission are the practical application of the acts on the use of minority languages in the practice of the Slovak Republic and Hungary, professional, methodological and financial conditions for the creation and development of professional terminology in minority languages. On the basis of a recommendation from the Hungarian side, the Slovak Republic shall ensure the financial and professional prerequisites for the preservation and more efficient operation of kindergartens and schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction, with special regard to schools with a small number of pupils in Slovakia.

The Slovak Republic, as part of the implementation of the Commission's recommendations, provides a free selection of educational publications and materials available in the Hungarian language. At the same time, if they are in line with the current national curriculum, it will allow teachers to teach from educational publications and materials created by Hungarian experts instead of translated textbooks. The Slovak Republic will also ensure the continued functioning of the Methodological and Pedagogical Centre in Komárno and the necessary methodological, pedagogical and professional support for Hungarian national education after the merger of the directly managed organisations of the Ministry of Education into the National Institute of Education and Youth. The Slovak Republic ensures the maintenance and development of schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction. When setting the norms for the purpose of normative financing of national education, it takes into account its specific features and specificities.

In the reporting period, two plenary meetings of the 15th Plenary meeting were held from October 2021, namely on 13 September and 3 November 2022 in Budapest and two operational and technical meetings of the co-chairs of the Mixed Commission, Ferenc Kálmar and Miroslav Mojžita, on 12 April 2022 in Budapest and 12 July 2022 in Bratislava. In the

context of the continuation of the 15th meeting process, the Hungarian side's position on the substantive issues of the draft Joint Recommendations and Recommendations to the Governments of Hungary and the Slovak Republic is expected in the February/March 2023 timeframe.

### **Intergovernmental Slovak-Ukrainian Commission for National Minorities, Education and Culture**

Bilateral cooperation with Ukraine is implemented on the basis of the Treaty between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine on Good Neighbourliness, Friendly Relations and Cooperation, which was signed on 29 June 1993 in Kiev. The Intergovernmental Slovak-Ukrainian Commission for National Minorities, Education and Culture<sup>15</sup> was established in accordance with the Treaty and on the initiative of the Ukrainian side by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 362/1994.

The Commission is an important instrument for permanent dialogue between Slovakia and Ukraine and for strengthening good neighbourliness and mutual friendship between the two countries. It serves as an advisory body to the Cabinets of the governments of both countries and deals with the issues of the Slovak minority in Ukraine and the Ukrainian minority in the Slovak Republic with the aim of promoting the preservation and development of their identity and culture. It also monitors the overall bilateral relationship in the fields of education, culture, science and research, and pays attention to the promotion of national media. The Commission has met 14 times so far, alternately in the Slovak Republic and Ukraine. At the meetings of the Commission, protocols were signed, containing recommendations addressed to the relevant institutions of both countries and evaluating the implementation of the recommendations from previous meetings of the Commission. The Slovak and Ukrainian parts of the Commission have the same number of members (10 to 14 at different times), with representation from institutions on both sides with the same or similar focus.

The last meeting of the Commission was organised by the Slovak side in Bratislava on 23 March 2017. The meeting confirmed the good level of Slovak-Ukrainian dialogue and mutual interest in addressing the educational, cultural and informational needs of national minorities. Since then, the Ukrainian side has postponed the 15th meeting several times due to various reasons, the main reason being the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and the ongoing military conflict in Ukraine in 2022.

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<sup>15</sup> The Intergovernmental Commission has had a new name since 2003, following an agreement with the Ukrainian side: Intergovernmental Slovak-Ukrainian Commission for National Minorities, Education and Culture.

## **Part II - Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities to Participate in Matters Affecting Them**

### **2.1 Legislative, Conceptual and Institutional Frameworks**

The Slovak Republic shall endeavour to create conditions for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life, as well as in public affairs, in accordance with the Framework Convention, in particular those that concern them.<sup>16</sup> All facts affecting the effectiveness of the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public affairs must be examined comprehensively, from the perspective of the position of national minorities within society and the state. The aim of the government and state authorities should be to remove all restrictions and to encourage and facilitate the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public life.

The right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in matters affecting them at the national level is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic in Art. 34(2)(c). According to Art. 30(1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, all citizens have the right to participate in the administration of public affairs, either directly or by freely electing their representatives. These rights are also guaranteed by international conventions to which the Slovak Republic is bound. First of all, it is the aforementioned Framework Convention, which, as an international treaty on human rights and fundamental freedoms, takes precedence over laws in accordance with Art. 7(5) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention on Participation also focuses on the interpretation of effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities, with emphasis on the word "effective" participation, which in practice means that the state should ensure the use of participatory mechanisms not only formally, but also materially, with emphasis on their purpose. An important document in this area is the so-called Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life (hereafter referred to as the "Lund Recommendations"). In its general principles, the document states that the effective participation of national minorities in social life is one of the essential components of a peaceful and democratic society, and therefore governments must take specific measures in relation to national minorities to enable them to preserve their own identity.

The participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public affairs can take several forms. The most important area of participation is the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in decision-making processes and in elected bodies at state and local level. All forms of political participation: legislative power (National Council of the Slovak Republic), executive power (Government of the Slovak Republic, President of the Slovak Republic), regional power (higher territorial unit) and local power (towns and municipalities) can be exercised, directly or indirectly, exclusively through the electoral system, political parties and political movements. No legislation regulates the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in political participation. The legal order of the Slovak Republic does not exclude the existence of so-called ethnic political parties, which are aimed at representing the interests of a particular national minority or several national minorities. Persons belonging to national minorities become MPs either as candidates of ethnic parties or parties explicitly aimed at representing the interests of national minorities, but also as candidates of other political

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<sup>16</sup> Art. 15 of the Framework Convention.

parties. All legislation regulating the right to vote fully respects the provisions of Art. 30 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, which, in addition to the above, provides that all citizens have access to elected and other public offices under equal conditions, and that the right to vote is universal, equal and direct and is exercised by secret ballot.

However, no specific legislation regulates the participation of national minorities in the legislature. The fact that the current legislation allows only those political parties that win more than 5% of the votes in the elections to obtain a mandate in the National Council limits the possibilities of smaller parties whose agenda would consist mainly of representing the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. As a rule, the participation of national minorities in the executive power in Slovakia is also determined by the results of the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic, as persons belonging to national minorities can be elected as MPs either as candidates of ethnic parties or as candidates of other political parties. At the level of the Government of the Slovak Republic, there is currently no member of the Government specifically responsible for the protection and promotion of the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Within the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, plenipotentiaries act as advisory bodies to the Government of the Slovak Republic, including in the field of national minorities and Roma communities. Given the nature of their powers, the plenipotentiaries act partly as consultative mechanisms and partly as components of the executive branch. In the reporting period, the competence of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as "OPRC") was transferred from the Ministry of the Interior of the SR (hereinafter referred to as "MoI SR") to the Office of the Government of the SR as of 1 June 2021. Also, in the reporting period, the position of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities was strengthened following the amendment to Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of Government Activities and the Organisation of the Central State Administration, as amended, effective as of 1 November 2022. For the purpose of coordinating the implementation of the inclusion of marginalised Roma communities and the use of financial resources from the European Union funds intended for the inclusion of marginalised Roma communities, OPRC has become a separate organisational component, which performs the given competence for OG SR in this matter.

The participation of national minorities in the territorial self-governments (higher territorial units and municipalities) is based on a different principle than in the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic. In the case of regional elections, a number of single-mandate or multi-mandate constituencies are created within each self-governing region, and citizens who have not been nominated on the list of a political party or movement, known as independent candidates, can also stand as candidates. The system of municipal elections, i.e. elections to local government bodies, is similarly regulated.

Local authorities play the most important role in promoting the identity and culture of national minorities (they are the founders of schools and cultural institutions, they support local culture and the use of minority languages). From this point of view, those municipalities and HTU in which a significant part of the population is made up of persons belonging to national minorities are in a more favourable position. However, if they make up a smaller share in the municipalities and HTU, their interests receive less emphasis. As far as the HTU are concerned, the existence of basic mechanisms for consultation processes on issues related to national minorities is completely absent at this level. As there are no special advisory or consultative bodies to address the issues of education, language and culture of national minorities in the territory of a given region, the possibilities for participation of national minorities are severely

limited. Compared to the national level of political participation, national minorities are more strongly represented at the municipal level. This applies in particular to the Hungarian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian and Roma national minorities.

The right to participate in matters concerning persons belonging to national minorities is currently exercised mainly through advisory bodies at the level of the central legislative and executive authorities. The above in a way is fulfilled by the advisory body of the President of the Slovak Republic on minorities – the Expert Advisory Committee on Minorities, which is composed of experts representing national minorities. In the Slovak Republic, however, CNMEG, which is an expert body of the CGHR – an advisory body to the Government of the Slovak Republic, plays the role of a representative and consultative institution dealing with the interests of persons belonging to national minorities. For more information on CGHR and CNMEG, see Section 2.3 on page 25 et seq.

The issue of the participation of persons belonging to national minorities was intensively discussed during the period when the Act on the Status of National Minorities was being drafted. In order to improve the status of minorities in this area as well, various proposals have been presented with the ambition to increase the level of participation of national minorities. They consisted, for example, in: the reduction of the percentage quorum in the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic for parties defending the interests of national minorities and the related introduction of a definition of the term "national minority party", or, for example, the establishment of advisory bodies of municipal councils and self-governing regions for issues related to national minorities. Despite the current situation, the above proposals can serve as a starting point for future reassessment of the system of participation and the resources available to persons belonging to national minorities within the Slovak Republic.

## **2.2 Population Census, Elections to Self-Governing Regions, Elections to Municipal Self-Governing Bodies**

In the reporting period, three major events of a socio-political nature took place in Slovakia: the 2021 census, the 2022 elections to self-governing regions, elections to municipal self-governing bodies. A novelty was built into each of them: the possibility of declaring two nationalities was introduced in the census, and elections to municipal and regional self-government bodies were combined for the first time in the history of independent Slovakia.

### **2.2.1 Census of Population, Housing and Dwellings 2021**

For the first time, the Census of Population, Housing and Dwellings 2021 (hereinafter also referred to as "CPHD 2021") was conducted exclusively electronically.

The introduction of the above-mentioned innovation, the possibility to declare more than one nationality, has proved, despite various criticisms, to be successful and beneficial for national minorities.

On the basis of the representative opinion of the Working Group for the elaboration of the interpretation frameworks of CPHD 2021 on nationality, other nationality and mother tongue of the population, composed of representatives of the concerned ministries and nominated representatives of CNMEG, and on the basis of the subsequent resolution of CNMEG, the Plenipotentiary, through the Head of the Office of the Government of the SR, proposed to interpret the results of CPHD 2021 on nationality and other nationality as the sum

of the two nationality categories, which are equivalent. The CPHD 2021 results under this interpretation look as follows:

**Table 1:** CPHD 2021 results – population by nationality, other nationality and mother tongue

	1st nationality		other nationality		1st and other nationalities together		mother tongue
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs
Hungarian	422,065	7.75	34,089	11.13	<b>456,154</b>	<b>8.4</b>	462,175
Roma	67,179	1.23	88,985	29.06	<b>156,164</b>	<b>2.9</b>	100,526
Ruthenian	23,746	0.44	39,810	13.00	<b>63,556</b>	<b>1.2</b>	38,679
Czech	28,996	0.53	16,715	5.46	<b>45,711</b>	<b>0.8</b>	33,864
Ukrainian	9,451	0.17	1,586	0.52	<b>11,037</b>	<b>0.2</b>	7,608
German	3,318	0.06	5,255	1.72	<b>8,573</b>	<b>0.2</b>	3,959
Moravian	1,098	0.02	951	0.31	<b>2,049</b>	<b>0.0</b>	no data
Polish	3,771	0.07	1,511	0.49	<b>5,282</b>	<b>0.1</b>	3,821
Russian	3,245	0.06	4,871	1.59	<b>8,116</b>	<b>0.1</b>	4,947
Bulgarian	1,106	0.02	446	0.15	<b>1,552</b>	<b>0.0</b>	907
Croatian	967	0.02	1,034	0.34	<b>2,001</b>	<b>0.0</b>	923
Serbian	1,084	0.02	792	0.26	<b>1,876</b>	<b>0.0</b>	1,229
Jewish	596	0.01	1,242	0.41	<b>1,838</b>	<b>0.0</b>	273
undetected		5.42					312,364
total	566,622		197,287		763,909		658,911

In the Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings 2021, 2,793 residents (1,325 citizens) claimed the Vietnamese nationality, and 489 residents (479 citizens) claimed it as other nationality. After the census, the Vietnamese community revived its efforts to have the Vietnamese in Slovakia recognised as an official national minority, and in late 2022 the legislative process for official recognition was initiated.

Representatives of the Goral minority addressed a similar request to the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. In the Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings 2021, 537 people claimed the Goral nationality and 4,736 people identified it as other nationality.

## 2.2.2 Elections to Municipal Self-Governing Bodies

Elections to municipal self-governing bodies (hereinafter also referred to as "HTU") in 2022 were for the first time in the history of independent Slovakia combined with municipal elections. They were held on 29 October 2022 and voters elected both chairpersons and deputies of local government councils for four-year terms, as opposed to the previous practice where county chairpersons and deputies of local government councils were elected for five-year terms.

Candidates from 54 parties stood in the elections, either alone or in coalition. Parties explicitly focused on issues related to national minorities were (in alphabetical order):

- Maďarská kresťanskodemokratická aliancia - Magyar Kereszténydemokrata Szövetség (MKDA-MKDSZ),
- Magyar Fórum - Maďarské fórum,
- PRINCÍP
- SLOVENSKÁ INICIATÍVA MENŠÍN,
- Strana rómskej koalície - SRK,
- SZÖVETSÉG - Magyarok. Nemzetiségek. Regiók. | ALIANCIA - Maďari. Národnosti. Regióny.

Of the minority parties, only candidates from SZÖVETSÉG – ALIANCIA (which has three platforms, the MKP Platform, the Most-Híd Platform, the Összefogás Platform) made it to the regional governments : 1 deputy in the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, 14 deputies in the Trnava Self-Governing Region, 18 deputies in the Nitra Self-Governing Region, 9 deputies in the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region, 16 deputies in the Prešov Self-Governing Region in coalition with the parties Hlas–sociálna demokracia and Smer–SD, and 12 deputies in the Košice Self-Governing Region.

**Table 2** Comparison of the results of political parties representing the interests of persons belonging to national minorities in the regional elections in 2017 and 2022

	Number of elected presidents of self-governing regions		Number of elected presidents of local governments/ in coalition with other parties		Number of elected members of local governments (including candidates with coalition support)	
	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
<b>MOST-HÍD</b>	0	0	0	0	47	70* Szövetség - ALIANCIA
<b>SMK-MKP</b>	0		0		47	
<b>MKDA-MKDSZ</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Magyar Fórum-Maďarské fórum**</b>	-	0	-	0/1	-	0
<b>PRINCÍP</b> (in 2017 Strana rómskej únie Slovenska)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>SLOVENSKÁ INICIATÍVA MENŠÍN**</b>	-	0	-	0	-	0
<b>SRK</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: <http://volby.statistics.sk>

\* in 2022, the Most-Híd and SMK parties were merged with the Spolupatričnosť party into one party called Szövetség – ALIANCIA

\*\*in 2017 the Magyar Forum party and the SLOVENSKÁ INICIATÍVA MENŠÍN did not yet exist

**Table 3:** Number of own and coalition deputy presidents for MOST-HÍD and SMK in municipalities in 2017 and 2022 for Szövetség – ALIANCIA

Higher Territorial Unit	MOST-HÍD/ with the support of MOST-HÍD 2017	SMK / with the support of SMK 2017	Szövetség – ALIANCIA * 2022
Bratislava	0/1	0	0
Trnava	0	1	1
Nitra	1	1	1
Banská Bystrica	0	0/1	1
Košice	1	0	1
Prešov	0	0	0
Trenčín	0/1	0	0
Žilina	0	0	0

Source: <http://www.region-bsk.sk/obcan.aspx>, <https://www.trnava-vuc.sk/>, <https://www.unsk.sk/>, <https://www.vucbb.sk/>, <https://web.vucke.sk/sk/>, <https://www.po-kraj.sk/sk/>, <https://www.tsk.sk/>, <http://www.zilinskazupa.sk/>

\* SMK-MKP and MOST-HÍD ran in the 2017 elections. In 2022, those two parties, together with the Spolupatričnosť party, were merged into a single party called Szövetség – ALIANCIA.

### 2.2.3 Municipal Elections

The municipal elections were held on 29 October 2022 together with the regional elections. As in the regional elections, candidates of 54 parties stood in the municipal elections, either alone or in coalition. The parties' focus on minority issues was the same as in the regional elections.

In terms of the number of votes cast for local MPs, Szövetség – ALIANCIA was first nationwide, with their candidates winning more than half a million votes.

In the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, 2 mayors were elected for the Szövetség – ALIANCIA party. In the Trnava Self-Governing Region, 45 mayors were elected for the Szövetség – ALIANCIA party, 1 for the Magyar Fórum – Maďarské fórum party. In the Nitra Self-Governing Region 59 mayors were elected for the Szövetség – ALIANCIA party, 1 for the Magyar Fórum – Maďarské fórum. In the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region, 65 mayors were elected for the Szövetség – ALIANCIA party, 1 for the Magyar Fórum – Maďarské fórum. In the Košice Self-Governing Region, 51 mayors were elected from the Szövetség – ALIANCIA party.

Only Hlas-sociálna demokracia party surpassed Aliancia in winning mayoral seats in the municipal elections. Hlas-sociálna demokracia party won 267 municipalities/seats, 223 mayoral seats were won by the Szövetség – ALIANCIA party. The percentage is 7.64, with Hlas in first place with 9.19 per cent. However, the ratio by party is somewhat misleading because it does not include the number of mayoral seats won in the coalition. Szövetség – ALIANCIA together in coalition with various parties supported about 25 candidates for the post of mayor. The Maďarská kresťanskodemokratická aliancia - Magyar Kereszténydemokrata Szövetség (MKDA-MKDSZ) party did not win a single mayoral or parliamentary seat.

In these elections, it is not possible to track the numbers of candidates and those elected by national minority affiliation because, unlike in the elections to the National Council, such data is not required and therefore not available. According to the research, citizens elected 52 Roma mayors in the 2022 municipal elections. This is the highest number of Roma mayors since 2002. In 2002, 12 Roma mayors were elected, in 2014 there were 38 and in 2018 the number increased to 44.



In the municipal elections in 2022, the largest number of Roma mayors were elected in the Banská Bystrica Region (19), followed by the Prešov Region (15) and the Košice Region (14). At the district level, the largest number of Roma MPs is in the Rimavská Sobota district. The ranking of political parties and entities with the highest number of elected Roma mayors is as follows:

- Strana rómskej koalície – 12 mayors
- Hlas-SD – 10 mayors
- Szövetség – ALIANCIA – 6 mayors
- PRINCÍP (former Strana rómskej únie Slovenska) – 5 mayors

Among the independent candidates, voters chose 3 candidates, which is much less than in the previous elections in 2018, when the number of independent Roma mayors was 9.<sup>17</sup>

On the basis of the election results and in view of the fact that there are approximately 800 municipalities and 6 regions in Slovakia in which persons belonging to national minorities have a dominant or significant representation, the Plenipotentiary appealed to the newly elected representatives of local and regional self-governments that, in accordance with the legislation in force – Act of the Slovak National Council No. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipality Organization, as well as Act No. 302/2001 Coll. on Self-Government of Higher Territorial Units (the Act on Self-Governing Regions) – it is possible to establish various commissions as advisory, initiative and control bodies of municipal/city and county councils, as appropriate. These include commissions that will coordinate the work of local government with the needs of persons belonging to national minorities and will assist in the areas of minority education, culture and the application of minority language rights at the local and regional level. The commissions should express and give opinions on draft general binding municipal and county ordinances, as well as on measures of a non-legislative nature that may have an impact on the protection of or respect for the rights of national minorities, adopt opinions and propose measures for the purpose of developing the identity of persons belonging to national minorities at the local and regional level.

**Table 4:** Results of the local elections of political parties that gave priority in their election programme to the protection and rights of persons belonging to national minorities

	<b>Elected Mayors 2018</b>	<b>Elected Mayors 2022</b>	<b>Elected MPs 2018</b>	<b>Elected MPs 2022</b>
<b>MKDA-MKDSZ</b>	4	0	22	0
<b>SMK-MKP (2018) / MOST-HÍD (2018) / Szövetség – ALIANCIA (2022)*</b>	167 / 287	222	1358/1124	1696
<b>Magyar Fórum- Mad'arské fórum**</b>	-	6	-	47
<b>SRK</b>	9	12	71	102
<b>PRINCÍP (former Strana rómskej únie Slovenska – in 2018)**</b>	0	5	0	44
<b>SLOVENSKÁ INICIATÍVA MENŠÍN**</b>	-	0	-	0
* SMK-MKP and MOST-HÍD ran in the 2018 elections. In 2022, those two parties, together with the Spolupatričnosť party, were merged into a single party called Szövetség – ALIANCIA.				

<sup>17</sup> [Analýza | Slovensko má po voľbách rekordný počet rómskych starostov a starostiek \(institutmatejabela.sk\)](https://www.institutmatejabela.sk/)

## **2.3 Consultation Mechanisms**

Consultation mechanisms are an indispensable means of participation of national minorities in public affairs. However, it should be noted in this context that these mechanisms are not a substitute for other forms of participation. According to the Lund Recommendations issued by the OSCE in 1999, individual states should establish advisory and consultative bodies within an appropriate institutional framework to serve as channels for dialogue between government authorities and national minorities.<sup>18</sup> Consultative bodies should be able to raise issues with decision-makers, make recommendations, formulate legislative proposals and comment on government decisions that directly affect them. The Slovak Republic partly fulfils the role of a consultative and advisory body, the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, which is a permanent expert body of the Slovak Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality for issues related to national minorities and ethnic groups and for the implementation of the Language Charter within the meaning of Art.7(4) of the Language Charter and the Framework Convention within the meaning of Art. 15 thereof.

### **2.3.1 Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality**

CGHR is a permanent expert, advisory, coordinating and consultative body of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the field of protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, political and civil rights, rights of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, economic, social and cultural rights, rights for the protection of the environment and cultural heritage, the rights of a child and the promotion of the best interests of a child, the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of the elderly, the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual and intersex persons, the promotion of the principle of equal treatment, equal opportunities and gender equality. The members of CGHR are both the Plenipotentiary, who is also the President of CNMEG, and the Vice-President of CNMEG, who is always a member of CNMEG from the Chamber of National Minorities. Thus, CGHR is regularly informed about its activities through representatives of CNMEG, as well as CNMEG about the activities of CGHR. Information on the meetings of CNMEG and CGHR as well as on the adopted resolutions is included in the regular information on CGHR meetings, which is subsequently submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic for discussion.

During the reporting period, the Plenipotentiary submitted a number of materials to the meetings of CGHR, namely: Information on the preparation of the draft Act on the Status of National Minorities, the Report on the State of Use of National Minority Languages in the territory of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Language Report") and the CNMEG Evaluation Report on the support of national minority cultures, the state of national minority education and the use of national minority languages (hereinafter referred to as the "CNMEG Evaluation Report") for 2019 – 2020. From 2019 to 2020, 4 meetings of CGHR were held, at which a total of 23 resolutions were adopted, with a further 15 resolutions adopted by the per-rollam procedure.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/7/30325.pdf>, p. 10.

### 2.3.2 Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups

The Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups is, as mentioned above, a permanent expert body of CGHR, as well as the supreme body for the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in decision-making on matters affecting them. The CNMEG Chamber for National Minorities is composed of 23 elected members representing 13 national minorities. The Chamber of Representatives of State Administration Bodies with competence in areas related to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities has 9 members. The members of both Chambers and the President have the right to vote. There are also 10 permanent non-voting invited members of CNMEG. The chairman of CNMEG is the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities.

The Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups deals with measures relating to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities by way of submission of opinions, proposals or statements. CNMEG participates in the preparation of periodic reports for the monitoring mechanisms of international treaties on human rights and the rights of national minorities (Language Charter, Framework Convention). It is a consultative and advisory body of national minorities, mainly due to the direct election of members representing persons belonging to national minorities, and it is not possible to deal with a specific national minority at a committee meeting without the participation of its representatives.

CNMEG submits the Evaluation Report on the Promotion of National Minority Cultures, the State of National Minority Education and the Use of National Minority Languages to CGHR for approval at two-yearly intervals<sup>19</sup>. During the reference period, the Evaluation Report on the Promotion of National Minority Cultures, the State of National Minority Education and the Use of National Minority Languages for the period 2019-2020 was being prepared. The evaluation report was approved by the Committee on 3 December 2021 and subsequently approved by the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality on 27 May 2022.

In 2021, elections were held for members and alternate members of the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for all national minorities. Representatives for all national minorities were elected as follows:

- Bulgarian n.m. – 1 representative
- Czech n.m. – 2 representatives
- Croatian n.m. – 1 representative
- Hungarian n.m. – 5 representatives
- Moravian n.m. – 1 representative
- German n.m. – 1 representative
- Polish n.m. – 1 representative
- Roma n.m. – 4 representatives
- Ruthenian n.m. – 2 representatives
- Russian n.m. – 1 representative
- Serbian n.m. – 1 representative

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<sup>19</sup> All previous Evaluation Reports on the Promotion of National Minority Cultures, the State of National Minority Education and the Use of National Minority Languages are available on the website of the Plenipotentiary: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/vybor-pre-narodnostne-mensiny-a-etnicke-skupiny/hodnotiace-spravy/>

- Ukrainian n.m. – 2 representatives
- Jewish n.m. – 1 representative

A by-election was held in 2022 for an alternate committee member for the Jewish minority.

In 2021, 4 ordinary meetings of CNMEG were held, one of which was a joint meeting. Meetings for 2021 were held online due to the epidemic measures related to Covid-19, 1 meeting was held in attendance due to the aforementioned election.

In 2021, CNMEG dealt, for example, with the activities of the Fund for the Promotion of Culture, information on the preparation of the draft Act on the Status of National Minorities, information on the current status of national minority education, etc.

CNMEG adopted a total of 22 resolutions in 2021, with the majority of resolutions adopted by per rollam procedure due to the online meetings.

During the reporting period, 3 meetings were held in 2022, of which one was an online meeting and one was a joint meeting. A total of 23 resolutions were adopted at the above-mentioned meetings, as well as one fundamental opinion, which concerned the Information on the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic on the List of Municipalities in which the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 15% of the population, the CNMEG took note of this information by this fundamental opinion and at the same time requested the Government of the Slovak Republic to discuss at the next meeting of the Government of the Slovak Republic the submitted draft regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic, which issues a list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 15% of the population, which was approved by the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups by Resolution No. 202.

In 2022, CNMEG was primarily concerned with the topic of interpreting the CPHD 2021 results related to the nationality, other ethnicity and mother tongue of the population. Among the frequently discussed topics is the aforementioned draft Slovak Government Regulation issuing a list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 15% of the population, as well as the draft Act on the Status of National Minorities. Last but not least, CNMEG dealt with topics such as information on the current state of the use of languages of national minorities, information on the negotiations of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities with the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic regarding traffic signs in the languages of national minorities and information on the Report on the State of the Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for 2021 – 2022.

During the reporting period, CNMEG members were regularly informed about the activities of the Council's committees, namely the Committee on Research, Education and Training in the Field of Human Rights and Development Education and the Committee on the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance, in which CNMEG and the Office of the Plenipotentiary are represented.

## **2.4 Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities**

On the basis of its statute, the Plenipotentiary carries out duties to foster preservation, development and promotion of the rights of members of national minorities and implements

systemic measures to improve the status of national minorities. The activities of the Plenipotentiary are provided by OPNM, which is organizationally integrated into the organizational structure of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic. OPNM is an expert department of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, which performs tasks in the field of implementation of the national minority policy of the Slovak Republic in accordance with the legal framework for the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, as well as with the manifesto. It performs these tasks in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary General of the Service Office (hereinafter referred to as the "Office of the Secretary General"), as well as other cooperating organisational units of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

One of the main tasks of the Plenipotentiary is to ensure and promote the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in matters affecting them. In this context, the Plenipotentiary in particular chairs CNMEG, holds regular consultations with persons belonging to national minorities and national minority organisations and promotes the strengthening of participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public affairs. During the reporting period, the Plenipotentiary and their office ensured the preparation of CNMEG meetings, in which the Plenipotentiary raised crucial topics related to the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities. CNMEG members from national minorities also had the opportunity to initiate discussions on selected topics during CNMEG meetings.

The Plenipotentiary also held a number of working meetings with representatives of state administration bodies, state institutions, relevant embassies in the Slovak Republic, as well as international organizations, which were aimed at exchanging information and consulting on proposals to improve the status of national minorities and the promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. In addition to the Plenipotentiary, many of these meetings were also attended by representatives of national minorities on the basis of their nomination by CNMEG members for national minorities.

During the reporting period, the Plenipotentiary continued to comment on materials relating to the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Among the most significant are the Act amending Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Training (the Education Act) and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, the draft amendment to Act No. 180/2014 Coll. on the Conditions for Exercising the Right to Vote and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, the draft amendment to Act No. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund for the Promotion of National Minority Culture and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, the draft Act on Media Services and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts (the Media Services Act), the draft amendment to Act No. 576/2004 Coll. on Health Care, Services Related to the Provision of Health Care and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, and the draft Act on Consumer Protection and on amendments and supplements to certain acts. We provide more detail on the legislative changes in Section 1.1 of this Report.

The activities of the Plenipotentiary in the field of the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities are referred to in more detail in the individual sections of this document, according to the area of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities concerned (see e.g.: Section 1.1, 1.2, 5.2, 5.3)

## **Part III - Rights of National Minorities in the Field of National Minority Culture**

### **3.1 Legislative and Conceptual Frameworks**

Art. 34(1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic provides the basic framework for the cultural rights of persons belonging to national minorities. This provision guarantees citizens forming national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic all-round development, in particular the right to develop their own culture together with other members of the minority or group, the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue, to associate in national associations, and to establish and maintain educational and cultural institutions. The right of members of minorities to develop their own culture at the international level is enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Art. 27 and in the Framework Convention in Art. 5.

In the reporting period, the conceptual document entitled Strategy for Culture and Creative Industries 2030 was finalised and subsequently submitted by the Ministry of Culture and Creative Industries for inter-ministerial commentary in early 2023. At this stage, the Strategy is elaborated into seven mutually influencing strategic objectives, which are detailed into strategic priorities and actions, namely: Well-Governed Culture; Effectively Funded Culture; Dignified Culture; Quality Culture; Inclusive Culture; Respected Culture and Responsible Culture.

The status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities are primarily related to Strategic Objective 5 – Inclusive Culture – Ensure the accessibility of culture and the development of its specificities for all. Within this section, the material states that the natural creation of space for support and tolerance of diverse population groups – national minorities, ethnic, marginalised, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups – is one of the essential features of a democratic society.

The strategic priorities of Strategic Objective 5, according to the submitted material, include:

- a) To promote the cultural and artistic activities of national minorities and ethnic groups and their presentation to the general public;
- b) To promote the artistic activities of marginalised, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and their presentation to the general public;
- c) To develop tools to promote access to culture and creative industries for marginalised, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;
- d) To develop intercultural cooperation and dialogue;
- e) To promote interreligious dialogue.

### **3.2 Institutional Provision for the Culture of National Minorities**

The development of the culture of national minorities is institutionally ensured by the state, regional governments, municipalities, national organisations, associations, etc. From the point of view of the competence of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, the fulfilment of this commitment is carried out through the Department of Culture of National Minorities. Until December 2021, the Department of Culture of National Minorities was an organisational unit of the Department of Cross-Cutting Policies, which also included the Department of Culture of Slovaks Living Abroad and the Department of the State

Language. Since January 2022, the Department of Culture of National Minorities has been organised under the direct managerial responsibility of the State Secretary 2 and has two in-house employees.

The most important instrument of financial support for the culture of national minorities at the state level is FPNMC. FPNMC was established by Act No. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund for the Promotion of the Culture of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 138/2017 Coll.") as an independent public institution whose mission is to support and stimulate the culture of national minorities in the field of cultural and scientific activities of national minorities, in particular by creating support mechanisms for the creation and dissemination of cultural and scientific values.

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic provides from the state budget, within the approved limits for the relevant budget period (one calendar year) according to the State Budget Act, a contribution to FPNMC in the amount of at least EUR 8,000,000, according to the amendment to Act No.138/2017 Coll. effective as of 15 April 2022, it is in the amount of at least EUR 8,300,000.

Applicants are increasingly dissatisfied with the activities of FPNMC, they have reservations about the delayed disbursement of subsidies and, despite the significant reduction in the number of documents required compared to the previous period, with the huge administrative burden as well. Therefore, at its December 2022 meeting, the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups adopted a resolution authorising the Chairman of the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups to set up a working group to analyse the problems related to the provision of subsidies for the promotion of the culture of national minorities by the Fund for the Promotion of the Culture of National Minorities for the purpose of streamlining the application practice to Act No. 138/2017 Coll.

In addition to the organisations listed in the following sections, other organisations within the competence of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic have also been involved in activities for persons belonging to national minorities, even though the nature of their main activities does not focus directly on such activities. For example: Slovak National Library, Slovak Library for the Blind of Matej Hrebenda in Levoča, International House of Art for Children BIBIANA, Slovak Film Institute, Slovak National Theatre, Music Centre and Centre of Folk Art Production.

### **3.2.1 Cultural and Educational Facilities**

In accordance with Act No. 189/2015 Coll. on Cultural and Educational Activities (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 189/2015 Coll."), the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic performs state administration in the field of cultural and educational activities and establishes the National Educational Centre (hereinafter also referred to as "NEC") with its seat in Bratislava and the Slovak Central Observatory with its seat in Hurbanovo. A cultural and educational facility may also be established by a self-governing region or a municipality, whereby the founder or the establisher of the cultural and educational facility determines the cultural and educational activities of the facility, its professional focus and territorial scope and controls its activities. The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic also determines strategic and conceptual directions for the development of cultural and educational activities.

## National Educational Centre

In the reporting period, the National Educational Centre (“NEC”) carried out a number of activities focused on the culture of national minorities. Within the educational programmes of the *66th Folklore Festival Východná* in 2021 an expert lecture *Roma Folk Songs in Slovakia* was held. In a discussion led by Jana Ambrózová, Ethnomusicologist, and expert on Roma musical culture in Slovakia Jana Belišová presented a series of song collections, scientific publications and rare audiovisual recordings, including film projects that have been presented at film festivals, accompanied by examples of musical expressions of Roma in Slovakia. In August 2021, they realized an educational seminar with international participation *Kokava Ethnical Workshop Not Only For Students 2021* within the *Festival of Folk Culture Koliesko* in Kokava nad Rimavicou to participants from the students and graduates of ethnology departments, active workers in the field of folklore movement (leaders of folklore groups, organizers of events, methodological staff) and cultural workers of municipalities from all over the Slovak Republic through webinars presented the possibilities of quality preparation of the dramaturgy of the folklore festival, workshops in the field of traditional culture and folklore (dance school, educational concert, workshop), competitions in the field of the folklore movement, preparation of the creation of a song collection and stage presentation. In October 2021, they co-organised the *BÁZIS Festival*, the first representative event of the Hungarian Literary and Artistic Association in Slovakia BÁZIS, which included thematic discussions with writers, editors and actresses, author readings as part of the *First Publication* programme, a guided tour of the exhibition *Possible Agrarianisms - Will There Be Sugar After The Revolution?* and a concert by *Giuoco Piano*. Part of the events of the *67th* edition of the *Folklore Festival Východná* in 2022 featured the *School of Singing* dedicated to the songs of the Ruthenian localities of Spiš and Šariš, the performance of the musical *Things That Happen* about the fate of people in terms of the resettlement of the Ruthenians, emigration and the search for identity, as well as the programme of foreign groups *Guest To The House*, during which folklore ensembles from Serbia, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Poland performed. The choreographic anthology of the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble *Revived Subcarpathia* presented the varied and rich traditional culture of Hungarians, Gorals, Ukrainians, Ruthenians, Romanians, Roma and Jews. *Kokava Ethnical Workshop Not Only For Students 2022* again had an international representation. Lecturers Beáta Salamon (organizer and lecturer of one of the largest and oldest music camps in Hungary), Soma Salamon (Ethnomusicologist, musician) and András Turi (pedagogue at the Óbudai Népzenei Iskola art school) from Hungary shared their experiences in the field of Music Pedagogy. Anna Trebunia from Poland presented a new three-volume methodical publication for teaching Goral folk music from the Podhalie Region. The Slovak speakers were Peter Obuch, who presented the development of the *Muzigan Priepasné* music camp, and Viktória Čolláková, who presented Jana Ambrózová’s paper on the forms of teaching musical instruments at the Department of Ethnology, Institute of Culture and Tourism Management, Cultural Studies and Ethnology, University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra. The seminar was the first of its kind in the Slovak Republic on the basis of the chosen topic. There is a need to have a dialogue about the issues of teaching and methodology in folk music not only informally, but also through official events, and therefore we hope that the event will be a model for discussion forums dealing with this issue. In October 2022, the *Literary And Musical Evening* was held in the multifunctional cultural centre V-Club on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the birth of the eminent Ukrainian writer and litterateur Volodymyr Sosjura and the 100th anniversary of the death of the Ukrainian composer



and conductor Kyrill Stecenko, as well as the 2nd edition of the *Bázis Festival*, which featured thematic discussions with writers, translators, publishers and directors, author readings as part of the *First Publication* programme, the opening of the exhibition *Details In Word And Image*, a performance by Divadlo na hojdačke and film screenings.

### **Progressive Competitions**

The NEC's activities also include arranging advancement competitions and showcases. The culture of national minorities can be presented within them, e.g. “*Šaffova ostroha*” (national competition and showcase of dancers in folk dance), “*Vidiečanova Habovka*” (national competition and showcase of musical folklore of children and adults), *Carriers Of Traditions* (national competition and showcase of folklore groups), which is the top event of its kind in Slovakia, or *Language Of Dance* (formerly Dance, dance – a nationwide competition and showcase of choreographies of folklore groups and is the top event of its kind in Slovakia). Competitions such as “*Strunobranie*” (national competition and showcase of non-professional musical groups and soloists) can be participated in the Slovak language only. The Romano kher – Roma House civic association in cooperation with NEC in 2019 announced the 11th year of the art and literature competition for pupils of primary schools, primary art schools and children from orphanages *Colorful World - Coloriskeri luma 2019*.

The *Tompa Mihály Országos Verseny* (Republican Competition of Mihály Tompa), organised by the Republican Council of Csemadok and other cultural associations of Hungarians in Slovakia, is a nationwide competition for the recitation of poetry and prose in the Hungarian language. This body also announces a nationwide showcase of national poetry, *the All-National Festival of Musical Verse*. In cooperation with the Regional Committee of Csemadok, the Gemersko-Malohontské Educational Centre organises the *István Ferenczy National Art Competition* for primary and secondary schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction from all over Slovakia, as well as from outside the Slovak Republic. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic annually announces a competition in recitation of poetry and prose in the Slovak language for pupils of primary and secondary schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction – *Good Word*.

The literary competition, which focuses on the artistic recitation of Ruthenian poetry, prose, own works, small stage forms, spiritual recitation (of biblical stories) and folk narratives, is *Duchnovič's Prešov*. The announcer of the competition is the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic, the main organizer of the nationwide event is the Ruthenian Revival in Slovakia and the organizers of the district rounds are the competent educational centres. Pupils can also take part in a singing competition in the Ruthenian language called *Songs Of My Family*, which is organised by the Ruthenian Revival in Slovakia, the Vihorlat Museum in Humenné, the Ľubovňa Education Centre in Stará Ľubovňa and Matica Slovenská in cooperation with Humenné and Medzilaborce municipality. The *Makovica String* is a competition for singers of Ruthenian and Ukrainian folk songs, the national round of which is organized in Bardejov. The main organizer of the event is the Union of Ruthenian-Ukrainians of Slovakia.

### **Slovak Central Observatory**

The Slovak Central Observatory in Hurbanovo is a cultural and educational facility with a specialised focus. It is an educational and methodological workplace for the field of Astronomy, a coordinating and executive workplace for specialised observational, scientific, research,

information, documentation, methodological and consultancy activities in the field of Astronomy and related sciences. The Slovak Central Observatory offers 17 fulldome films in the planetarium, 2 programmes in the permanent museum exhibition and 1 programme in the historical building in Hungarian language. A free newsletter about the observatory is published regularly and signs in the museum exhibitions are also continuously painted in Hungarian. From 2022, the Slovak Central Observatory will also offer a programme in Hungarian for individual visitors every Thursday.

### 3.2.2 Cultural and Educational Facilities established by Self-Governing Regions

Persons belonging to national minorities are served by cultural and educational institutions established by self-governing regions. After two years of pandemic, when most events were postponed or cancelled altogether due to the measures, the programmes finally started in 2021 and 2022. A detailed overview of these activities is given in Annex 2.

**Table 5:** Cultural and educational facilities which in their activities are dedicated to persons belonging to national minorities or present their culture

<b>founder /self-governing region</b>	<b>Cultural and educational facilities</b>	<b>National minorities for whose members the events were held or whose culture they concerned (number of events, if known)</b>
Banská Bystrica	Novohradské Educational Centre in Lučenec	Hungarian (6)
	Gemersko-Malohontské Educational Centre in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian, Roma (12)
	Hontian-Ipeľ Educational Centre in Veľký Krtíš	Hungarian (13)
	Pohronie Educational Centre in Žiar nad Hronom	Roma (2)
	Podpolianské Educational Centre in Zvolen	Roma (3)
Košice	Cultural Centre of Medzibodrožie and Použie in Kralovský Chlmec	Hungarian, Roma (3)
	Cultural Centre of Údolie Bodvy and Rudohorie in Moldava nad Bodvou	Hungarian, Roma
	Cultural Centre of Abova in Bidovce	Roma
	Gemer Educational Centre in Rožňava	Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian (4)
	Spiš Educational Centre in Spišská Nová Ves	Ruthenian, Ukrainian
	Museum and Cultural Centre of Southern Zemplín in Trebišov	Hungarian, Roma (1)
	Centre of Culture of the Košice Region	Hungarian, Roma (3)
Nitra	Regional Educational Centre in Nitra	Hungarian (5)
	Regional Education Centre in Komárno	Hungarian (6)
	Regional Education Centre in Nové Zámky	Hungarian (1)
	Regional Education Centre in Levice events	Hungarian (1)

Prešov	Podtatranské Educational Centre in Poprad	Ruthenian, Polish, Roma(2)
	Horný Šariš Educational Centre in Bardejov	Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Roma (3)
	Podduklianske Educational Centre in Svidník	Roma, Ruthenian, Ukrainian (4)
	Lubovňa Educational Centre in Stará Lubovňa	Ruthenian, Ukrainian, German, Goral, Polish (13)
	Horný Zemplín Educational Centre in Vranov nad Topľou	Roma, Ruthenian (5)
Trenčín	Regional Cultural Centre in Prievidza	German, Jewish (2)
Trnava	Galanta Educational Centre	Hungarian, Roma (2)
	Žitný ostrov Educational Centre in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian, Roma (3)
Žilina	Regional Cultural Centre in Žilina	Roma
	Turčianske Cultural Centre in Martin	Russian
<b>Source:</b> Self-governing regions		

### 3.2.3 Observatories

The Regional Observatory and Planetarium in Žiar nad Hronom, which is founded by the Banská Bystrica Region, offers cultural services and astronomical programmes aimed at pupils and students of primary and secondary schools with the Hungarian language of instruction when visiting the Observatory in Rimavská Sobota. It adapts the choice of topic based on the observatory's offerings – lectures, screenings, daytime or evening sky viewing. In the reporting period, the observatory carried out 11 events. The Tekov Observatory in Levice also makes programmes available to national minorities. These are mainly art and artistic competitions on the theme of "universe", educational programmes using the possibilities of the digital planetarium.

### 3.2.4 Hungarian Educational Institute in Slovakia

In addition to the cultural and educational institutions established by the central state administration, self-governing region or municipality, cultural and educational activities are also carried out by organisations operating beyond the scope of Act No.189/2015 Coll., namely professional institutions of national organisations, e.g. the Hungarian Educational Institute in Slovakia, which is under the jurisdiction of the Republican Council of Csemadok. The Institute organises, for example, the nationwide *Tompa Mihály Országos Verseny* (Republican Competition of Mihály Tompa) or the *Duna Menti Tavasz* (Danube Spring) children's art competition, a folk music camp for children and young people, professional camps for leaders of singing groups and zither ensembles, etc.

### 3.3 Libraries

A library may be established by a central government body, a self-governing region or a municipality as a legal entity in accordance with the relevant regulation<sup>20</sup>. In accordance with

<sup>20</sup> Act No. 126/2015 Coll. on Libraries and on amendments and supplements to Act No. 206/2009 Coll. on Museums and Galleries and on the Protection of Objects of Cultural Value and amending Act of the Slovak

Sec. 12 of this Act, in municipalities where citizens belonging to a national minority or ethnic group live, the public library is obliged to take this fact into account when completing and building up the library collection. The regional library, which is established by the self-governing region, operates in the territory of several municipalities and, among other things, provides, on the basis of contractual relations, the completion of the library collections of municipal libraries.

For 2021, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic registers 1,254 public libraries and branches, this number includes regional libraries with regional scope, regional, municipal and municipal libraries.<sup>21</sup>

As regards the activities aimed at the preservation and development of the culture of national minorities of the three libraries under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, i.e. the State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica, the State Scientific Library in Prešov (and its specialist unit, the Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture) and the State Scientific Library in Košice in the reporting period, as well as some of the libraries under the jurisdiction of the self-governing regions, an overview of these activities is given in Annex No. 3.

**Table 6:** List of regional libraries that organise activities for persons belonging to national minorities or expand their library collection with books in the languages of national minorities according to information provided by their founders

<b>Name of library</b>	<b>National minority</b>
Small Carpathian Library in Pezinok	Hungarian, Roma
Mikuláš Kováč Public Library in Banská Bystrica	Czech
Ján Kollár Library in Kremnica	Roma
Matej Hrebenda Library in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian, Roma
Hontian and Novohrad A. H. Škultéty Library in Veľký Krtíš	Hungarian, Roma
Ludovít Štúr Regional Library in Zvolen	Czech
Novohrad Library in Lučenec	Hungarian, Roma
Ján Bocatius Public Library in Košice	Hungarian, Roma
Pavel Dobšinský Library in Rožňava	Hungarian
Zemplín Library of Gorazd Zvonický in Michalovce	Roma, Czech
Zemplín Library in Trebišov	Roma
Anton Bernolák Library in Nové Zámky, Anton Bernolák Könyvtár Érsekújvár	Hungarian
József Szinnyei Library in Komárno, Szinnyei József Könyvtár Komárom	Hungarian
Karol Kmeťko Regional Library in Nitra	Hungarian, Czech
Tekov Library in Levice	Hungarian
Horný Zemplín Library in Vranov nad Topľou	Roma
Ľubovňa Library	Roma, Czech, Ruthenian
David Gutgesel District Library	Ruthenian, Roma
Podtatranská Library in Poprad	Polish
Vihorlat Library in Humenné	Ruthenian, Roma, Ukrainian
Galanta Library	Hungarian

National Council No. 372/1990 Coll. on Offences, as amended by Act No. 38/2014 Coll. on the Protection of Objects of Cultural Value.

<sup>21</sup> More detailed information is available at: [2021 Infografika verejne kniznice.pdf \(snk.sk\)](#).

Juraj Fándly Library in Trnava	Hungarian
Žitný ostrov Library in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian
Regional Library in Žilina	Polish, Czech
Liptov Library of Gašpar Fejérpataky - Belopotocký in Liptovský Mikuláš	Polish, Czech
Orava Anton Habovštiak Library in Dolný Kubín	Polish, Czech
<b>Source:</b> Self-governing regions	

Until 31 July 2022, Act No. 212/1997 Coll. on Compulsory Copies of Periodical Publications, Non-Periodical Publications and Reproductions of Audiovisual Works, as amended, was in force, according to which the publication of periodical publications, non-periodical publications and the production of reproductions of audiovisual works in languages other than the national language is not restricted, provided that the provisions of the Act and special regulations are complied with. This Act was replaced by new legislation in the reporting period. Act No. 265/2022 Coll. on Publishers of Publications and on the Media and Audiovisual Register and on amendments and supplements to certain acts (the Publications Act), which entered into force on 1 August 2022.

**Table 7:** Number of non-periodical publications published in the languages of national minorities in 2021

language of a national minority	number of titles	number of copies
Bulgarian	1	20
Czech	119	166,127
Hungarian	312	234,144
German	48	20,836
Polish	26	22,600
Roma	1	700
Ruthenian	15	4,200
Russian	31	15,725
Serbian	1	4,000
Ukrainian	4	700
other	16	1,750
TOTAL:	574	470,802

**Source:** Statistical reporting on non-periodical publications for 2021: <https://www.snk.sk/sk/informacie-pre/kniznice-a-knihovnikov/statistika/statistika-kult-4-01-rocnny-vykaz-o-neperiodickyh-publikaciach.html>

In the language of national minorities, 574 titles were published (5.78% of the national titles). The largest number of titles was published in the Hungarian language – 312 titles (3.14%), followed by the Czech language – 1.20% (119 titles), the German language – 0.48% (48 titles), the Russian language – 0.31% (31 titles), the Polish language – 0.19 % (26 titles), other – 0.16 % (16 titles), Ruthenian – 0.15 % (15 titles), the Ukrainian language – 0.04 % (4 titles), the Bulgarian language – 0.01 % (1 title), the Roma language – 0.01 % (1 title), the Serbian language (1 title) – 0.01 %.

## 3.4 Theatres

### 3.4.1 Professional Nationality Theatres and Art Ensembles

The theatrical activities of national minorities are mainly provided for by Act No. 387/1997 Coll. on Theatrical Activities as amended. The above-mentioned Act establishes the competence of state bodies and local government bodies in the field of theatre activities. There are five nationality professional art ensembles in the Slovak Republic, which are under the jurisdiction of the municipal regions: Alexander Duchnovič Theatre in Prešov, Romathan Theatre in Košice, Thália Színház Theatre in Košice, Jókai Theatre in Komárno and Poddukelský Folk Art Ensemble in Prešov (a music and dance art ensemble) and one national professional art ensemble, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic – the Ifjú Szivek Dance Theatre. Their activities are primarily focused on national culture.

#### **Ifjú Szivek Dance Theatre**

In 2021, ISDT staged 69 performances, 14 of which were streamed online on the portal <https://navstevnik.online/> and 55 in person. Online streaming occurred during periods when the possibilities of organising attendance at cultural events were limited or impossible due to the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus. There were 5 performances online, including 1 premiere. The dance-theatre performance entitled Mandatory Recommendation opened on 20.10.2021 online. In 2021, ISDT again participated in the Festival Off d'Avignon in France, where it presented the dance-theatre production Allegro Molto Barbaro in the French language. The production was reprised twenty times during the event on the stage of Theatre Golovine. During 2021, the reconstruction of the organisation's headquarters building in Bratislava, Mostova 8, continued.

In 2022, ISDT staged 67 performances, 5 of which were streamed on the portal <https://navstevnik.online/> and 62 in person. Online streaming occurred during periods when the possibilities of organising attendance at cultural events were limited or impossible due to the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus. 3 performances were presented online, including 1 premiere – the production called Adam's Apples in cooperation with the Trepp Theatre Platform (Hungarian students of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava). In 2022, ISDT presented its activities mostly in Slovakia, with 5 performances in Hungary, 2 in the Czech Republic and 55 in Slovakia. During 2022, the reconstruction of the organisation's headquarters building in Bratislava, Mostova 8, continued. The theatre is expected to be completed and opened to the public in the first half of 2023.

#### **Alexander Duchnovič Theatre in Prešov**

In 2021, the Alexander Duchnovič Theatre (hereinafter also referred to as "ADT") staged three premiere productions in the Ruthenian language – *Not Even a Little* (4 June 2021), *The Peacock King* (9 July 2021) and *12 Chairs* (23 October 2021). In 2022, it staged three premiere performances in the Ruthenian language: *Love For Our Neighbour* (25 February 2022), *Red Viburnum* (15 June 2022), *Beggar's Opera* (21 October 2022) and two premiere performances in Ukrainian language: *Six Characters In Search Of An Author* (8 April 2022), *On the Ruins* (16 December 2022)

### **Poddukelský Folk Art Ensemble in Prešov**

In 2021 and 2022, the Poddukeský Folk Art Ensemble (hereinafter referred to as "PFAE") organized performances in Ruthenian villages with Ruthenian themes outside the Ruthenian regions throughout Slovakia in order to promote Ruthenian culture. The total number of performances in the year was 43. On 31 January 2021, the online concert *They Walked Beneath Us* took place. One of the most important performances was the performance of *The Living Returns* on 4 June 2021 on the Big Stage of the Jonáš Záborský Theatre in Prešov – the premiere on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the founding of PFAE.

Other major performances and other activities (2021):

- musical performances of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in cooperation with the Jonáš Záborský Theatre in Prešov (7 and 8 June 2022),
- PFAE performance at the charity concert Let's Hold Hands – the twelfth annual charity concert for the mentally disabled on 13 June 2021 in Galanta,
- PFAE performance at the charity concert Hands Join Hands for the Disabled on 23 June 2021 in Kováčová,
- performance at the celebration of St. John of Nepomuk, the patron saint of all sailors and people from the water on Domaša Dobrá at the event "Slovak Navalis 2021" on 26 June 2021,
- performance of PFAE called Representative Concert at the Festival of Culture of Ruthenians of Slovakia on 28 August 2021 in Svidník,
- performance of PFAE called Representative Concert on 10 September 2021 in Banská Bystrica,
- digital distribution of the CD *Ščedryj večur* in cooperation with the distribution company Spinaker on digital channels such as Spotify, iTunes, Youtube, Deezer and many others,
- cooperation with Folklorika TV – broadcast of the performance *They Walked Beneath Us*, *The Immortal Dancer* and *Ščedryj večur*,
- cooperation with the RTVS national broadcaster, especially in the framework of the premiere of the performance *The Living Returns* on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of PFAE.

In 2022:

- performance of *Returns* on 25 February 2022 in MsKS Trebišov during the event *Fašiangy 2022*,
- two concerts for Ukraine organised by the Musical Union of Slovakia in Košice and Prešov on 6 March 2022,
- performance of *Returns* on 10 March 2022 in the village of Šarišské Jastrabie,
- musical performances of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in cooperation with the Jonáš Záborský Theatre in Prešov,
- performance of THE LIVING RETURNS on 26 March 2022 in Kunsthalle / Art Hall in Košice in support of Ukraine,
- PFAE performance called Representative Concert for Teachers' Day on 28.03.2022 in Vranov nad Topľou,
- PFAE performance at the charity event "Lean On Me" for the disabled on 30 March 2022 in PKO Prešov.
- renewed premiere – *They Walked Beneath Us*, 22 May 2022 in Sabinov

- premiere of *Inside and Outside* in December 2022

### **Thália Színház Theatre in Košice**

In 2021 Thália Színház Theatre played 3 premiere performances: Pintér Béla – Darvas Benedek: *Peasant Opera* – online premiere, Ivan Viripaev: *Illusions*, Carlo Goldoni: *Swindlers*. Furthermore, the theatre performed 47 reprises and other performances, 38 performances on the territory of the Košice Self-Governing Region, 6 performances outside the territory of the Košice Self-Governing Region, 3 performances abroad. A total of 1,454 spectators attended the theatre's performances. In 2022 the theatre played 4 premiere performances: William Shakespeare: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lucskay Róbert – Forgács Miklós – Czajlik József: *Father, Mother, Booze*, Tom Ziegler: *Grace and Gloria*, Michal Tomasy: *I hate you!*. The theatre performed 96 reprises and other performances, 83 performances in the territory of the Košice Self-Governing Region and 19 performances outside the territory of the Košice Self-Governing Region, the theatre performed 3 performances abroad. Attendance at the theatre's performances was significantly higher in 2022 than it was even in the pandemic year of 2021. A total of 10,738 spectators attended the theatre's performances.

### **Romathan Theatre**

In 2021, the Romathan Theatre played 3 premiere performances: *It's Good When Roma Is Having Fun*, *Testament*, *The Frog World*. In 2021, the theatre performed 20 reprises and other performances. In the territory of the Košice Self-Governing Region it played 19 performances and outside the territory of the Košice Self-Governing Region it was 1. 970 visitors attended the theatre performances. In 2022, the Romathan Theatre played 3 premiere performances as well: *When the Globe Giggles*, *The Magical Journey of Romathan Theatre*, *Countess Maritza's Heels*. In 2022, 71 reprises and other performances were staged, 42 performances were staged on the territory of the Košice Self-Governing Region and 29 performances were staged outside the territory of the Košice Self-Governing Region. The theatre played 2 performances abroad and a total of 9,078 visitors attended the theatre's performances.

### **Jókai Theatre in Komárno**

The Jókai Theatre in Komárno, Komáromi Jókai Színház (hereafter also referred to as "JTK") staged 48 performances by its own company in 2021: *The Silent House* (15 performances), *The Burial* (3), *The Threshold* (10), *Hamlet* (3), *The Old Man And His Son the Hussar* (5), *Six Characters In Search Of An Author* (7), *The Legacy* (4), *The Ark Or The Deluge Is Upon Us* (1), 2 of which were performed in Hungary. Guest ensembles played 18 performances in JTK. They put one show online in 2021.

In 2022, the guest ensembles played 26 performances in JTK and the artistic ensemble of the Jókai Theatre in Komárno played 75 performances at home, they performed 31 performances in the Slovak Republic and 12 performances abroad. Titles of performances: *The Matias's Whistle*, *The Ark Or the Deluge Is Upon Us*, *The Silent House*, *Ghosts*, *Hamlet*, *Talking Coat*, *Threshold*, *Burundanga*, *The Heritage*, *The Toths*, *Periphery*, *Celebrating 70*, *Our Daily Palms*.

The theatre's cross-border cooperation with Thália Színház Budapest, József Attila Színház Budapest, Csokonai Színház Debrecen, Hungarian National Theatre Budapest, Miskolci Nemzeti Színház, Soproni Petőfi Sziínház, Pécsi Nemzeti Színház, Győri Nemzeti



Színház as well as with the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava, Slovak Chamber Theatre in Martin, Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra and Thália Theatre in Košice is also significant.

### **3.4.2 Other Theatres**

#### **Theatres under the jurisdiction of the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region**

The Jozef Gregor Tajovský Theatre in Zvolen (JGTT ZV), as a drama theatre, presents productions based mainly on the word and within its repertoire it reflects the culture of minorities by selecting authors belonging to minorities or by selecting themes related to various minorities. These productions are also intended for children and young people as part of their education. Within its events, JGTT ZV also focuses on themes resonating in society, some of which also affect minorities. This can be seen, for example, at the Night of Theatres event, when JGTT ZV in 2022 prepared a full-length programme with a strong humanistic message under the theme "War Has No Human Face". It also included a talk show *On The Verge Of The Night* with guests who brought chilling impressions from Ukraine and the Slovak-Ukrainian border region. After a year's hiatus, because the festival was not held in 2020 for the first time in its history due to the pandemic, Czech theatres, which bring national minorities living in Slovakia into contact with their culture, once again appeared among the guests of the International Summer Theatre Festival *Castle Plays In Zvolen*. JGTT ZV in 2021 prepared the performance *Bonnet* as the first premiere of a production based on the book by Katarína Kucbelová, which includes a line of coexistence with the Roma minority, elements of Roma culture, Roma folklore and a look into the past of the Roma living in the vicinity of the village of Šumiac. The village of Šumiac, where the story takes place, is described as "the westernmost Ruthenian village", and so the themes of Šumiac folklore or the way of sewing bonnets also partly touch on Ruthenian culture.

#### **Slovak Folk Art Collective**

The Centre for Traditional Folk Culture at the Slovak Folk Art Collective provided methodological assistance in the field of intangible cultural heritage for representatives of the Goral ethnic group in Slovakia in the reporting period. The repertoire regularly featured programme numbers that were artistic adaptations of traditional folk music, songs and dances of members of the Hungarian, Roma and Ruthenian national minorities, as well as of the Goral ethnic group.

#### **Theatre Institute Bratislava**

The Theatre Institute cooperates closely with professional theatres of national minorities in the Slovak Republic, some of which have established above-standard relationships. Within the framework of its Theatre Documentation Centre, it systematically monitors the activities of the Thália Színház Theatre in Košice, the Jókai Theatre in Komárno, the Alexander Duchnovič Theatre in Prešov and the Romathan Theatre in Košice.

In the reporting period, the collection and processing of information about the events in the theatres mentioned above continued and the part dedicated to their artistic work was made available within the *Virtual Database Of Slovak Theatre* project at the following address [theatre.sk](http://theatre.sk). Along with information, the Theatre Institute also collects and manages documentary material (photographs, bulletins, production texts, etc.) related to the creation and presentation of theatrical productions.

The theatres of national minorities are an integral part of the professional theatre culture of the Slovak Republic and the Theatre Institute promotes and presents their work not only on its website, but also in its projects: *The Theatre Century – Traces And Attitudes* (Bratislava, 27. 2. 2020 – 5. 9. 2021), [theatre.sk](http://theatre.sk), a travelling exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the Slovak professional theatre, which was made available as an accompanying programme of the theatre festival *Touches And Connections* (Martin, 30. 8. 2021 – 15. 10. 2021).

The theatres of national minorities are also regularly featured in the monthly magazine *the code – specifically about theatre*, a professional journal published by the Theatre Institute. This journal also features interviews with creators and performers working in ethnic minority theatres.

The COVID-19 disease pandemic has also interrupted the operation of Studio 12, the theatre space of the Theatre Institute for New Drama, for a few months in 2021. In October 2021, Studio 12 staged Michał Walczak's *The Sandbox*, produced by the Alexander Duchnovič Theatre. The production in the Ruthenian language was part of the 17th *New Drama 2021* festival and won the *Special Jury Prize* for the inventive staging of the text, creating a captivating atmosphere that organically communicates with the audience.

On the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day in January 2022, Post Bellum SK will present the next debate in the series *Freedom Is Not A Happy Ending!* at Studio 12, laying the groundwork for deeper cooperation between the organization and Studio 12. The discussion was moderated by Sandra Polovková, the director of the organisation, and the guests were Madeline Vadkerty and Veronika Homolová Tóthová. In February 2022, the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica presented Tadeusz Ślobodzianek's *Our Class (Gens una sumus)*, depicting Polish-Jewish relations between classmates before, during and after the war. In March 2022, the Actor Theatre from Košice presented the series *Lest We Forget...* Ingmar Villqist's production the *Helver's Night* about the rise of fascism in Germany and the impact of the dictatorship on the fate of the Roma minority and people with mental and physical disabilities.

### **3.5 Media**

#### **3.5.1 Television and Radio Broadcasting for National Minorities**

##### **Radio and Television of Slovakia**

In the reporting period, the Radio and Television of Slovakia, Section of National Ethnic Broadcasting, continued to implement the individual phases of the National Ethnic Broadcasting Concept, approved in 2020, while during the year the legal framework changed in the form of increasing the time subsidy for nationality broadcasting by new media legislation.

The legal framework for nationality broadcasting is, in addition to generally applicable legislation, *Act No. 532/2010 Coll. on Radio and Television of Slovakia* (hereinafter referred to as the "RTVS Act") and the *Media Services Act*. The RTVS Act prescribes the broadcaster by law to broadcast national programmes, in Sec. 5(1)(b) and (g), which prescribes a separate programme service for radio broadcasting and a separate organisational unit for national broadcasting as a whole. It also prescribes the broadcasting of balanced programmes in terms of content and regionally in the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups living in the territory of the Slovak Republic in the time range corresponding to the national and ethnic composition of the population of the Slovak Republic according to the latest results of the census of population, houses and dwellings carried out in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

## **Institutional Framework**

The nationality broadcasting is covered by four organizational units, which are:

1. Radio Patria – Hungarian Broadcasting Editorial Office;
2. Radio Patria – Nationality Broadcasting Editorial Office in Košice (hereinafter also referred to as “NEV”);
3. Nationality Broadcasting Editorial Office of STV in Bratislava;
4. Nationality Broadcasting Editorial Office of STV in Košice.

Methodological guidance to the nationality broadcasting units is provided by the Nationality Broadcasting Section. RTVS provides full support to the nationality broadcasters, in terms of technical support (building, studios, equipment), personnel or economic agenda, as well as production logistics.

In the reporting period, according to the RTVS report, the time subsidisation of programmes was identified as problematic. In analogue terrestrial broadcasting, there is nowhere further to expand the programme and the solution for a more valuable and, of course, longer programme will be a gradual transition to DAB+ digital broadcasting in the east of the country.

The first phase of the Nationality Broadcasting Concept also envisaged strengthening the digital presence. By the end of 2022, Slovak Radio (SRo) will have given up medium wave broadcasting, but wherever medium wave was previously used, there is a replacement in the form of digital broadcasting. Radio Patria's programme is available in an internet stream, also in the form of RTVS' own application, is available on the DVBT network of all retransmission operators in Slovakia, on approximately two-thirds of the territory concerned in the FM band, and on three-fifths of the territory concerned via the DAB+ network.

In the reporting period, the staffing was changed by strengthening the production in the editorial office in Košice. The dramaturgy of Roma programmes, which are beginning to be radio unique pieces, has been strengthened, the music dramaturgy has been strengthened, and under the dramaturgical leadership of Kristína Mojžíšová, the small minorities have been strengthened with much better and more valuable radio expression.

## **RTVS Radio Broadcasting**

In the reporting period, radio broadcasting was provided by two editorial offices of the Nationality Broadcasting Section. Both editorial offices operated in standard mode until early 2021, when they operated in home-office mode due to the Covid-19 disease pandemic.

The Hungarian editorial office has allocated capacity for the creation of the website, thus fulfilling all the requirements of the first phase of the Nationality Broadcasting Concept. In Hungarian broadcasting, the trend of full-format streaming radio continued, with one major change: the premieres of the so-called block programmes (i.e. programmes prepared in advance and broadcast from a recording) were moved to the afternoon hours of weekdays, and their reprises were broadcast in blocks in the weekend programme.

During the working days, the slot structure was deployed as follows:

- *Breakfast* – a three-hour news and journalism stream with six to seven original topics, ranging from world politics to regional and local events. . Analysts and observers regularly reported in moderated interviews, with separate inputs from nine foreign externalists (Budapest, Prague, Warsaw, Vienna, Berlin, Rome, London, Lisbon, Tel-Aviv), and representatives of political parties, the executive, the legislature, HTU, and

municipalities were given space in this slot. The natural complement was the regional news every half an hour, and the regular news every full hour. Each morning the streaming had obligatory interviews from either science or culture.

- *The Living Room* – a three-hour entertainment and cultural journalism stream, consisting of longer interviews, studio visits, and presentations of highlights in arts and culture, with a focus on national institutions and societies, in which lighter topics, including culinary, also appeared.
- *Afternoons With Patria* – a four-hour afternoon stream featuring a selection of the best programmes from the pre-afternoon stream, themed hour-long music streams with moderation, several times premiering original home-grown music. In the evening, the stream was interrupted by a recorded block (block themes: health, law, retro, digital world and science). These blocks subsequently made their way into reprises in the weekend structure.
- *Saturday Morning* – a social and journalistic stream, with a one-hour block on the most topical issues, ending with Péter Miklósi's social talk show *At Noon*.

In the afternoons, block reprises, thematic music programmes and a thematic programme on education were broadcast. The regional block *Once Upon A Time In The East* was added, which at the end of the year took another form in the form of *Once Upon A Time In Gemer*. *Once Upon A Time In Gemer* is placed on the regular Saturday broadcast for 2023. On Sunday, the program was complemented by an hour-long religious block, and an entertaining classical radio stream hosted by Ferenc Csenger.

In the national-ethnic broadcasting, the news blocks have been strengthened in particular: the Ruthenian or Ukrainian Radio News, and the Roma news format called *The Roma Word*. This daily format was supplemented during the summer on Regina by a short news bulletin for refugees from Ukraine, where the programme was produced by the Nationality Broadcasting Section, but broadcast on Radio Regina.

In the reporting period, the NEV editorial office prepared magazine formats in seven languages, which was supplemented by a Serbian and Croatian magazine, broadcast only on the Bratislava FM frequency.

In the reporting period, the most lively and dynamic of the magazine formats were the field reportage programmes called *Bells Over the Country*, also in Ruthenian, Ukrainian and Roma formats. The radio cooperated with the Days of Polish Culture and in autumn became a media partner of the Days of Czech Culture in Košice.

In the reporting period, the Košice editorial office prepared recordings of concerts of Roma music with valuable moderation, and the programme was produced in cooperation with FPNMC. The editorial office also prepared artistic and journalistic series, but due to insufficient capacity, no literary and dramatic work was premiered in either language in 2022.

Radio broadcasting in 2022 meant 4,380 hours of broadcasting of the Hungarian Broadcasting Editorial Office on a separate programme service, 52 hours of terrestrial broadcasting on the Bratislava frequency, 623 hours of the original broadcasting of Radio Patria on the frequencies of Radio Regina.

The entire programme of Radio Patria, and therefore of the national RTVS broadcasts, is an original domestic production of RTVS.

## **RTVS Television Broadcasting**

In the reporting period, the TV editorial offices of the Nationality Broadcasting Section in Bratislava and the RTVS Studio in Košice fulfilled the conditions of the first phase of the Nationality Broadcasting Concept. As part of the concept of nationality broadcasting, the time allocation was doubled, and thus nationality content was broadcast in a separate daily hour-long block on Dvojka, with reprises of hour-long blocks on Troika.

During 42 weeks (and therefore the weeks outside the summer structure and the two weeks of the Christmas structure), a half-hour slot of national programmes (i.e. 105 hours of premiers) was initially broadcast daily. In 2022 it was 42 weeks with a daily hour slot (i.e. 210 hours), plus specials of Roma and Hungarian broadcasting (the documentary *Gabčíkovo 30 Years After*, the time-lapse documentary *Wedding In Jelka*, the Jewish documentary *Step By Step*, the Roma documentary *Nežná And Romas*), for a total of 213 hours of premieres. Including reprises, RTVS broadcast 420 hours of nationality broadcasting.

In the reporting period, 2022 was the first year in which sports content did not interfere with Dvojka's broadcasts, and thus all premier nationality broadcasting slots were actually broadcast and did not have to be replaced by another programme. In this respect, the first phase of the concept of nationality broadcasting has been fulfilled by the Nationality Broadcasting Section.

In the reporting period, legislation was changed, amending the provisions of the RTVS Act and prescribing a minimum time subsidy for the national programme for the years:

- 2022 – 240 hours,
- 2023 – 360 hours,
- 2024 – 500 hours.

After the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, RTVS broadcast News in Ukrainian for three months, which, however, did not originate as a nationality programme, but as a service for refugees from war-affected Ukraine. The Section also reacted very quickly to the very fact of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia by changing the programme of the nationality magazines in the spring of 2022, and thus also contributed to the fulfilment of the requirements of :24 during the start-up phase of the programme service.

The dramaturgy of the national programmes divided the hour slots according to the following scheme:

- **Monday** – minority nationalities – magazine and journalistic format *From The Source*. Once a month, the Roma discussion programme *Hello, Romale* was given space.
- **Tuesday** – Ukrainian and Ruthenian nationality in the ratio of one to four magazine and journalistic format *From The Source*. On this day, the broadcast was supplemented by a weekly news format, *Nationality News*.
- **Wednesday** – Hungarian magazine and then Hungarian journalistic block (programmes *Laboda* and *Let's Talk A Little*).
- **Thursday** – the Romani magazine and then Romani journalistic programme *Romano Hero*.
- **Friday** – Hungarian hour-long social magazine, replaced once a month by the Hungarian discussion format *Forum*.

The stabilisation of hourly daily broadcasting also means preparation for the production and broadcasting of programmes according to the new media legislation, and thus for daily broadcasting also during the summer and Christmas weeks, which will enable the Section to fulfil the second, and a year later the third phase of the Nationality Broadcasting Concept.

In the reporting period, external suppliers of content for the needs of nationality programmes have been stabilised (9 supply crews for Hungarian broadcasting, two crews for Roma broadcasting). A similar model, i.e. contracting external suppliers of ready-made contributions for the needs of national slots, will be gradually built up in the case of the Ruthenian and Ukrainian programmes. It is important to note, however, that entering the next phases of the expansion presupposes the creation of a strong core of ethnic production in the editorial offices in Bratislava and Košice and the establishment of a separate dramaturgy for Roma and then Ruthenian programmes.

Due to the smooth production of programmes after the launch of :24 and the subsequent saturation of the production needs for :24 in the virtual studio MD-1, the studio production of Hungarian programmes was outsourced. In the meantime, the Bratislava editorial office has received its own premiere editing room, and its start-up and use also establishes a streamlining of production procedures in the next phases of the programme's development.

### **New Media**

In the first phase, the concept of nationality broadcasting envisaged the creation and launch of an independent full-fledged web space for nationality content – in the first phase in the Hungarian language. This part of the Concept is fulfilled, the website is operational and fulfils the characteristics of a standard news website. Currently, the web content is filled by two employees of the radio editorial office, supported by other radio colleagues, who supply material for the web. With approximately 15 new pieces of content added to the website daily, the startup published over 5,000 pieces of content in 2022. These have been supplemented by podcasts, which, for the time being, have been produced as intercut interview formats in radio production. From these recordings, we were able to place approximately 240 podcast audio-contents on the web in 2022.

The second phase of the Concept foresees the establishment of a similar website in the Roma language, but the current capacity of the Roma collaborators is not sufficient for this purpose; this phase is waiting to be fulfilled in 2023.

Posting of trailers and links to both radio and television broadcasts on social media is regular, but still without a systematic approach. The editorial staff of the Hungarian broadcaster places links to its main programme streams on a daily basis. The Hungarian editorial office has its own profile on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The radio editorial office in Košice also draws attention to important journalistic programmes via a separate Facebook profile. Similarly, the TV editorial office in Košice draws attention to nationality slots on Facebook, and the Hungarian TV editorial office regularly informs via FB about content in magazines and news. We are assisted in the placement of posts on social networks by the suppliers of the posts themselves, by placing original posts or by sharing editorial outputs.

### **3.5.2 Radio and Television Broadcasting by Private Radio and Television**

#### **Régió TV**

Régió TV is the first Hungarian-language television station with a nationwide reach. Its main objectives are to provide broadcasting for the Hungarian national minority living here, to regularly broadcast events in the life of the Hungarian national minority from the Subcarpathian Basin and, last but not least, to inform the citizens of the Hungarian national minority in their own language about all events and happenings that concern them.

Régio TV broadcasts 24 hours a day. The working days are set in hour-long blocks, with content covering current affairs, news, short films and studio discussions. During the weekends, reprises are broadcast on Régio TV.

Régio TV broadcast 240 hours in 2021 and the same 240 hours of nationality broadcasts in 2022.

### **Radio Rusyn FM**

Since its inception in 2012, Rusyn FM began broadcasting with a one-hour block that was repeated every day of the week; apart from this block, only songs were broadcast in the beginning. This state of affairs has gradually changed and the programme has been enriched. Foreign enrichment occurred in 2018 when the radio began to add formats from other countries where Ruthenians live. Subsequently, shows from Serbian Vojvodina, Polish Lemkovina, Ukrainian Subcarpathia and also a show from the USA started to appear. The radio is set to broadcast continuously, and therefore 24 hours 7 days a week.

Radio Rusyn is guided by the motto "Radio for all Ruthenians of the world" and in this sense it should be a medium for all ages all over the world. The content focuses on the Ruthenian repertoire of songs by bands from Slovakia and abroad, entertainment discussion, cultural and social and news programs. The radio is increasing the ratio of spoken word to music every year. The founder and current director of the radio is Peter Štefaňák.

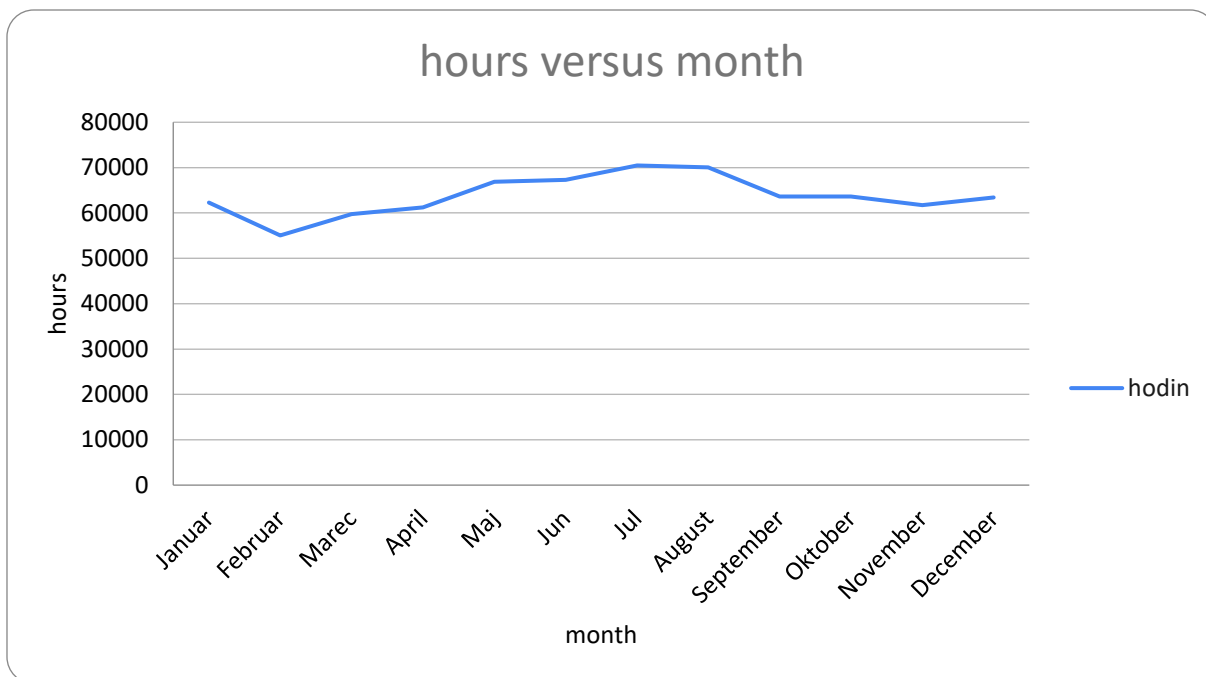
The internet space in which Rusyn FM operates seems to be an ideal place and tool to attract young people with Ruthenian roots, but also people who live in non-Ruthenian regions and do not have the opportunity to hear their native language. The main goals of Rusyn FM include spreading awareness among Ruthenians, as well as arousing their interest in their culture and language.

Since its inception, the radio has already reached attractive listenership figures, which it has maintained for a long time. Radio saw more than 20% year-on-year growth in listenership in 2022, making it the 10th consecutive year with growth of more than 10%.

As part of Rusyn FM's registration, the radio is also registered on the TapinRadio application, and has its own website [www.Ruthenian.fm](http://www.Ruthenian.fm), whereby it can be listened to from the stream in two qualities. Among other things, the radio has its own applications on iOS and Android. In 2020, the applications have undergone a new setup with the ability to access the archive. The radio can also be listened to via the TuneIN radio application and via ANTIK TV cable TV. In 2022, radio will bring more broadcasts from the regions and events through shows.

Based on traffic statistics, it can be estimated that the radio is listened to by more than 20,000 people per month. The radio is listened to from more than 30 countries around the world and delivers premiere programmes daily, keeping in touch and interacting with the listener. The radio currently employs 18 people who work as editors, presenters, social network administrators, programmers, proofreaders, webmasters and technical and music editors.

**Chart 1:** Radio listenership development in 2022 in hours



From 2022 onwards, we can also assess as a negative the fact of price increases for services caused first by COVID-19 and later by the military conflict. Similarly, 2022 was supposed to bring a change in the funding ratio for national minorities reflecting the results of the last census.

### 3.5.3 Publication of Periodicals

The dissemination and reception of information in the mother tongue of national minorities or ethnic groups is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic in Article 34. By ratifying the Framework Convention, the Slovak Republic also undertook in Article 9 to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom of opinion and freedom to receive and impart information and ideas in the language of the minority without interference by state authorities and regardless of frontiers, and to ensure, within the framework of its legal order, that persons belonging to national minorities are not discriminated against in their access to the media. The Slovak Republic has further committed itself not to impede persons belonging to national minorities in the establishment and use of the press media.

Access to information in the languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic is also possible through the periodical press.

**Table 8:** Overview of the periodical press published in at least one of the languages of national minorities<sup>22</sup>

Language of Publication	Number
Slovak/Hungarian	61
Slovak/Czech	25
Slovak/English/Czech	36

<sup>22</sup> More detailed information is available on the website of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic: <https://www.culture.gov.sk/pertlac/modul/tlac>



Slovak/other*	43
*German/English	5
*German/English/Czech	3
*German/English/Czech/Hungarian	1
*German/English/Czech/Russian	1
*German/English/Czech/Polish	2
*German/English/Czech/Polish/Hungarian	1
*German/English/Czech/Italian/Polish	1
*German/English/Czech/Polish/Greek/Russian/Serbian/Ukrainian	1
*German/English/Czech/Polish/Chinese/Hindi	1
*German/English/Czech/French/Italian/Polish	1
*German/English/Czech/French/Spanish	1
*German/English/Russian/Italian/Polish	1
*German/English/Russian	2
*German/English/Russian/Ukrainian/Polish/Hungarian/Chinese/French	1
*German/English/French	1
*German/English/Russian/French	2
*English/Czech/Russian	2
*English/Czech/Polish/Hungarian	1
*English/Czech/Polish/Russian	1
*English/Polish/Italian	1
*English/Hungarian	1
*English/Czech/Russian/Macedonian/Polish/Serbo-Croatian/Slovenian/French	1
*Ruthenian	3
*Ruthenian/Czech	1
*Ruthenian/Ukrainian/Russian	1
*Bulgarian	1
*Roma	1
Hungarian	37
Polish	1
Ruthenian	3
Ukrainian	3
Czech language	6
German language	2
Russian	1
English/German	1
Croatian	1

Web-based news portals are gaining in importance as a means of disseminating information, and a new online medium in Hungarian, Napunk.sk, was launched in the first half

of 2022. All daily newspapers, including the only print daily in the Slovak Republic published in the language of a national minority (Új Szó), have web portals whose content brings new news on a daily basis, increasingly often in the form of podcasts. News portals whose content is not published in print include ma7.sk, parameter.sk, bummm.sk, felvidek.ma, hirek.sk, korkep.sk, and others in the Hungarian language, romana.tv – a Slovak-language web portal of Romana Television focused on news from the Roma world, the similarly focused gipsytv.eu operating at Gipsy Television in the Slovak language, or the web portal of radio rusyn.fm published in the Ruthenian language. Under the Publications Act, effective from 1 August 2022, the Ministry of Culture keeps a register of periodical publications, which, in addition to the periodical press registered so far, also includes electronic periodical publications and news web portals.

### **3.6 Museums of Cultures and National Minorities**

#### **3.6.1 Museums with National Scope**

Museums play an important role in the protection of the culture of national minorities and ethnic groups, which represents the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of nationalities living in Slovakia. They are engaged in systematic scientific and research, documentation, collection and presentation activities.

The Slovak National Museum includes 7 museums of national and ethnic minorities as separate specialised organisational units:

- Museum of Jewish Culture (in Bratislava);
- Museum of Carpathian German Culture (in Bratislava);
- Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia (in Bratislava);
- Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia (in Bratislava);
- Museum of Ukrainian Culture (in Svidník);
- Museum of Ruthenian Culture (in Prešov);
- Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia (part of the Slovak National Museum in Martin);
- Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia (part of the Slovak National Museum in Martin).

A detailed overview of the activities of museums of national minorities and ethnic groups (acquisition activities, scientific and research activities, permanent exhibitions, temporary exhibitions, editorial activities, cultural and educational activities and attendance) is provided in the annual reports of these museums.

#### **Museum of Jewish Culture**

The beginning of the formation of the Museum of Jewish Culture dates back to 1994. It was established on the grounds of the Historical Museum of SNM, and subsequently became an independent specialised museum of SNM with a nationwide scope. The main activity of the museum is the presentation of spiritual and material Jewish culture and the documentation of the Holocaust in Slovakia. The museum also seeks to save three-dimensional Judaica or documents from destruction, oblivion, or export abroad.

In the reporting period, the Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava again co-organised the commemoration of the first transport of Jewish girls and young women, which takes place annually in Poprad. In 2021, the occasion was also the 80th anniversary of the adoption of *The*

*Jewish Code*. The commemoration was also symbolically held in the former concentration camp in Sered', which is part of the Holocaust Museum.

Every year the museum also participates in the celebration of the European Day of Jewish Culture with a varied programme for visitors. Since 2021 it has been actively involved in the *Festival of Jewish Culture* in Nové Mesto nad Váhom.

In the reporting period, the museum continued to apply a new concept of the educational programme, which is guided walks through the streets of Bratislava's Old Town, during which participants learn *in situ* about the work of architects of Jewish origin.

Non-formal education at the Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava was mainly carried out through lectures and various educational programmes. The lecturers and museum educators focused primarily on presenting the history, customs, holidays and traditions of the Jewish Orthodox communities in Slovakia as well as in the pan-European context. The aim was to de-taboo the subject of Judaism and to bring it to the attention of the general public in order to build respect. The same was the case in the exhibition in the Prešov synagogue, which presents the so-called *Bárkányi Collection Of Judaica*.

During the reporting period, the museum welcomed almost 100 players of the Slovan Bratislava youth academy together with their coaches and club officials. The project was created as part of the museum's efforts to provide more knowledge about minorities, thus contributing to the prevention of xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitic attitudes. The players toured the museum's permanent exhibition and the exhibition dedicated to Slovan's legend, the famous football player Leopold "Jim" Št'astný.

In the autumn of 2022, the museum entered into cooperation with the Bratislava City Museum on the project *Weinwurm – The Beauty Of Functionalist Villas*, in which the work of one of the most important architects of modernism in Slovakia, Fridrich Weinwurm, of Jewish origin, is presented to the participants.

In November 2022, the museum participated in the Curatorial Education Program (CEP), an initiative of the Association of European Jewish Museums (AEJM) and the Jewish Museum in Munich.

**Table 9:** Scientific and research activities of SNM – Museum of Jewish Culture in 2021

<b>Task</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Department</b>
<i>Kosher – Known vs. Unknown</i>	2020 – 2021	History
<i>Superwomen</i>	2020 – ongoing	History
<i>History Of Zsigray Mansion</i>	2020 – ongoing	History
<i>Rudolf Fraštacký</i>	2020 – ongoing	History
<i>Holocaust – Oral History</i>	2019 – ongoing	Ethnography
<i>Genocide Of The Roma During The Second World War</i>	2019 – ongoing	History
<i>Commanders And Guards Of HG In The Work Camp For Jews In Sered'</i>	2019 – ongoing	History
<i>Sered' Testimonies</i>	2019 – ongoing	Ethnography
<i>The Holocaust In Southern Slovakia</i>	2019 – ongoing	History
<i>Mapping The Genocide Of The Roma In Hungary And Southern Slovakia</i>	2020 – ongoing	History
<i>Antisemitism Has Inspired Many Conspiracies</i>	2021	History
<i>Persecution Of Roma During The Slovak State</i>	2021	History
<i>Jewish Athletes</i>	ongoing	History

<i>Recommendations For Teaching Guidelines About The Persecution And Genocide Of The Roma And Sinti During The Nazi Era</i>	2021 – ongoing	History
<i>The Testimonies From Sered'</i>	2020 – 2021	History
<i>Archival Materials And Their Use In The Educational Programmes Of The Sered' Holocaust Museum</i>	2020 – 2021	History
<i>Jewish Entrepreneurs In Nitra</i>	2021	History
<i>Separated From The Society. The Jewish Ghettos In Europe And Hungary</i>	2021	History
<i>From Memory Of Places To The Pedagogy Of Remembrance</i>	2021	History

### **Holocaust Museum in Sered'**

The Holocaust Museum in Sered' is a part of the Museum of Jewish Culture, it was established in the premises of a former labour and concentration camp, therefore it is an embodiment of the tragic period of the solution of the Jewish question in Slovakia during the Second World War. The main purpose of the museum is to bring the life of Jews from Slovakia closer to the Holocaust period.

In the reporting period, the museum organised educational events aimed at informing teachers, pupils, students and the general public about the impact of the Holocaust on the lives of Jews, Roma and marginalised population groups in Slovakia and Europe. The main aim of the educational programmes throughout the museum was to prevent all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other manifestations of intolerance.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, more emphasis was placed on the museum's online presence during the reporting period. The Holocaust Museum in Sered' provided 239 online educational programs for 4197 students.

Exhibition projects and temporary exhibitions are also included among the forms of non-formal education related to the subject in 2021 and 2022:

- *Persecution Of Roma During The Holocaust,*
- *Persecution Of Roma During The Slovak State,*
- *Kyra Munk Matuščíková – Paradise Lost,*
- *Football Under The Swastika – The Story Of Leopold "Jim" Štastný,*
- *Kosher – Known vs. Unknown,*
- *Women – Stories Of Women Who Have Influenced The World.*

In the reporting period, the museum began to cooperate with the Nedbalka Gallery, thanks to which the participants became acquainted with the works and fates of Jewish artists represented in the collections of both institutions. Another successful project was a series of quizzes that brought Jewish culture to the general public in an attractive way.

In November 2022, the museum participated in the Curatorial Education Program (CEP), an initiative of the Association of European Jewish Museums (AEJM) and the Jewish Museum in Munich.

In December 2021, the exhibition *The Tragedy Of Slovak Jews* in the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum was transferred to the administration of the Holocaust Museum in Sered'.

### **Museum of Carpathian German Culture**

The Museum of Carpathian German Culture was founded in 1997 and has its expositions in Nitrianské Pravno and Handlová. The main activity of the museum is oriented towards the

collection, protection, professional processing and presentation of the documents of the material and spiritual culture of the Carpathian Germans, as well as towards their objective work of history and culture. The museum also includes a documentation and information centre, which specialises in the history and culture of the Carpathian Germans.

The Museum of Carpatho-German Culture in Bratislava cooperated closely with the Carpatho-German Association and the Carpatho-German Cultural Association in the reporting period. The cooperation was mainly realized in the seven Meeting Houses of the Carpatho-German Association, within the programme of the *Festival Of Culture And Mutuality* in Kežmarok, the most important event of the Carpatho-Germans in Slovakia, with an exhibition on German periodicals in Slovakia and by co-organizing educational seminars.

The monthly magazine of the Carpathian Germans, *Karpatenblatt*, was a significant support, and the museum staff also contributed significantly to its preparation. In order to improve the conditions for the development of German minority culture in the regions of its life, the museum organised open days in the museum's exhibitions, the *Night Of Museums And Galleries* and lectures by lecturers from Germany. Pupils and students who visited the museum, including its expositions in Nitrianské Pravno and Handlová, were provided with lectures and educational activities. The staff also conducted several professional lectures outside the museum's premises.

The museum also includes a documentation and digitisation centre. The library, which includes periodical and non-periodical literature and press published in Slovakia and abroad, forms the basis of the library. The museum is the most fully equipped institution in Slovakia in this area. The library was used by students and professionals from Slovakia and abroad in the reporting period. In 2021, the museum renewed its exhibition in Bratislava in trilingual form. In 2022, the museum staff supported the implementation of the House of the Small Carpathian German Woodcutters at Zoch's Cottage near Modra with expertise and texts. The museum published a brochure in German and Slovak aimed at suppressing all forms of racism.

**Table 10:** Scientific and research activities of SNM – Museum of Carpathian German Culture in 2021

<b>Task</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Department</b>
<i>Carpathian Germans In The History And Culture Of Slovakia</i>	2021 – 2022	History
<i>Political Life Of The Carpathian Germans</i>	2021 – 2022	History

### **Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia**

The Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia focuses on the history and culture of Hungarians in Slovakia. Its activity is mainly the purposeful acquisition, preservation, scientific and professional processing and access to museum collections and funds documenting the history and development of the material and spiritual culture of Hungarians in Slovakia. The Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia is a specialised museum of the Slovak National Museum with a nationwide scope and is located in the premises of the restored Brämer Mansion, Žižkova Street in Bratislava, the museum has displaced expositions in the Manor House of Imre Madách in Dolná Strehova and in the Memorial House of Kálmán Mikszáth in Sklabina.

In the reporting period, the Museum provided methodological and professional assistance in the form of consultations for the administrators of local collections in the territory of southern Slovakia. In order to improve the quality of professional methodological activities,

the museum continued its cooperation with the Museological Society of Matúš's Land, which represents regional and municipal museums and exhibition sites in southern Slovakia.

In the reporting period, the museum cooperated closely with the Traditions and Values Civic Association, which assisted the museum with conceptual and presentation activities and provided professional and methodological assistance to the Grendel Lajos Civic Association on projects related to the personality and legacy of the writer Lajos Grendel and the Lajos Grendel Reading Room in the museum premises.

Within the limited possibilities related to the measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the museum, in cooperation with other cultural institutions, prepared the event *Night Of Museums And Galleries*, which included a commemorative celebration in Košice on the occasion of the anniversary of Sándor Marai's birth.

Also in 2021, on the occasion of Imre Madách's death, the museum organised the event *Literary Days Of Imre Madách* in Dolná Strehová, where for the first time research on the writer's wife Alžbeta Fráter was presented in the form of a lecture and a documentary film *Márai - Madách*, which dealt with the writers' family relationships. As part of the event, 7 trees were planted in the historic park of the manor house.

In cooperation with the Magyarság Háza institution, a film presentation of the exhibition *Exchanged Homes*, which was broadcast in Budapest on the occasion of the Memorial Day of Hungarians evicted from Czechoslovakia between 1947 and 1949, took place in Budapest during the reporting period.

In the reporting period, the opening of a new exhibition entitled *Under The Umbrella Of St. Peter*, which was preceded by extensive research, took place in the renovated premises of the Kálmán Mikszáth Memorial House in Sklabina. The creators also included 7 other authentic places in the village, which are part of the plot of Mikszáth's short stories in the collection *Good Palóc People*, in the new concept of the exhibition.

In cooperation with the Association of Hungarian Educators in Slovakia, the *13th. Károly Harmos National Art Competition*. The award-winning children's works were used for an exhibition in the Brämer Mansion in Bratislava. The exhibition of the Danube Museum on the life and work of the Viennese operetta reformer Franz Lehár was also reinstalled in the Brämer Mansion and was opened to the public.

The own travelling exhibition called *VOX HUMANA*, which was prepared on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of the writer Zoltán Fábry, has been open to visitors in the Danube Museum in Komárno since 28 May 2021. Due to the historical importance of the events of 1945 – 1948, the 2016 exhibition "*Exchanged Homes*" became part of the historical part of the exhibition *Traditions and Values – Hungarians In Slovakia*. In October, an exhibition of contemporary painter Attila Duncsák opened, open to the public until March 2022.

In 2022, the museum staff continued to work on scientific and research tasks with experts from Hungary and participated in the preparation and development of cultural and educational programmes. The Museum continued its close cooperation with the Traditions and Values Civic Association, as well as other institutions in the Slovak Republic and abroad, thanks to which it was possible to secure funds for the publication of a catalogue for the exhibition *The Umbrella Of St. Peter* in Sklabina and collections on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the birth of Kálmán Mikszáth and the exhibition *Manon Of The Century*. On the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the museum, a selection of posters of events and

exhibitions held during the 20 years of the museum's operation was prepared in the exhibition hall.

The museum became a member of the National Association of Hungarian Rural Museums and with its help received financial support for the exhibition *...I composed a poem...*, and a conference as part of the *Madách 200* events, which will be held in 2023 on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Imre Madách's birth.

In cooperation with the Magyarság Háza institution in Budapest, the museum prepared the presentation of the exhibition *Exchanged Homes* in the form of an intimate travelling exhibition, which was opened at the National Dance Theatre in Budapest on 12 April 2022 as part of the Memorial Day of Hungarians who were evicted from Czechoslovakia between 1947 and 1949.

As part of the series of events *More Than A Neighbour – Week Of Hungarian Culture In Bratislava*, the opening of the exhibition *Manon Of The Century* dedicated to Erzsébet Háyzy, who was a star of opera stages around the world in the 1960s and 1970s, took place in cooperation with the Hungarian Cultural Centre of the Liszt Institute in Bratislava. A lecture and screening of a film about Erzsébet Háyzy took place as part of the *Museum Salon* event.

In cooperation with the Association of Hungarian Educators in Slovakia, the *14th. Károly Harnos National Art Competition* was held. The award-winning children's works were used for an exhibition in the Brämer Mansion.

The museum's staff has also been intensively involved in museum pedagogy for children, youth and seniors in its branches in the Kalmán Mikszáth Memorial House in Sklabina, the Imre Madách Manor House in Dolná Strehová and the Sándor Marái Memorial Room in Košice. In all branches there are separate purpose-built spaces, which are specially equipped with equipment and toys designed for museum-pedagogical activities. Every year, the Kalmán Mikszáth Memorial House in Sklabina and the Imre Madách Manor House in Dolná Strehová organise activities related to calendar and religious holidays and folk traditions.

**Table 11:** Scientific and research activities of SNM – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in 2021

<b>Task</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Department</b>
<i>Mikszáth And His Native Land</i>	2020 – 2021	Social Sciences
<i>Memoirs Of Lola - S. Marai's Wife</i>	2019 – 2021	History
<i>Me + You = We - Research On National Minorities In The Slovak Republic</i>	2020 – 2021	Social Sciences
<i>Kinship Relations Of I. Madách And S. Márai</i>	2020 – 2021	Social Sciences

### **Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia**

The main idea of the Museum of Croatian Culture is the documentary, scientific and research and methodological processing of the history and culture of Croats in Slovakia from their arrival in the territory of today's Slovakia to the present day. The museum also collects, professionally processes, presents and, last but not least, protects material documents related to its profiling.

Its permanent exhibitions include:

*Four Thousand Years Of Devínská Nová Ves Settlement* – the exposition documents 4,000 years of settlement in the territory of today's Devínská Nová Ves with artefacts from the Early and Late Stone Age, Bronze Age, Early and Early Iron Age, Roman Age and migration of peoples, Slavic Age, the period of Great Moravia. Further knowledge and events of the

village are documented by chronologically arranged documents from the first written mention of DNV in 1451, up to the portal and tax inventories.

*History And Culture Of Croats In Slovakia* – the exposition is mainly focused on the presentation of the material and cultural heritage of the Croatian minority in Slovakia. The exhibition offers a view of Croatian settlement, ethnic consciousness and language, folk architecture and housing, clothing and textile culture, folk art and family customs.

*Croats In Slovakia* – this exhibition is a presentation of the Croatian Cultural Association in Slovakia. It presents the work of Croatian cultural associations and folklore ensembles whose main goal is to preserve the Croatian culture – cultural heritage.

### **Museum of Ukrainian Culture**

The Museum of Ukrainian Culture operates nationwide in the field of research on documentation and cultural and educational use of monuments of material and spiritual culture of the Ukrainian minority. It organizes and implements various scientific and research tasks, conferences and other events. The museum collaborates on synthesis work and many international projects. It is devoted to the documentation of the basic stages of cultural-historical and socio-economic development of Ukrainians in Slovakia.

In the reporting period, the museum cooperated with the Podduklianské Educational Centre and provided methodological assistance to representatives of folklore ensembles from the surrounding area in the field of musical and verbal folklore.

Among the most significant events aimed at breaking down prejudices and stereotypes in the field of life and culture of national minorities and ethnic groups and promoting the process of social inclusion in 2021 were the *Day Of Folk Traditions* and the 26th International Pierogy Cooking Competition organised on the occasion of the *European Heritage Days*. On the occasion of the *Year Of D. Milly*, the museum hosted exhibitions called *Poetics Of The Colours Of The Native Region*, *Life Under Minčol* and *The Coloured Palette*, as well as a discussion with art personalities Andrej Smolák and František Horniak. The general public was offered the events *Night Of Museums And Galleries*, *Concert In the Garden* and *Concert Of Ukrainian Songs* or the traditional tourist march along the *Trails Of Alexander Duchnovič*. In 2021, the museum also implemented:

- ethnographic programme with a guided curatorial tour, including an educational programme *Bread Our Daily*,
- exhibition of Easter eggs from the museum's collections,
- ethnographic exhibition *The Earth, The Breadwinner*,
- photography exhibition *Rural Landscape Between Culture And Tourism*,
- regional show of folk songs *Makovica String*,
- video presentation *Her Majesty The Easter Egg*,
- video presentation *Wedding Is Coming from the Hills, Set The Tables...*,
- educational programme *Blueprint*.

In 2022, the ethnographic exhibitions *The Masters* and *The Wedding Suits Her* were installed in the museum. The interest of the school youth was aroused by the educational programmes *The Masters*, *Our Daily Bread*, *Blueprint* and the *Iconography Workshop*. The opening of the summer season in the open-air museum was accompanied by cultural programmes related to calendar customs and a short liturgical programme in the wooden church connected with the consecration of the restored iconostasis.



Due to the state of war in Ukraine and the increased number of refugees and people leaving Ukraine, the museum organized free Slovak language courses and several cultural events, such as the *March Road to Taras* with the aim of acquainting visitors with literature in Slovakia and the educational event *Book* for smaller children. The *Embroidered Embrace* event on the occasion of the Ukrainian Embroiderer's Day received significant media interest and support from the general public. The *Thanksgiving Concert – Ukrainians to Slovaks* was held in the area of the Ethnographic Exposition in Nature, where artistic groups of the Transcarpathian region performed.

**Table 12:** Scientific and research activities of SNM - Museum of Ukrainian Culture in 2021

Task	Duration	Department
<i>Lost Gems Of Lemko Architecture</i>	2021	Ethnography
<i>Ivan Kulec, Representative Of The Ukrainian Avant-Garde In Czechoslovakia</i>	2020 – 2022	Art History

### Museum of Ruthenian Culture

The Museum of Ruthenian Culture focuses on survey, scientific and research, collection, preservation, professional processing, public access and evaluation of evidence of the material and spiritual existence and activities of the Ruthenian population. It focuses on museum documentation of the development of science, culture, art and technology in Slovakia, as well as on facts about the Ruthenian population living abroad (emigration in the past and present), which means that it is forming as one of the international consultation centres in the area compactly populated by Ruthenians.

In 2021, the museum realized the online exhibition of young Ruthenian creators *Škice*, the exhibition of works by Miroslav Žolobanič *Homo Desiderans*, the online event *Night Of Museums And Galleries*, the exhibition *The Dubays – Anna And Her Children*, a discussion with cartoonist Fedor Vico, the creative workshop *Embroidered Path*, concert of the music group *RuSnacks*, opening of the exhibition of Zuzana Osavčuk's *The Path To The Goal*, exhibition of Ľuboslav Krajňák *At The End Of The Morning*, photographic exhibition of Daniela Kapráľová *Zuzanka*, opening ceremony of the Michal Dubay exhibition hall, medallion of doc. PhDr. Vasil Jabura, CSc., one of the codifiers of the Ruthenian language.

In 2022, the museum realized events such as the New Year's concert of Anna Servická and ĽH Dribna, the opening of the *Zuzanka* exhibition and the christening of the *Zuzanka's Wisdom* book, the *Lemkos* exhibition, the creative workshop for mothers with children from Ukraine *Paint Your Easter Egg*, the *Night Of Museums And Galleries*, the exhibition *Ruthenians In The Collection Of Paintings By Peter Mikula*, the talk on the 160th anniversary of the St. John the Baptist Association *Faithful To Traditions*, memorial evening *Michal Čabala – We Have Been Missing Him For 20 Years*, permanent exhibition *From The History Of Ruthenians*, Boris Sirk's exhibition *Ten Years*, travelling exhibition of illustrations to Andersen's fairy tales, concert of sung Ruthenian poetry by Vladislav Sivý, Christmas concert of singer Dominika Novotná.

### Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia

The Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia is a specialised component of SNM in Martin with nationwide coverage. Since 2004, it has been a documentation and scientific and research museum workplace, which within the museum's profiling emphasizes methodological and expert, cultural and educational and acquisition activities. It presents Roma culture and informs

about its specifics. It is currently housed in an open-air museum in the Museum of the Slovak Village in Jahodnícke háje.

The Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia in 2021 prepared an exhibition *Roma And World War II*, guided tours as part of the *Night Of Museums And Galleries* event. In 2022, the museum prepared an exhibition of a selection of Šarlota Bottová's works, *Mirror Of The Soul*, an event on the occasion of the *World Roma Day* at the Museum of the Slovak Village, an event *Te prindžaras amen*, and a lecture *Culinary Culture Of The Roma* in cooperation with the Bambusky Community Centre.

**Table 13:** Scientific and research activities of SNM – Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia in 2021

Task	Duration	Department
<i>Processes Of Change In The Diet Of Selected Roma Groups In The Second Half Of The 20th Century.</i>	2019 – 2021	Ethnography

### Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia

The Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia focuses on bringing closer the special environment and the work of spouses PhDr. Anna Horáková-Gašparíková, administrator of the personal archive of T. G. Masaryk, and academician Jiří Horák, important personalities documenting the traditions of the relationship between Czechs and Slovaks. The museum systematically maps the life and work of important Czech personalities in relation to Slovakia, as well as the way of life of the Czech minority in Slovakia. The Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia is the youngest exposition of the Slovak National Museum in Martin.

In 2021, the Museum organised a concert in cooperation with the Pivnica civic association within the *Links II* project dedicated to Karel Plick, a concert in cooperation with the Pivnica civic association within the *Links II* project dedicated to Jaroslav Vodrázek, a concert in cooperation with the Czech Association in Košice and the Czech Association in Martin, and a concert *Tribute To Czech Music* in the Turčianska Gallery.

In 2022, the museum organized the exhibition *T. G. Masaryk On The Net*, in cooperation with the civic association Pivnica, a concert within the framework of the *Links II* project dedicated to Bohuš Šippich, a talk with Pavel Kosatík about the book *Slovak Century*, the *Night Of Museums And Galleries*, a guided tour of the exhibition *T. G. Masaryk On The Net*, in cooperation with the Pivnica civic association, a concert within the framework of the *Links III* project, dedicated to František and Iva Šmakalovec, in cooperation with the Pivnica civic association a concert within the framework of the *Links III project* dedicated to Vít Hejný, in cooperation with the Pivnica civic association a concert within the framework of the *Links III* project dedicated to Alica Masaryková, the 5th concert on the anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic in the Turčianska Gallery, the presentation of the publication *Alica Masarykova: Childhood and Youth*, a concert within the *Links III* project dedicated to Jan Kadavý, the opening of the exhibition *Faces Of The Czech Compatriot Community* and the Christmas concert *Jan Jakub Ryba: Czech Midnight Mass*.

**Table 14:** Comparison of revenue from admission fees for 2021 – 2022

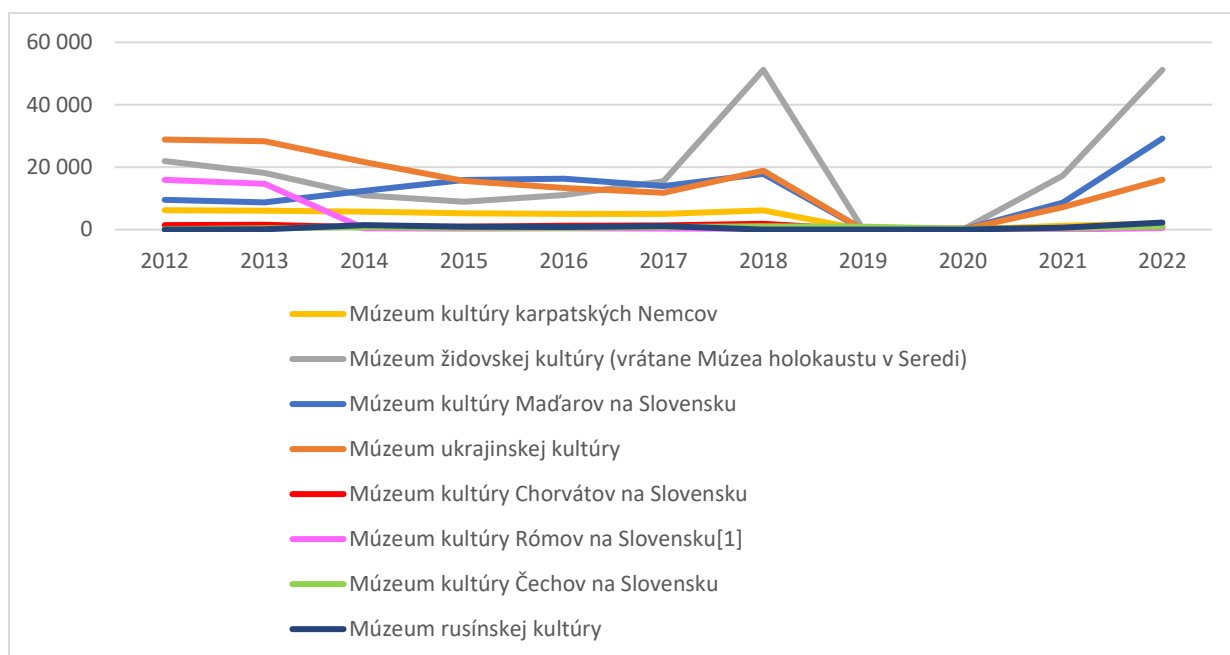
Name of museum	2021	2022	Decrease / increase
Museum of Carpathian German Culture	364.45	961	596.55
Museum of Jewish Culture	31,360.53	75,456.30	44,095.77
Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia	8,579.35	27,545.50	18,966.15

Museum of Ukrainian Culture	15,051.30	24,055.80	9,004.5
Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia	207	495	288
Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia	0	1,593	1593
Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia	115	257	142
Museum of Ruthenian Culture	567	761	194
<b>Source:</b> SNM Annual Reports			

**Table 15:** Visiting rate of the SNM nationality museums for 2012 – 2022

**Chart 2:** Visiting rate of the SNM nationality museums for 2012 – 2022

<b>Name of museum</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Museum of Carpathian German Culture	6,206	6,036	5,742	5,237	5,068	5,079	6,124	5,829	1,702	1,217	1916
Museum of Jewish Culture (including the Holocaust Museum in Sered')	21,996	18,166	10,963	8,943	11,072	15,505	51,190	30,519	7,848	17,206	51,146
Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia	9,592	8,711	12,436	15,888	16,312	13,914	17,852	15,397	3,019	8675	29,176
Museum of Ukrainian Culture	28,855	28,363	21,701	15,617	13,382	11,779	18,830	8,023	10,193	7182	15,995
Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia	1,420	1,533	738	910	1,289	1,326	1,866	1,225	321	297	865
Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia	15,948	14,700	468	333	417	325	345	524	48	0	503
Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia	144	431	780	537	523	833	1,080	940	343	447	1015
Museum of Ruthenian Culture	49	148	1,416	946	787	1,108	1,346	1,123	1,048	594	2261
<b>Source:</b> SNM Annual Reports 2012 – 2022											



### 3.6.2 Regional Museums And Galleries

Regional museums and galleries established by higher territorial units are also important actors in the field of national minority culture. In the reporting period, the following museums established by HTU were mainly devoted to the topics of national minorities:

**Table 16:** Affected museums and galleries under the jurisdiction of HTU

<b>Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region</b>	Novohrad Museum and Gallery in Lučenec Gemersko-Malohontské Museum in Rimavská Sobota Central Slovak Museum in Banská Bystrica Central Slovak Gallery in Banská Bystrica
<b>Nitra Self-Governing Region</b>	Tekov Museum in Levice Ponitran Museum in Nitra Danube Museum in Komárno Jan Thain Museum in Nové Zámky Nitra Gallery Ernest Zmeták Art Gallery in Nové Zámky
<b>Prešov Self-Governing Region</b>	Šariš Museum in Bardejov Vihorlat Museum in Humenné Tatra Gallery in Poprad Lubovňa Museum – castle in Stará Ľubovňa Regional Museum in Prešov

As regards the activities aimed at the preservation and development of the culture of national minorities of the above museums in the reporting period, a comprehensive overview of these activities is given in Annex 4<sup>23</sup>.

**Table 17:** Overview of exhibition activities of national minority museums in 2021

Museum	Number of exhibitions

<sup>23</sup> The above information is based on the documents submitted to OPNM by the individual HTU.

Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia	3
Museums in Martin	4
Museum of Ruthenian Culture	2
Museum of Ukrainian Culture	5
Museum of Carpathian German Culture	5
Museum of Jewish Culture	12
Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

### 3.7 Promotion of Ethnic Minority Culture

#### 3.7.1 Fund for the Promotion of National Minority Culture

The main activities of the Fund for the Promotion of National Minority Culture (hereinafter also referred to as the "Fund") were activities aimed at preserving, expressing, protecting and developing the identity and cultural values of national minorities, educating and learning about the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and ensuring intercultural dialogue and understanding between citizens of Slovak nationality and citizens belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups.

In accordance with the FPNMC Act, the cultural panels of the individual national minorities may determine the priorities and focus of the projects submitted for the respective calendar year. However, in 2021, not a single professional board took up this option. The priority of the FPNMC Board of Directors was to support activities related to the promotion and information about the census, especially activities related to information about the rights associated with belonging to a national minority.

Fund in 2021 based on the calls for applications for grant or scholarship<sup>24</sup> No. 1. – 5. received 2,104 applications for a total amount of EUR 21,024,179. 1,973 applications met the completeness condition and were referred to the panels for assessment. The panels recommended a total of 1,555 projects for support, the requested amount of which totalled EUR 14,810,563, the approved amount of allocated funds was EUR 8,418,541. In the case of 28 projects, the applicants withdrew from implementation. A total of 7 contracts were not signed by the Fund, where the beneficiaries did not deliver factually and financially correct documentation, or the current scheme of de minimis aid provided in the Slovak Republic was not complied with. In total, the Fund thus concluded 1,415 contracts with beneficiaries in 2021.

In the framework of the grant year 2021, the Extraordinary Call No. 1/2020 to address the consequences of the crisis situation (hereafter referred to as the "Extraordinary Call No. 1/2020") was also released. The Extraordinary Call No. 1/2020 was released for all thirteen national minorities. The total amount of funding was EUR 475,000. In the framework of the Extraordinary Call No. 1/2020, FPNMC received 236 applications for a total requested amount of EUR 1,194,648. 218 applications met the completeness condition and were referred to the panels for assessment. The panels recommended a total of 161 projects for support for a total amount of EUR 448,812.

**Table 18:** Overview of project support by national minority for 2021

<sup>24</sup> Text of calls 1.–5. is available on the Fund's website: <https://www.kultminor.sk/sk/moznosti-podpory/vyzvy-2021>

National minority	Number of evaluated projects for the 2021	Number of projects supported for the 2021	Number of withdrawals	Number of contracts concluded for the 2021	Number of contracts not signed by FPNMC	Amount paid for the 2021 calls contracts in EUR	Amount paid for Call 6/2020 and Extraordinary Call 7/2020 in EUR	Total amount paid in 2021 in EUR	Number of contracts paid out in 2021
Bulgarian	26	16	1	14	0	63,268.00	9,498.00	72,766.00	17
Czech	81	61	7	52	2	268,141.00	13,104.00	281,245.00	55
Croatian	11	11	0	11	0	87,220.00	2,184.00	89,404.00	12
Hungarian	1,098	869	13	794	1	4,041,783.00	251,160.00	4,292,943.00	859
Moravian	12	12	0	12	0	120,536.00	5,460.00	125,996.00	13
German	19	17	2	14	1	130,954.00	3,276.00	134,230.00	17
Polish	36	28	0	25	1	109,776.00	4,368.00	114,144.00	26
Roma	350	268	1	243	1	1,534,402.00	171,148.00	1,705,550.00	280
Ruthenian	153	137	1	127	0	520,301.00	29,484.00	549,785.00	137
Russian	24	22	0	22	0	73,630.00	4,368.00	77,998.00	22
Serbian	11	9	0	3	0	7,030.00	3,276.00	10,306.00	5
Ukrainian	44	40	0	38	0	171,217.00	4,368.00	175,585.00	39
Jewish	34	19	0	18	1	83,514.00	2,184.00	85,698.00	19
intercultural dialogue and understanding	74	46	3	42	0	221,483.00	10,920.00	232,403.00	44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7,433,255.00</b>	<b>514,798.00</b>	<b>7,948,053.00</b>	<b>1545</b>

Source: FPNMC

From the regional point of view, the most supported applications were in the Nitra and Trnava Self-Governing Regions. The lowest number of applications was supported in the Trenčín and Žilina Self-Governing Regions.

**Table 19:** Regional distribution of approved and unapproved applications in 2021

Total number of approved/unapproved applications by region									
Applications	BB	BA	KE	NR	PO	TN	TT	ZA	TOTAL
approved	176	273	240	332	200	18	291	25	<b>1555</b>
unapproved	56	83	64	79	41	2	82	11	<b>418</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1973</b>

Source: FPNMC

For 2022, the three panels as well as one coordinating council took the opportunity, resulting from the FPNMC Act, to determine the priorities and focus of the submitted projects for the respective calendar year as follows.

Priorities of individual panels of national minorities:

- **Ruthenian national minority:** Support for activities aimed at promoting education and upbringing of children and youth to the Ruthenian language, culture, traditions and history.
- **Czech national minority:** Support for projects aimed at maintaining and promoting the values of Czech culture, with an emphasis on the activities of entities bringing together members of the Czech community.
- **Moravian national minority:**
  1. Support for activities aimed at the presentation of the 1200th anniversary of the first written mention of Moravany.
  2. 10th annual festival MORAVA THE BEAUTIFUL EARTH.
  3. Media coverage of the activities of members of the Moravian national minority (television, internet, social networks).

Priority of the Roma National Minority Culture Coordination Council:

1. Roma identity – ROMIPEN:
  - supporting the development and acceptance of the identity and ethnic pride of members of the Roma national minority with a priority focus on:
    - for work with Roma children and youth (activities that are dedicated to systematic work with children and youth or to the development of artistic creativity and talent of Roma children and youth in the framework of school and leisure-time activities);
    - through the work of Roma artists and academics.
2. Roma language in public space:
  - support for activities aimed at the use of the written Roma language in public space, in schools, media and institutions, support for language courses in the Roma language for helping professionals, teachers, foster parents, the public, preservation of the cultural tradition of the Roma language dialects, support for the translation of literature into the written Roma language.
3. Dramatic and theatrical work:
  - establishing or supporting existing Roma professional and amateur theatre companies and groups;
  - creation of theatre plays and dramatizations by Roma authors;
  - creation of databases of records of theatre and radio plays and performances based on the works of Roma authors.

In 2022, the Fund continued to fulfil its statutory role, therefore contracts from the previous grant year 2021 were also paid out in the 2022 grant year. The total amount of contracts paid out in the grant year 2022 for the 2021 contracts amounts to EUR 680,645,00.

In 2022, the Fund received a total of 2,308 applications for a total amount of EUR 23,073,034 on the basis of the calls for applications for grants or scholarships<sup>25</sup> No. 1–3. 2,091 applications met the completeness condition and were referred to the panels for assessment. The panels recommended a total of 1,591 projects for support, the requested amount of which totalled EUR 15,934,723, the approved amount of allocated funds was EUR 8,868,980. In the case of 17 projects, the applicants withdrew from implementation. A total of 3 contracts were not signed by the Fund, which were unsupported activities or the current scheme of minimum

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<sup>25</sup> The text of calls No. 1 – 3 is available on the Fund's website: <https://www.kultminor.sk/sk/moznosti-podpory/vyzvy-2022>



aid (de minimis aid) provided in the Slovak Republic was not respected. In total, the Fund thus concluded 1,519 contracts with beneficiaries in 2022.

**Table 20:** Overview of project support by national minority for 2022

National minority	Number of evaluated projects for the 2022 calls	Number of projects supported for the 2022 calls	Number of withdrawals for the 2022 calls	Number of contracts concluded for the 2022 calls	Number of contracts not signed by FPNMC for the 2022 calls	Amount paid for the 2022 calls contracts in EUR	Amount paid in 2022 for the 2021 contracts in EUR	Total amount paid in 2022 in EUR	Number of contracts paid out in 2022	Number of contracts paid out in 2022 for the 2021 contracts	Total number of contracts paid out in 2022
Bulgarian	18	10	0	8	0	50,625.00	14,868.00	65,493.00	8	2	10
Czech	54	49	0	48	0	286,762.00	6,050.00	292,812.00	47	1	48
Croatian	12	11	0	11	0	96,519.00	0.00	96,519.00	11	0	11
Hungarian	1151	924	10	835	3	4,265,072.00	415,982.00	4,681,054.00	811	55	866
Moravian	11	11	0	11	0	135,126.00	0.00	135,126.00	11	0	11
German	26	19	0	18	0	171,134.00	0.00	171,134.00	18	0	18
Polish	30	27	0	26	0	124,553.00	6,744.00	131,297.00	26	2	28
Roma	429	260	4	230	0	1,674,142.00	159,041.00	1,833,183.00	222	27	249
Ruthenian	158	148	0	142	0	581,946.00	24,276.00	606,222.00	141	7	148
Russian	23	12	0	12	0	85,171.00	21,000.00	106,171.00	12	2	14
Serbian	15	10	2	5	0	31,895.00	10,000.00	41,895.00	5	2	7
Ukrainian	49	38	0	38	0	187,304.00	5,684.00	192,988.00	38	2	40
Jewish	37	27	0	27	0	106,171.00	0.00	106,171.00	27	0	27
intercultural dialogue and understanding	78	45	1	40	0	236,057.00	17,000.00	253,057.00	40	2	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2091</b>	<b>1591</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1451</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8,032,477.00</b>	<b>680,645.00</b>	<b>8,713,122.00</b>	<b>1417</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1519</b>

Source: FPNMC

From the regional point of view, the most supported applications were in the Nitra and Trnava Self-Governing Regions. The lowest number of applications was supported in the Trenčín and Žilina Self-Governing Regions.

**Table 21:** Regional distribution of approved and unapproved applications in 2022

Total number of approved/unapproved applications by region									
Applications	BB	BA	KE	NR	PO	TN	TT	ZA	TOTAL
approved	226	249	247	335	202	18	289	25	<b>1591</b>
unapproved	65	106	86	78	57	5	94	9	<b>500</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2091</b>

Source: FPNMC

### 3.7.2 Other Grant Programmes

#### Grant System of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic through the grant programme Culture of Disadvantaged Groups within the area "culture of marginalised Roma communities" supported in 2022 a total of 15 projects in the aggregate amount of EUR 67,800 as follows: In the *Living Culture* sub-programme 7 projects were supported in the total amount of €30,500, in the *Publishing And Publication* sub-programme 1 project was supported in the amount of €1,800 and in the *Informal Education And Research* sub-programme the Ministry of Culture supported 7 projects in the total amount of €35,500. Cultural activities with an emphasis on interactive involvement of disadvantaged groups of children and youth living in marginalized Roma communities were supported. The idea was to develop their motor, creative and intellectual skills in order to promote their integration into society. Workshops, informal cultural, social and educational activities, research and creative events in the field were supported.

#### Subsidy System of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

The Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic annually ensures the operation of a human rights subsidy scheme for the promotion, support and protection of human rights and freedoms and for the prevention of all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other manifestations of intolerance. In 2021, a total of 36 projects were supported, in 2022, 53 projects were supported on the basis of 2 calls for proposals. In both years, the allocation earmarked for the implementation of the projects amounted to EUR 769,500. Among the projects aimed at supporting national minorities in the reporting period, programmes also focused on the prevention and awareness-raising of hate crimes, the Holocaust, themes linked to the need to raise awareness of rights in the languages of national minorities, as well as programmes related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on excluded communities can be mentioned.

#### Promotion of the Culture of National Minorities at the Level of Higher Territorial Units

In the area of promoting the culture of national minorities, HTU also perform tasks through the provision of subsidies, which could also be applied for by organisations focusing on national minorities. The OPNM has asked all HTU to send information on subsidies in the field of national minority culture. On the basis of the call, data on the provision of subsidies by the Nitra Self-Governing Region were sent to OPNM (Table 22).

**Table 22:** Promotion of the culture of national minorities of the Nitra Self-Governing Region

Year 2021		
Entity	Number of projects	Amount allocated in €
Csemadok	25	€26,827
OZ of national minorities	52	€45,903
OZ of Roma community	0	0
Other (primary school, church, n.f., n.o.)	31	€26,501
TOTAL	108	€99,231
Year 2022		
Csemadok	26	€22,640.17
OZ of national minorities	56	€37,870.90
OZ of Roma community	3	€1,900

Other (primary school, church, n.f., n.o.)	30	€19,650.91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>€82061.98</b>
<b>Source:</b> Nitra Self-Governing Region		

### 3.8 Science and Research

In the field of science and research, we register three institutions that are intensively involved in minority issues. The Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture in Prešov is part of the State Scientific Library in Prešov, while the Forum Institute for Minority Research was founded by the Forum and Department foundations in 1996 in Dunajská Streda. The Civic Association Holocaust Documentation Centre is an affiliated organisation of the Central Union of Jewish Church Communities in the Slovak Republic.

#### Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture

The Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture (hereinafter also "DICRC") is a professional workplace that has expanded the portfolio of activities of the **State Scientific Library in Prešov** by the dimension and activities focused on documentation, mapping and building a database of digital objects from the field of Roma culture in Slovakia. This workplace was built as a nationwide documentation and information workplace with the financial support of the European Union within the implementation of the national project of the *Operational Programme Informatization of Society, Priority Axis 2*.

The main activity of the Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture is the creation of digital content and its subsequent presentation in order to use it for various purposes and for various target groups. The whole process of creation begins with mapping and identifying the diverse manifestations of Roma culture in three areas: *oral history and literature, Roma musical heritage, including theatre activities, and Roma and crafts, including visual arts*. After the analysis and selection of the mapped information, the recording of cultural expressions in the field is carried out, the processing of the recordings is continued until the final form as digital cultural objects (hereinafter referred to as "DCO"), including descriptive metadata, and their accessibility on the library presentation portal and the Slovakiana portal. The main types of DCO are audio documents, video documents, scans and photographs.

In 2021, the Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture processed and made available 115 digital cultural objects, including 14 audio recordings, 55 video recordings with subtitles in Slovak, Romani and English (some also in Hungarian), 25 photographs, 21 drawings and paintings with descriptive metadata in Slovak, Roma and English. The library recorded 9 reminiscences, held 1 public and 2 private recordings, as well as 4 professional events in the online space, including one scientific conference.

Various printed resources and digital content on Roma life and culture were made available in the Roma studies room. The collection of the reading room was gradually expanded and updated to offer the latest publications. In 2021, 16 visitors used the services of the reading room. Out of the total number of submitted information, 1 bibliographic information was provided in the reading room, 28 attendance borrowings were made and 1,058 print copies and 640 scans were made for the users.

As part of its editorial activities, the Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture has prepared and published a special catalogue *Unknown Colours Of Personalities* in printed and electronic form. The catalogue, which was printed in 600 copies, was intended for

distribution to primary and secondary schools, community centres, libraries and educational institutions that work with Roma children and youth.

In 2021, the library, through the Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture, prepared the 1st and 2nd part of the concert of the leading Slovak saxophonist Milo Suchomel and guests for the broadcast of Radio and Television of Slovakia within the framework of the project *Milo Suchomel Orchestra – Jazz In The City*. According to data from Radio and Television of Slovakia, a total of 49,000 viewers watched these programmes between April and August 2021. The Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture has prepared a digital exhibition of 30 photographs from its own archive documenting Roma in arts and crafts at the Window Gallery. In cooperation with the Prešov Self-Governing Region, the Centre also realized the exhibition *Unknown Colours Of Personalities*. The intention of the 23 large-format paintings of world personalities, about whom it is not known that they were of Roma origin, was to point out that Roma also create significant values in cultural and social life. The exhibition was visited by a total of 5,494 visitors in 16 cultural institutions of the self-governing region.

As part of its editorial activities, the Centre published a collection of papers from the conference *The Current State Of Roma Studies In Slovakia II*.

In 2022, the Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture created 3 audiovisual works for Radio and Television of Slovakia called *The Living Books* with an audience of 9,000 viewers. DICRC processed and made available at least 122 digital cultural objects, including 20 audio recordings, 42 video recordings with subtitles in Slovak, Romani and English (some also in Hungarian), 40 photographs, 20 drawings and paintings with descriptive metadata in Slovak, Roma and English. The library recorded 23 reminiscences, documented 5 Roma dulcimer bands and organised a public event called *The Living Book*.

DICRC is particularly active in public events, as exemplified by physical or digital exhibitions, virtual presentations and televised digital content. It also promotes them through various forms of media presentation. Some events taking place in 2022: *Exhibition Unknown Colours Of Personalities In The Horný Zemplín Library In Vranov nad Topľou* (February); *Exhibition Unknown Colours Of Personalities In The Local Cultural Centre In Dunajská Lužná* (April); *Exhibition Unknown Colours Of Personalities During The Amaro Fest Festival In Nitra* (July); *The Living Book Of Teri Čikoš* – a concert of the young pop singer Teri Čikoš combined with an interview, which was produced in cooperation with the Association for Culture, Education and Communication (ACEC) and which was offered as an audiovisual work for the RTVS broadcast. The concert premiered on RTVS in January, with two reprises in November and December. According to data supplied from peplemeter of RTVS viewership was a total of 13 000 viewers; *Child Romaversity* – DICRC is for the third year participates in the organization of a children's summer university for Roma children from the Book Club Pal'ikerav, which is organized by the civic association Thank You – Pal'ikerav in cooperation with the Institute of Roma Studies of the University of Prešov.

In 2022, the Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture created 3 audiovisual works for Radio and Television of Slovakia called *The Living Books* with an audience of 9,000 viewers. Professional events for smaller groups of professionals in the pedagogical field and students with specific topics are gradually becoming established in the activities of DICRC and for the fourth year in a row the Centre prepared a professional conference *The Current State Of Roma Studies III*, which took place at the University of Prešov in Prešov in a hybrid form (in person + online). The conference with international participation

was prepared in cooperation with the Institute of Roma Studies of the University of Prešov and the Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Košice. DICRC has updated the virtual tour of the Roma Holocaust memorials *Ma bisteren!* with new functionality – the possibility to give online lectures directly in the virtual tour environment, while adding a new memorial site – the memorial in Dunajská Streda.

### **Forum Institute For Minority Research**

The Forum Institute for Minority Research (hereinafter referred to as the "Institute") was founded by the Forum and Department foundations in 1996 in Dunajská Streda. It operates as a public non-profit non-governmental and service organization in Šamorín and Komárno. The aim and task of the institute is to carry out professional research on national minorities living in Slovakia, documenting their history, culture, documents and other related monuments.

The Institute has 8 departments: Department of Sociology and Demography, Research Centre of European Ethnology (Komárno), Department of Historical Research, Gramma – Language Department, Bibliotheca Hungarica – Library and Archive, Archives of Hungarians in Slovakia, Centre for Digitization and Internet Databases and the Department of Publications. The Institute employs 14 Researchers, 8 Librarians, Documentalists, Translators and IT Specialists and 4 Administrative Employees.

In 2021, the Institute's employees carried out 16 projects: Collection and bibliographic processing of library material in the Bibliotheca Hungarica; Processing of the collection of newspapers and magazines; Following the traces of articles from local history in the columns of city newspapers; Archive of sacral monuments; Church Life in the 1950s in Czechoslovakia – cases from the Danube region; Ivágyó, Turecká, Hodža-rabina, Esztéka... Influence of the past 100 years on the use of space and geographical names in Rudná; Processing of data from population movement in Slovakia; Census in 2021; Empirical and sociological sources for research on Hungarians in Slovakia II.; Cultural participation and cultural identity of Hungarians in Slovakia; Digitization of the cultural heritage of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia; Photobank of national events from the period (1950-1990); Bilingualism of southern Slovakia with special emphasis on the bilingualism of local self-government in a few selected municipalities; Processing of the archives of the Political Movement Co-habitation (1990-1995); Processing of estates; Hungarian deputies in the parliaments of Czechoslovakia 1918 – 1992.

The Institute's publishing activity was also prolific. 7 books and monographs were published, the yearbook *Acta Ethnologica Danubiana*; 5 issues of the journal *Forum Társadalomtudományi Szemle*. Publication list of the Institute's scientific staff: 4 scientific monographs published in domestic publishing houses; 1 university textbook published in domestic publishing houses; 2 scientific theses in foreign journals that are not registered and processed by Current Contents; 8 scientific theses in domestic journals that are not registered and processed by Current Contents; 2 scientific papers in foreign peer-reviewed scientific journals, monographs; 3 scientific papers in domestic peer-reviewed scientific journals, monographs; 1 published invited paper at foreign scientific conferences; 1 script and teaching text; 9 reviews in journals and collections.

The Forum Institute organised 2 conferences in 2021: *Musaeum Hungaricum XVII*; *Conference Elections and Voters*. The Institute's employees presented papers at 12 conferences.

In 2022, employees implemented 19 projects: The transformation of the Hungarian community in Slovakia over the last hundred years, with special emphasis on their everyday

culture; Building up a fund of collections of prominent personalities; Monumental objects in Rožnava in space and time; Monumental objects of Komárno and Komárom; Religious and national aspects of small sacral monuments on the example of the south of Slovakia – 1st stage; Collectivisation in the archives of the State Security Service between 1948 and 1953; Archives of sacral monuments; Development trends of cultural consumption of Hungarians in Slovakia in the third millennium - comparative sociological research; Development trends of the complex value system of Hungarians in Slovakia after 1990 – 1st stage; Mapping the network of cultural institutions in southern Slovakia; Processing of data on population movements in Slovakia. Ensuring up-to-date status; 2021 census; Slovak-Hungarian reconciliation; Digitisation of the cultural heritage of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia; Digital memory (Photobank of Hungarians in Slovakia - digitalisemlekezet.eu); Processing of the Együttélés/Spoluzitie archive fund (1996–1998); Slovak National Council Committee for Nationalities (1968–1971); Hungarian members of the Prague and Bratislava parliaments 1918–1992; Weekly conversations.

The Institute's publishing activity was also very rich in 2022: 5 books and monographs, a yearbook and 5 issues of the periodical Forum Társadalomtudományi Szemle were published. Publication list of the Institute's scientific staff: 1 university textbook, 14 scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, 12 scientific papers in scientific collections, monographs and others.

They have also organised major conferences entitled Minority, Politics, Public Life; Autonomy and Mediation (?) – A century of ethnographic scholarship from 1920 to the present between the Hungarian minority and other Central European minorities; "Will we finally have a real homeland?"; Value system and cultural transformations of the Hungarian community in Slovakia.

### **Holocaust Documentation Centre**

The Civic Association Holocaust Documentation Centre (hereinafter referred to as "HDC") is an affiliated organisation of the Central Union of Jewish Church Communities in the Slovak Republic. In its current form it was established in 2005. The activities of HDC are focused on research about the Holocaust, dissemination of knowledge about this historical period, as well as about the Jewish national minority, its place in Slovak society in the 20th and 21st centuries, and about phenomena related to this issue (anti-Semitism, xenophobia, intolerance and racism).

In 2021 HDC organised online discussion What The Holocaust Means For Slovakia on 27 January, International Holocaust Victims' Day, to commemorate the events of 76 years ago, and on 25 March 2021 to commemorate the beginning of the deportation of Jews from Slovakia 79 years ago. Through Facebook they organized scientific conference Holocaust in Slovakia (1938-1945): causes, course, consequences. Organized by didactic workshop Letters to Jozef Tiso and the "Jewish Question".

In 2022, a scientific online conference was organized, Where Has Hate Gone So Far: 80 years since the first wave of deportations of Jews from Slovakia and on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the first transport of Jews from Slovakia to Nazi concentration and extermination camps, the 7th annual student competition Neighbours We Have Not Forgotten was announced.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> More detailed information on these activities is available: <https://www.holokaust.sk/aktuality?p=1>.

## **Part IV - Rights of National Minorities in the Field of Education of National Minorities**

### **4.1 Legislative and Conceptual Frameworks**

Art. 34 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic guarantees persons belonging to national minorities, in addition to the right to participation and cultural rights, the right to education and training. This right includes, under the conditions laid down by law, in addition to the right to acquire the national language, the right to education in the language of the minority. The Slovak Republic also ensures this right on the basis of the international commitment it has made by ratifying the Framework Convention and the Language Charter. The school system of the Slovak Republic is set up by means of generally binding legal regulations in such a way that an equal and integral part of the educational system of the Slovak Republic is the education and training of national minorities in their mother tongue and the teaching of their mother tongue, including its institutional provision by schools and school establishments with the educational and teaching language of a national minority and with the teaching of the language of a national minority.

The right to education and training of persons belonging to national minorities is regulated and specified in particular by Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Training (the Education Act) and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended<sup>27</sup>. Other acts regulating the relevant area are: Act No. 596/2003 Coll. on State Administration in Education and School Self-Government and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended<sup>28</sup>; Act No. 597/2003 Coll. on the Financing of Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and School Facilities, as amended; Act No. 138/2019 Coll. on Pedagogical and Professional Staff and on amendments and supplements to certain acts<sup>29</sup> and a number of sub-legislative acts. In the reporting period, Decree of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic No. 21/2022 Coll. on Pedagogical Documentation and other Documentation came into force, Annex 1 of which sets out the scope of pedagogical documentation and other documentation that is kept bilingually, as well as Decree of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic No. 202/2022 Coll, establishing criteria for determining the highest number of pupils in the first year of secondary schools, according to which Sec. 3(d) of the Act, the determining

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<sup>27</sup> This Act was amended eleven times in the reporting period, one of which brought significant changes in the status and rights of national minorities. Act No. 415/2021 Coll. amending Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Training (the Education Act) and amending and supplementing certain acts, as amended, was adopted during the reference period, which, with effect from 1 January 2022, amends a number of provisions relating to the rights of members of national minorities. For more information on the change, see Section 1.1, p. 7 of this Report.

<sup>28</sup> This Act was amended five times during the reporting period. By the adoption of Act No. 271/2021 Coll., regional authorities were established as local state administration bodies in the field of education on 1 January 2022 within the framework of this legislation. According to the regulations in force until 31 December 2021, the competence of the district offices in the seat of the region in the field of education, youth, physical culture and sport has been transferred to the regional office in the relevant territorial district. Thus, the performance of local state administration in education has returned from the competence of the Ministry of the Interior to the competence of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic. The regional authorities took over all the tasks that had previously been carried out by the local state administration of education. Sec. 10 of the same Act creates conditions for the establishment of ethnic schools and institutions in cases where municipalities do not or cannot create the conditions for this, if the conditions are met and the interests of the parents are demonstrated. On the basis of Sec. 20 and 21, the school cluster can be a potential tool for the more efficient functioning of schools with smaller numbers of pupils or small classes and their retention in the school network, which is important in terms of the realisation of the right to education in the mother tongue in ethnically mixed areas.

<sup>29</sup> This Act was amended three times in the reporting period, and the amendment effective as of 1 January 2022 allows the organisation of education of teaching and professional staff in a language other than the state language.

criteria for determining the highest number of pupils in the first year obtained from the input criteria for the purposes of proportional distribution between individual fields of study and individual teaching fields in the respective secondary schools include: "providing education and training in secondary schools in the language of a national minority, including secondary schools in which pupils with permanent residence in the territory of a self-governing region other than the self-governing region in which the relevant secondary school is located are educated". Other criteria for grammar schools, vocational secondary schools, secondary sports schools, schools of artistic industry and conservatories include, according to Sec. 7(a), "the provision of education and training of pupils in the language of the national minority".

The mother tongue of national minorities in the educational process supports the preservation and development of their cultural and national identity. In addition, mother tongue education also improves students' learning outcomes and academic performance. Education in the mother tongue is crucial, especially in primary school, in order to avoid gaps in knowledge and increase the speed of learning and understanding.

One of the most important conceptual documents in the field of education and training of national minorities is the Strategy for an Inclusive Approach in Education and Training of the Slovak Republic, which also takes into account the need to make the form and content of education acceptable to all in order to achieve the potential of learners. The national composition of the population is reflected in the solution of the problems of the educational process, in which the education and training of children and pupils is carried out proportionally, depending on the specific characteristics of individual nationalities, on the basis of the free decision of the legal representative in nationality schools, nationality classes, nationality school facilities or in schools with the Slovak language of instruction.

The equivalence of the content and scope of knowledge of pupils in schools and educational institutions, irrespective of the language of instruction, is ensured through the State Educational Programme for each level of education (hereinafter referred to as the "SEP"). The Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic has approved with effect from 1. 9. 2022 a consolidated version of the state educational programmes for primary schools in their currently valid version in the sense of later amendments issued until 18. 7. 2022. The consolidated version includes the framework curricula for primary schools with the Slovak language of instruction, primary schools with the language of instruction of a national minority and primary schools teaching national minority language classes. The individual annexes contain all the current educational standards in force. The relevant Framework Curricula according to the levels of education for schools with the language of instruction of national minorities and teaching national minority language classes are part of SEP.

If the legal representatives of the child exercise the right to education in the language of a national minority and the school/funder introduces this teaching, the state continues to provide normative funding according to Government Regulation No. 630/2008 Coll., which establishes the details of the allocation of funds from the state budget for schools and school establishments. The standard takes into account the personnel and economic demands of the educational process resulting from the relevant state educational programmes and framework curricula. The wage normative and the normative for the educational process per pupil of a school with a language of instruction other than Slovak, except for a primary school, is 108% of the corresponding normative; a primary school with a language of instruction other than Slovak is 113% of the corresponding normative; and a primary school in which a pupil learns the language of a national minority is 104% of the corresponding normative. Although this regulation partially



takes into account specific aspects of national education, it is not sufficiently motivating for potential founders of primary schools.

## **4.2 Institutional Provision**

The provision of the educational process for persons belonging to national minorities is covered by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic, specifically by the Department for the Development of National Minority Education (hereinafter referred to as "DDNE"), which has been included in the Section for Nationality and Inclusive Education. However, on 1 May 2021, an organisational change took place and the National and Lifelong Learning Section was established, of which DDNE became a part. Part of the organisational structure is also the Department of Inclusive Education, which is significantly dedicated to the issue of Roma inclusion in education.

The forthcoming curriculum reform in primary schools is supported by the Department of Curriculum and Innovation in Education, which has staff with expertise in the field of education of persons belonging to national minorities. Support for curriculum reform in the regions is provided by entities selected on the basis of a call for proposals, with which the Ministry has signed contracts. Support is provided by mentoring teams, which in districts with ethnically mixed populations are composed in such a way that there is a proportional representation of experts with knowledge of the language of the national minority used in the national education system in the region (e.g. in the mentoring team for the Komárno District, 6 out of 10 team members must master the Hungarian language).

On 1 July 2022, the National Institute of Education and Youth (hereinafter referred to as "NIEY") was established, which was created by the merger of five directly managed organisations of the Department of Education, namely the Methodological and Pedagogical Centre (hereinafter referred to as "MPC"), the State Pedagogical Institute (hereinafter referred to as "SPI"), the National Institute of Certified Measurements in Education (hereinafter referred to as "NICEM"), the Slovak Youth Institute – IUVENTA and the Slovak Pedagogical Library (hereinafter referred to as "SPL"). Within NIEY, two large substantive departments were created, namely the Department of Support to Formal Education, which took over the tasks of SPI, MPC and NICEM, and the Department of Support to Informal Education, which took over the tasks of IUVENTA and SPL. Within the Formal Education Department of NIEY, the National Minorities Education Unit has been established, which currently has 14 staff members. The Education Evaluation and Monitoring Unit also has staff members focused on the education of persons belonging to national minorities. NIEY has 8 regional offices, i.e. in each seat of the region. In addition to these, it has another office in Komárno with 7 employees, which is cross-sectionally focused on supporting national education in the regions. From 1. 7. 2022 there is also a post of Regional Youth Work Coordinator to support work with Hungarian-speaking youth.

## **4.3 Content Provision**

Schools and school establishments carry out the process of education and training on the basis of educational programmes. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic issues state educational programmes that define the compulsory content of education and training in schools for the acquisition of key competences. The national curricula define the educational standards and framework curricula.

In the years 2021 – 2022, major changes have taken place in the content of education and training. The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, namely the State Pedagogical Institute, which is now part of the National Institute of Education and Youth, was a co-implementer of the task resulting from the "Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2016 – 2020, Operational Objective 3 "More Effective Consideration of the Specifics of the Educational Needs of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups". Within the framework of this task, a pedagogical document Appendix No.10 to the State Educational Programme for Secondary Education – 2nd Level of Primary School with the Language of Instruction of a National Minority was created, which was approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic on 28. 10. 2021 under number 2021/11733:21-C1630, with effect from 1 September 2022. The aim of the document is to define the content through which pupils in schools with a national minority language of instruction learn about the values of their own national culture and, at the same time, become aware of and strengthen their national identity. The Addendum to the Educational Standards for the Subjects of History and Music Education in Schools with a National Minority Language of Instruction – 2nd Level of Primary School and the Educational Standard of History for 2nd Level of Primary School with the Hungarian Language of Instruction with effect from 1 September 2022 supplements the educational standards for lower secondary education. The educational standard in History for grammar schools with a four-year educational programme with the Hungarian language of instruction, developed by NIEY, is in the process of approval by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic. At the State Pedagogical Institute (currently NIEY), additional educational standards were developed and approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic on 7 September 2022 to the State Educational Programme for Primary Education – 1st Level of Primary School Educational Standards for Teaching the Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian and Polish Language and Literature. These documents were drawn up on the basis of the commitments of the Slovak Republic to the Language Charter. Educational standards for teaching the Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian and Polish Language and Literature for lower secondary education – 1st level of primary school have also been developed and are published on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic.

Strategic tasks from the Recovery and Resilience Plan (hereinafter referred to as “RRP”) include the preparation and implementation of a new national curriculum for primary schools as part of Component 7: Education for the 21st century - Reform 1: Reform of the content and form of education (curricular and textbook reform). 1st working versions of the documents have been prepared:

- Educational Standard for the Subject Hungarian Language and Literature,
- Educational Standard for the Subject Slovak Language and Slovak Literature,
- Educational Standard for the Subject German Language and Literature,
- Educational Standard for the Subject Roma Language and Literature,
- Educational Standard for the Subject Russian Language and Literature,
- Educational Standard for the Subject Ruthenian Language and Literature,
- Educational Standard for the Subject Ukrainian Language and Literature.

In the reporting period, parts of the curriculum for primary, lower secondary and secondary education were developed in accordance with the amendment to Act No. 245/2008 Coll. as amended and the School Reform - K7; K6 RRP (Specifics of Education and Training

of Pupils in Nationality Schools and Nationality classes, Specifics of Education and Training of Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN), Specifics of Education and Training of Foreigners) – for the prepared pedagogical documents for primary and secondary schools.

The methodological framework for the analysis of textbooks of social science subjects (History, Geography, Civil Education, Ethics) containing information about the Roma minority was also developed – work related to the development of the methodology, according to the defined criteria, an overview of textbooks for the last 5 years with a valid endorsement was prepared; communication with the library was ensured and a list of available textbooks was drawn up.

A proposal for an educational programme for lower secondary education was drafted, i.e. the requirements for the knowledge and competences of the applicants for the educational programme, which will be verified by a written test and a board examination in the form of educational output standards of the subjects (the Hungarian Language and Literature and the Slovak Language and Slovak Literature) according to SEP (2015), the forms (oral and written) of the exam, the criteria of the written test, under which the results of the test can be considered as successful.

The role of the National Minorities Education Department of NIEY is also to ensure the assessment of educational publications for schools with the language of instruction and teaching of the language of national minorities. In the reporting period, 236 educational publications for the above schools were assessed.

During the reporting period, SIVE prepared and submitted for the approval of MoESRS SR updated state educational programmes for vocational education and training for all groups of education fields. The submitted SEP also include updated framework curricula for individual levels of education for schools with a language of instruction of national minorities.

NIEY is a beneficiary of the project "Innovative Training of Teachers to Increase their Intercultural Competences in the Educational Process of Roma Pupils" better known as "Together with Roma We will Achieve More". The partner of the pre-defined project is the European Wergeland Centre, which is a Norwegian educational organisation based in Oslo. The pre-defined project is funded by Norwegian grants and the state budget of the Slovak Republic. The main objective of the project is to support the introduction of Roma language and literature teaching at all levels of education within the school curriculum of schools with pupils from Roma communities, to support intercultural education and a democratic and inclusive school environment. Project duration: May 2020 – April 2024. The implementation of the pre-defined project included the following activities: ongoing management of the methodology and training portal: <https://spolu-together-jekhetane.sk/sk>, continuation of the implementation of the educational training "Intercultural Education in School with Pupils from Roma Communities", successful completion of the educational event "Slovak Academy 2022/2023", preparation and implementation of the action plans of the "Slovak Academy 2022/2023" in 10 schools, ongoing press conference on the pre-defined project, ongoing incorporation of comments on the project outputs: Roma-Slovak reading books for 3rd grades, and 4th grades of primary schools, a textbook of the Roma language for intermediate learners, including a workbook and a teacher's manual, a re-edition of the rules of Roma spelling, a methodology for the history reader "In Search of the Roma Past", a methodology for "Roma History", a Roma-Slovak and Slovak-Roma dictionary, preparation and implementation of a study visit to Oslo (II), preparation of an interim report on Project No. 6. The project is available on the website: <https://www.statpedu.sk/sk/o-organizacii/projekty/spolu-romami-dosiahneme-viac-ii/>.

#### 4.4 Education in the Languages of National Minorities

Education is the cornerstone of a prosperous society. It affects the all-round development of the personality and, ultimately, the standard of the country and its position in relation to other states. The same applies to citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to national minorities. The mother tongue of national minorities in the educational process positively influences the preservation of their culture and further development in the Slovak Republic.

The education and training of persons belonging to national minorities takes place in kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and school establishments with the language of instruction of a national minority or with the teaching of the language of the Bulgarian, Hungarian, German, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian and Ukrainian national minorities. The founder of schools may be a municipality, a self-governing region, a regional office of school administration, a state-recognised church or church society or another legal or natural person.

##### Kindergartens

As of 15 September 2022, a total of 3,137 kindergartens (2,793 state-run, 232 private and 112 church-run) have been included in the network of schools and educational institutions of the Slovak Republic, of which 364 (11.60%) have the language of instruction of a national minority, namely Bulgarian, Hungarian, German, Ruthenian and Ukrainian.

**Table 23:** Number of kindergartens in the Slovak Republic according to the language of instruction of national minorities

Language of instruction	Number of	Percentage share
Bulgarian	1	0.03 %
Hungarian	281	8.96 %
German	1	0.03 %
Ruthenian	4	0.13 %
Slovak and Hungarian	76	2.42 %
Ukrainian	1	0.03 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>11.60 %</b>
<b>Source: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC</b>		

There is also 1 special kindergarten in the network of schools and educational institutions of the Slovak Republic with 28 children.

##### Primary Schools

As of 15 September 2022, a total of 2,069 primary schools were included in the network of schools and educational institutions, of which 1,854 were state schools, 118 were church schools and 87 were private schools with a total of 24,774 classes. As of 15 September 2022, a total of 241 (11.65%) primary schools with Hungarian, German, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Russian and Bulgarian as the language of instruction have been established within the primary school network, out of the total number of primary schools.

**Table 24:** Number of primary schools in the Slovak Republic according to the language of instruction of national minorities

Language of instruction	Number of primary schools	Percentage share
Bulgarian	1	0.05 %

Hungarian	207	10.00 %
German	2	0.10 %
Ruthenian	2	0.10 %
Slovak and Hungarian	27	1.30 %
Ukrainian	1	0.05 %
Slovak and Russian	1	0.05 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>11.65 %</b>
<b>Source: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC</b>		

**Primary schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction are attended by:**

- in state schools 27,651 pupils, including 13,054 pupils in grades 1–4 and 14,597 pupils in grades 5–9.
- 1,605 pupils in church schools.

**Primary schools with German as the language of instruction are attended by:**

- in state schools 32 pupils in grades 1–4;
- in private schools 153 pupils in grades 1–4.

**Primary schools with Bulgarian as the language of instruction are attended by:**

- in private schools, a total of 66 pupils, of whom 30 in grades 1–4 and 36 in grades 5–9.

**Primary schools with Ruthenian as the language of instruction are attended by:**

- in public schools, a total of 82 pupils, including 32 pupils in grades 1–4 and 50 pupils in grades 5–9.

**Primary schools with Ukrainian as the language of instruction are attended by:**

- in public schools, a total of 192 pupils, including 85 pupils in grades 1–4 and 107 pupils in grades 5–9.

**Table 25:** Number of pupils in primary schools with the language of instruction of national minorities in the period 2016 – 2022

	Hungarian	German	Ukrainian	Bulgarian	Ruthenian	Russian	total
<b>2016</b>	29,077	164	168	76	0	0	29,485
<b>2017</b>	29,236	157	171	84	53	6	29,584
<b>2018</b>	29,261	166	141	84	62	10	29,724
<b>2019</b>	29,264	168	148	83	60	25	29,748
<b>2020</b>	29,285	155	143	69	67	35	29,754
<b>2021</b>	29,276	174	148	68	81	58	29,805
<b>2022</b>	29,256	185	192	66	82	59	29,840
<b>Source: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC</b>							

As of 15 September 2022, a total of 253 special primary schools were included in the network of schools and educational establishments in the Slovak Republic.

**Table 26:** Number of special primary schools in the Slovak Republic according to the language of instruction of national minorities

Language of instruction	Number of special primary schools	Percentage share
Hungarian	8	3.37 %
Slovak and Hungarian	13	5.48 %

## Secondary Schools

As of 15 September 2022, a total of 441 secondary schools and conservatories were included in the network of schools and educational establishments, including schools that have only an external form of study. The number of full-time secondary vocational schools is 417 (323 state, 74 private and 20 church). Out of the above number of secondary vocational schools, 37 secondary vocational schools with the language of instruction of national minorities were established, of which 25 with the Slovak-Hungarian language of instruction and 12 with the Hungarian language of instruction. At the same time, 234 grammar schools and secondary sports schools were included in the network of schools and educational establishments, including schools that have only an external form of study. The number of full-time schools is 233 (144 state, 39 private and 50 church). Out of the number of grammar schools, 22 are grammar schools and secondary schools with the language of instruction of national minorities.

**Table 27:** Number of vocational secondary schools in the Slovak Republic by language of instruction of national minorities

<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Number of vocational secondary schools</b>	<b>Percentage share</b>
Hungarian	12	2.83 %
Slovak and Hungarian	25	5.90 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8.73 %</b>
<b>Source: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC</b>		

**Table 28:** Number of grammar schools in the Slovak Republic according to the language of instruction of national minorities

<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Number of grammar schools and secondary sports schools</b>	<b>Percentage share</b>
Hungarian	14	5.98 %
Slovak-Hungarian	6	2.56 %
Ukrainian	1	0.43 %
Bulgarian	1	0.43 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9.40 %</b>
<b>Source: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC</b>		

## Universities

Universities are divided into public, state, private and foreign on the basis of Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Universities and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended. In the academic year 2021/2022, 20 public universities, 3 state universities and 10 private universities provided higher education.

In the departments and institutes of the universities it is possible to take university courses in which several languages of national minorities are taught, namely Hungarian, German, Russian, Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Roma, Croatian, Bulgarian and Polish:

- Comenius University in Bratislava (Department of the Hungarian Language and Literature, Department of Germanic, Dutch and Scandinavian Studies, Department of Russian and East European Studies, Department of Slavic Philology within the Faculty

of Arts and Department of the German Language and Literature within the Faculty of Education);

- University of Prešov (Institute of Russian Studies, Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Institute of German Studies within the Faculty of Arts and within the Centre for Languages and Cultures of National Minorities, Institute of the Hungarian Language and Culture, Institute of the Ruthenian Language and Culture and Institute of Roma Studies);
- University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (Department of Russian Studies, Department of German Studies within the Faculty of Arts);
- Catholic University in Ružomberok (Department of German Studies within the Faculty of Arts);
- University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra (Department of Roman and Germanic Studies at the Faculty of Arts and the Institute of Hungarian Linguistics and Literary Studies and the Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures at the Faculty of Central European Studies);
- Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (Department of German Studies, Department of Slavic Languages within the Faculty of Arts).

The only independent public university in Slovakia where teaching is primarily in the language of the national minority – Hungarian – is the J. Selye University in Komárno. It is the only university that completes the continuum of education and training in this language from kindergarten to university.

#### **4.5 Activities in the Field of Education and Training of Children of Persons Belonging to National Minorities in Schools and School Establishments**

During the reporting period, a number of activities related to improvement of education and training of persons belonging to national minorities. Several of them were also related to the implementation of the tasks from the Action Plan, specifically to Operational Objective 3 *More Effective Consideration of the Specifics of the Educational Needs of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups*, which is led by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic has approved Directive No. 33/2020 on didactic resources, which regulates the procedure of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic and directly managed organizations in the selection and assessment of didactic resources. The directive also applies to didactic resources published for the purposes of education in the languages of national minorities. Directive No. 5/2021 has been updated, among other things, to include approval protocols (recommendation protocols) for the translation of didactic material, which is issued on the basis of an assessment of the proficiency of the translation from the Slovak language into the language of the national minority concerned. Following the amendment to Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Training (the Education Act) and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, the Ministry approved a new Directive No. 1/2022 on educational publications, which also includes the obligation to submit a translation of an educational publication into the language of a national minority for consideration for the purpose of issuing an endorsement. One of the main goals achieved is to open up the market for textbooks, which has long been demanded by schools, teachers and professionals. The funding provided to schools is also provided for the

purchase of available approved didactic teaching aids for the teaching of the language of national minorities.

In 2022, NIEY, as a directly managed organisation of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic, organised three meetings with organisations working with Hungarian-speaking youth. The meetings took place in Komárno, Kralovský Chlmec and Rimavská Sobota. The aim of the meetings was to inform organisations and individual youth workers about the possibilities of training and improving their competences for the performance of their work and about the possibilities of financing youth work, to present the possibilities of using the EU programmes Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps and to deepen the possibilities of cooperation between actors in the field of youth work with young people belonging to the Hungarian national minority. The agenda included the introduction of the Youth Council of Slovakia and the individual youth councils as representative structures that organisations can join.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic has started to implement a pilot project together with the Council of Europe called "Romani-Plurilingual Policy Experimentation – Inclusion of Roma Children in Education – Plurilingual Approach". The project will be implemented between 2022 and 2025. The project involves schools from 3 European Union countries, namely Slovakia, Slovenia and Greece, and will involve around 1,000 Roma pupils. In Slovakia, four primary schools with a high representation of pupils from the Roma minority were involved in the pilot testing. The aim of the pilot project is to create opportunities to develop the awareness of Roma and non-Roma pupils about Roma language, culture and history. The pilot validation will have an impact on more effective inclusion of Roma pupils at primary age in participating schools, a significant innovation in the teaching of Roma language, history and culture to both Roma and non-Roma pupils, as well as networking within and between participating schools.

In the reporting period, the implementation of the project "Innovative Training of Teachers to Increase their Intercultural Competences in the Educational Process of Roma Pupils" better known as "Together with Roma We will Achieve More", better known under the name "Together with Roma We Will Achieve More", was also continued, the project was implemented by NIEY. The main objective of the project is to support the introduction of Roma language and literature teaching at all levels of education within the school curriculum of schools with pupils from Roma communities and to support intercultural education. The project is planned for 36 months. The expected completion date of the project is May 2023. Within the project implementation, work was carried out on the conception of the content of the Roma-Slovak reading book for the 3rd and 4th grade of primary school, the content of the textbook for the Roma language (language level – moderately advanced), the preparation of texts for the purpose of processing both reading books and workbooks. The documents for the methodology for the History Reading Book – Searching for the Past of Roma were prepared. They also prepared were documents for an innovative educational programme for school management and innovative educational trainings for teaching staff. More than 40 pedagogical staff and experts in the field of education of pupils from Roma communities were accepted for the educational training entitled "Intercultural Education in Schools with Pupils from Roma Communities". 60 leaders were trained in school management training. 10 teachers were trained to prepare for the state language exam in the Roma language. The aim of the training was to increase the professional competences of teachers, which will enable them to use the Roma language competently in various areas of work with Roma communities, to independently



create teaching resources in the Roma language, to carry out applied pedagogical research with a focus on the Roma language, and which will help them to teach the Roma language in primary and secondary schools with high quality. In cooperation with the project partner European Wergeland Centre, 10 Multipliers were trained in the field of human rights and democratic citizenship. Its aim was to develop professional competences and provide support in building an inclusive and democratic school environment in which all pupils and members of the school community feel welcome and respected, with a particular focus on the inclusion of Roma pupils. The training was based on the Council of Europe's approaches to democratic citizenship, human rights and intercultural education and training. It works with five primary schools and five secondary schools.

The joint European Union and Council of Europe project "INSCHOOL – Inclusive Schools: Making a Difference for Roma Children" was launched in Slovakia in 2017 and is scheduled to end in 2027. It aims to promote the social inclusion of Roma by supporting inclusive education policies and practices in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom. The INSCHOOL project has introduced a methodology in schools based on the "Inclusion Index: a Guide for School Development Based on Inclusive Values" by T. Booth and M. Ainscow (2016). In the first two cycles of the project, work was done with schools, while in the third cycle of the project, i.e. from August 2022 onwards, a national working group has been set up to work closely with Ministries of Education in each country to focus on gaps and contradictions between existing policies and practices in schools and to provide assistance in addressing them. In this way, it seeks to translate inclusive practice from education into inclusive policies at the national level. In Strasbourg, under the title "European Standards and Tools for Quality and Inclusive Education", the first study international meeting of experts on inclusive education was held with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic. The aim of the meeting was to present the European Convention on Human Rights as well as the existing and most important case law of the European Court of Human Rights in the field of access to education and desegregation of Roma children.

In accordance with Act No. 138/2019 Coll. on Teaching and Professional Staff and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, the NIEY provided professional development for teaching staff and professional staff through training programmes and professional events. The education was provided to teaching staff and professional staff who educate children and pupils belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, the education was also focused on inclusive education, intercultural and interethnic dialogue.

In 2022, two innovative training programmes for teaching staff and professional staff were created to support the use of the Roma language and Roma culture in the teaching process, while the qualification training "Roma Language and Roma Culture" for teaching staff and professional staff is currently being prepared in order to obtain the qualification prerequisites for teaching the Roma language.

In 2022, three education programmes focused on inclusive education were added to the educational offer. Due to legislative changes, the amendment to Act No. 138/2019 Coll., with effect from 1. 1. 2022 regulated the scope of innovative education programmes. The Act implies that innovation training is organised as a simple innovation training programme of at least 50 hours. In 2022, 776 teaching staff and professional staff were involved in training in the above programmes, of which the number of graduates was 663. In connection with the above, the

training content for the individual programmes was supplemented so that the above condition was met.

- Creating an inclusive school and school culture from the point of view of pedagogical and professional staff – starting points for creating an inclusive classroom and group environment
- Creating an inclusive school and school culture from the perspective of teaching and professional staff – application of activities to develop an inclusive culture
- Creating an inclusive school and school establishment – inclusive policy in practice

**Table 29:** Overview of the number of teaching staff and professional staff involved in training in the above three innovative training programmes in 2022 (the programmes were created in 2020 and 2021)

Innovative Education Programme	Number of involved teaching staff and professional staff	Number of graduates
	2022	2022
1. Creating an inclusive school and school culture from the point of view of pedagogical and professional staff – starting points for creating an inclusive classroom and group environment	635	563
2. Creating an inclusive school and school culture from the perspective of teaching and professional staff – application of activities to develop an inclusive culture	106	69
3. Creating an inclusive school and school establishment – inclusive policy in practice	35	31

In 2021 and 2022, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic allocated funds under the call for applications for funding for the development project "Support for Teaching the Mother Tongue of the National Minority 2022". Priority areas of support were preparatory activities for the implementation of teaching of a national minority language (Croatian, Polish, Ruthenian, Roma, Ukrainian, German or Bulgarian) or activities in the framework of teaching of a national minority language (Croatian, Polish, Ruthenian, Roma, Ukrainian, German or Bulgarian). The application could be submitted by the founders of primary and secondary schools with national minority classes (schools with teaching of the language of a national minority) or with teaching the Slovak language, who are motivated to introduce the teaching of the language of a national minority in their school. In 2021, 5 projects were supported for a total amount of EUR 7,190 and in 2022, 8 projects were supported for a total amount of EUR 12,000.

The development project *Support for Regional and Multicultural Education of Pupils Belonging to National Minorities* has been announced since 2016. The aim of the call is to support the development of multicultural and regional education in national minority schools and national minority classrooms (schools with the language of instruction of national minorities and with the teaching of the language of a national minority). Priority areas of support are activities forming a relationship to history, culture, traditions; historical facts of their own region aimed at the coexistence of national minorities, activities contributing to the coexistence of children of different national minorities and majorities, activities aimed at promoting national identity, learning about and preserving traditional culture with an emphasis

on their local and regional character (music, dance, theatre, art and craft activities). In 2021, 29 projects were supported for a total amount of EUR 45,000 and in 2022, 30 projects were supported for a total amount of EUR 53,000.

Within the framework of the call "Summer Schools 2022", summer schools could be organised by all primary schools, special primary schools, special school establishments, associated schools, which have an organisational component of a primary school, which are included in the Network of Schools and School Establishments during the entire summer holidays in the so-called full weeks, i.e. from 11. 07. 2022 to 26. 08. 2022. One cycle lasted continuously for 2 weeks – 10 working days, which was matched by the funding the school receives. The main objective of Summer Schools 2022 was to support schools in their organisation of activities to bridge the gap in knowledge, skills and competences of pupils, including those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, and to integrate pupils coming from Ukraine. As in previous years, volunteers, the non-profit sector, community centres, and even mothers of Ukrainian children were able to participate in the activities of the Summer School 2022 in the supported schools.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic has announced a call for applications for subsidies focusing on innovative approaches to spatial solutions and teaching in primary and secondary schools. The aim is to innovate approaches to teaching and implement them in practice, for example by changing the shape of school desks, which can be adapted to the needs of a particular school subject, changing the layout of classrooms, which is also closely linked to changes in the approach to teaching and teacher training. Its aim is to support the transition from classical "frontal teaching" to teaching methods that promote active student involvement, teamwork, group problem solving or discussion. The call is implemented in primary and secondary schools. After checking the applications and assessing the individual criteria, the Ministry also supported 8 primary schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction, a private vocational school with Hungarian as the language of instruction and a grammar school with Hungarian as the language of instruction.

The development of online forms of education and training in schools and school establishments with Hungarian as the language of instruction is supported by videos depicting literary works and theatre plays, which are intended for teaching in the Hungarian language and literature classes in the territory with a higher representation of the Hungarian population in Slovakia, called "Literary Walk – Irodalmi cirkáló". These are approximately 45-minute videos performed by the Jókai Theatre in Komárno, which can be used for teaching Hungarian language and literature in schools with Hungarian language of instruction by distance learning, or to enrich the Hungarian language and literature lessons.

The following competitions for nationality schools are held annually: Get To Know the Slovak Language and Nice Hungarian Language for pupils of schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction and Amari Romaňi Čhib – Our Roma Language for pupils of the Roma national minority, which are announced by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic and the professional guarantor of NIEY.

#### **4.6 Support for Improving the Quality of the Slovak Language Teaching for Persons Belonging to National Minorities**

The aim of the national project Educational Process of Teaching the Slovak Language and Slovak Literature in Schools with Hungarian as the Language of Instruction, which was

extended until 31 December 2021, was to improve the quality of teaching of the Slovak language and Slovak literature in schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction and to monitor the implementation of the updated curriculum. One of the main tasks of the project was the development of the Concept of Teaching the Slovak Language and Literature in Schools with Hungarian as the Language of Instruction, which is based on the didactics of the subject Slovak language and Literature and reflects on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and the requirements of pedagogical practice, while also incorporating the latest knowledge in the field of teaching foreign languages, languages of instruction and mother tongues in Slovakia and abroad.

Within the framework of the national project Educational Process of Teaching the Slovak Language and Slovak Literature in Schools with Hungarian as the Language of Instruction (No. 2015-14697/33730:2-100A), the State Pedagogical Institute created a series of publications called Methodological Model of Teaching the Slovak Language and Slovak Literature in Schools with Hungarian as the Language of Instruction. The methodological models have been developed for all grades, i.e. grades 1–9 of primary schools with the Hungarian language of instruction (hereinafter referred to as "HLI") to help teachers of the Slovak Language and Literature at the first and second level of primary schools with HLI, methodologists, pedagogical staff and students of primary education of pedagogical faculties and pedagogical staff and students of the academic subject the Slovak Language and Literature. The publications "Methodological Model for Teaching the Slovak Language and Literature in Schools with Hungarian as the Language of Instruction" were distributed to every school with HLI and are also published on the methodological portal of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic and NIEY. The concept document is published on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science and has been included in the list of valid concepts and strategies in the Guide to the School Year 2020/2021 (part Information Service – Chapter 2, Subchapter 2.1) issued by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic and NIEY in Komárno organised online training focusing on the methodology of teaching the subject the Slovak Language and Slovak Literature. The training was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic with the aim of improving the quality of teaching the Slovak Language and Literature in schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction. These trainings took place in two dates and were attended by 36 teachers from HLI schools.

NIEY in Komárno has also been intensively training teachers from primary schools with HLI in the area of curriculum reform since September 2022, as well as being a partner of schools in updating trainings in this area. Teacher attestation process continues to be carried out in the workplace.

NIEY in Komárno, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic, also coordinates the creation of didactic aids for primary schools with HLI under the name SLOVENČINA INAK, which are available only for the 5th grade of primary schools with HLI for the time being. Gradually, digital educational content will also be published for kindergartens and other grades of primary schools with HLI.

## **Part V - Rights of National Minorities in the Use of National Minority Languages**

### **5.1 Legislative and Conceptual Frameworks**

In accordance with Article 34 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, members of national minorities are guaranteed the right to education in their language, the right to use their language in official communication and the right to participate in matters concerning national minorities and ethnic groups, in addition to the right to acquire the national language, under the conditions laid down by law. This article of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic grants persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue. The conditions for the use of the languages of national minorities are regulated primarily by Act No.184/1999 Coll., according to which the language of a minority for the purposes of this Act means a codified or standardised language traditionally used in the Slovak Republic by its citizens belonging to a national minority, which is different from the national language. The Act exhaustively lists the languages of national minorities that are officially recognised in the Slovak Republic<sup>30</sup>.

Implementing legislations to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. are as follows: Slovak Government Regulation No. 535/2011 Coll. implementing certain provisions of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of National Minority Languages, as amended, which regulates the details in connection with information on the possibility of using the languages of national minorities in official communication and in connection with the form of bilingual official documents and Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll., which, however, did not come into force until outside the reporting period (1.3.2023). This Regulation replaced the previously valid and effective Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll.

The Slovak Republic is bound by international treaties in the area of the protection of the linguistic rights of national minorities. Among the most important are the Framework Convention and the Language Charter. The Language Charter<sup>31</sup> is a framework multilateral international treaty of a cultural nature and is designed to protect and promote regional and minority languages as an endangered aspect of Europe's cultural heritage. It therefore contains an anti-discrimination clause on the use of these languages and also provides for measures to ensure the active promotion of regional and minority languages. The sponsor of the activities related to the process of monitoring the implementation of this international treaty is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. The permanent expert body of the Council of Government for the implementation of the Language Charter within the meaning of Art. 7(4) of the Charter is the Committee. The Slovak Republic submits implementation reports on the implementation of the commitments, which are assessed by an independent Committee of Experts at three-yearly intervals. Although the Framework Convention deals with the protection of national minorities in a comprehensive manner and thus captures the entire spectrum of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, in its Articles 10 and 11 it also deals specifically with the area of linguistic rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

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<sup>30</sup>The languages are Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian.

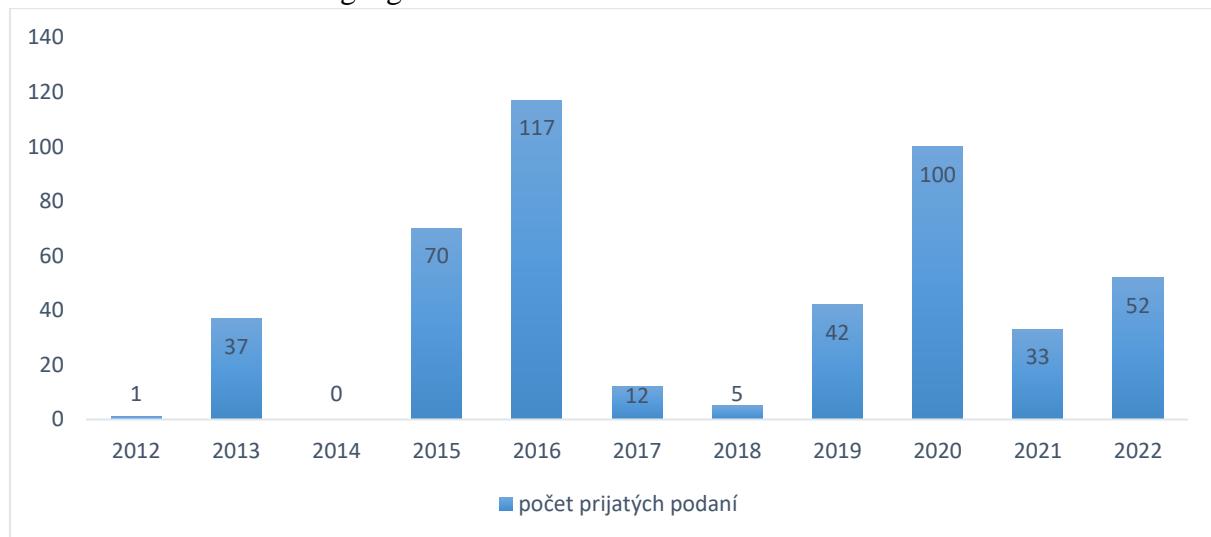
<sup>31</sup> For more information on the Language Charter, see section 1.2.2 of this Report. The Interpretative Report on the Language Charter is available at: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7244\\_vykladovaspava.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7244_vykladovaspava.pdf) .

## 5.2 Professional and Methodological Assistance in the Use of Languages of National Minorities

Pursuant to Sec. 7a(1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the Government Office of the Slovak Republic provides professional and methodological assistance to public administration bodies as well as to organisational components of the security and rescue forces and, in the implementation of the Act, discusses administrative offences in the field of the use of languages of national minorities pursuant to Sec. 7b(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. The provision of professional and methodological assistance has proved in practice to be an effective and efficient tool for raising the level of application of the individual provisions of the Act. Pursuant to the Organisational Regulations of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, OPNM cooperates with OSGSO when handling submissions pursuant to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. and when providing professional and methodological assistance to public administration bodies and organisational units of the security and rescue forces in implementing the provisions of this Act.

In the reporting period 2021 – 2022, the Plenipotentiary and their office, in cooperation with OSGSO, handled a total of 85 submissions concerning the use of the languages of national minorities related to possible violations of the provisions of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., of which 1 submission was received from a legal entity and 84 from natural persons. The majority of these submissions concerned primarily possible violations of Sec. 4(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. In the period 2021 and 2022, the Office of the Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the OSGSO, handled 73 language submissions, with a further 12 still pending resolution.

**Chart 3:** Overview of language submissions received from 2012 to 2022.



**Source:** Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

At the same time, in cooperation with the Plenipotentiary, the OG SR, following tasks B.2. and B.324/2021 to the Report on the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 - 2020 in the reporting period, the Slovak Government *Office* issued the *Methodological Guideline on the method of financial provision of the fulfilment of the tasks arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. by the public*

*administration authorities*<sup>32</sup> and the *Methodological Guideline on the provision of the fulfilment of the tasks arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in the conditions of higher territorial units*<sup>33</sup>.

It should also be pointed out that the Plenipotentiary continued to ensure the work of the language advisory groups, whose members continued to prepare, in particular, additional translations of information relating to threats to life and health in 2021 and 2022, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; they also prepared translations of information relating to vaccinations, the visit of the Pope in September 2021 and other civil registry forms. The working group continued to translate or amend legislation. A total of 20 translations of legal regulations were produced in the reporting period, which were gradually published on the Slo-lex legal and information portal.<sup>34</sup>

### **5.3 Support for the Improvement of the Application Practice of the Right to Use the Languages of National Minorities**

During the reporting period, the Plenipotentiary continued their efforts to improve the application practice of the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages. In this context, in addition to the above, they have carried out a number of support activities and held several working meetings aimed at exchanging information and consulting on proposals for improving the application practice of respect for the linguistic rights of minorities, in particular, they have actively communicated with the concerned ministries regarding the implementation of competency-based language training for employees, with mostly positive feedback from the concerned ministries; the Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, has also addressed the territorial self-government authorities and responsible ministries with a call for the elimination of the shortcomings identified in the Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the Period 2019 – 2020. In this regard, the Plenipotentiary organised a series of meetings with representatives of the responsible departments, self-governing regions and municipalities and also requested a report on the implementation of this task. The municipalities and departments in question already sent the reports to the Office of the Plenipotentiary during May 2021. It is clear from the statements of the individual ministries that some of the shortcomings identified in the questionnaire survey have been eliminated, which is finally reflected to some extent in the results of the latest questionnaire survey.

The Plenipotentiary also supported the improvement of the application practice by actively commenting on legislative and non-legislative materials that relate in some way to the issue at hand. At the initiative of the Plenipotentiary, the need to ensure translations of the Legal Aid Centre's materials into the languages of national minorities and to increase the linguistic competence of the employees of the Legal Aid Centre was included in the material entitled

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<sup>32</sup> The Methodological Guideline of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic on the method of funds for the fulfilment of tasks arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. by public administration bodies together with the Annex is available on the web site of the Plenipotentiary: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3578/metodicke\\_usmernenie\\_uv\\_sr\\_k\\_financnem\\_u\\_zabezpeceniu.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3578/metodicke_usmernenie_uv_sr_k_financnem_u_zabezpeceniu.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> Methodological guidance on ensuring the fulfilment of tasks arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in the conditions of higher territorial units is available on the website of the Plenipotentiary: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3578/metodicke\\_usmernenie\\_vuc.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3578/metodicke_usmernenie_vuc.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> The legislation in the languages of national minorities is available here: <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy-v-jazyku-narodnostnych-mensin>

Concept of the Legal Aid Centre's activities for 2022 – 2024<sup>35</sup>, which was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution No. 551 of 7 September 2022. The Legal Aid Centre was given full cooperation by the Plenipotentiary to ensure these objectives. In connection with the interest increasing the effective exercise of the linguistic rights of members of national minorities, the material entitled Focus of the Auditing Activities of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2022<sup>36</sup>, which was approved by Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution No. 719/2021, included an audit of the fulfilment of the tasks of the state administration in the field of the use of languages of national minorities in accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in selected district and municipal offices.

In the reporting period, the Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Charter of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, prepared Language Guides on language rights for our Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian and Ukrainian speaking citizens. The text of the Guide was translated in close cooperation with members of the Plenipotentiary 's Advisory Group for ensuring alignment of practice with the current Act on the Use of National Minority Languages. These language guides have been published on the Plenipotentiary's website as well as on the Council of Europe's website.<sup>37</sup>

In the reporting period, in connection with the introduction of the computerisation of child birth reporting, at the initiative of the Plenipotentiary, the possibility was introduced for mothers of non-Slovak nationality to enter the surname of their newborn daughter in the birth register without the Slovak ending directly from the hospital, and thus without an additional visit to the Registry Office. At the same time, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, bilingual registry extracts were consulted and finalised in the parts presented in the Hungarian language. At the same time, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic were consulted on technical regulations concerning road markings, which resulted in the creation of completely new technical standards that respect the individual aspects of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., while it is important to note that technical regulations are not a generally binding source of law and therefore cannot and do not represent an interpretation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

#### **5.4 Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the Period 2021-2022**

In 2022, OPNM conducted an extensive questionnaire survey in connection with the preparation of the sixth report on the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic. The Report was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic on 29 December 2022 by Resolution No. 830/2022.<sup>38</sup> The Report is based on the most detailed questionnaire survey to date on the status of the use of national minority languages, which involved a total of 757 entities (637<sup>39</sup> municipalities; 6 self-governing regions, 89 state

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<sup>35</sup> The material is available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/27569/1>

<sup>36</sup> The material is available at: [Material detail | OG Portal \(gov.sk\)](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/ramcovy-dohovor-a-europska-charta/)

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/ramcovy-dohovor-a-europska-charta/>; [Language Guides \(coe.int\)](https://www.coe.int/en/turkey/Language-Guides)

<sup>38</sup> The Report is available at: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/share/svnm/spravy-a-koncepcne-materialy/sprava-o-pouzivani-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin-2019-2020.pdf>

<sup>39</sup>Of which 507 municipalities with a population belonging to the Hungarian, 56 to the Ruthenian, 50 to the Roma, 6 to the Ukrainian, 1 to the German national minority, as well as 18 municipalities with a population belonging



administration bodies, 6 district directorates of the Fire and Rescue Corps, 6 organisational units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic – military units and 1 organisational unit of the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps – the Institute for the Execution of Sentences of Imprisonment). For the first time, the material also mapped the state of compliance with the linguistic rights of persons belonging to national minorities by the locally competent district courts and district prosecutor's offices, namely 6 district courts and 6 district prosecutor's offices.

In addition to the analysis of the questionnaire survey, the Report included a summary of the national legislative and institutional framework for the use of national minority languages, highlighting the most significant changes that have taken place in this area in the reporting period, as well as a summary of the international legal framework for the use of national minority languages. The report contains a comparison of the scope of application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in time series, which allows for a deeper analysis of the factors influencing the use of languages of national minorities. The survey was aimed at identifying those areas where there are shortcomings in the use of national minority languages in application practice.

The language report maps three categories of language rights arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. for all the monitored entities:

- a) language rights, the observance of which is obligatory and failure to observe them is an administrative offence pursuant to Sec. 7b of Act No. 184/1999 Coll;
- b) language rights, the observance of which is obligatory and failure to observe them is not an administrative offence under Act No. 184/1999 Coll;
- c) language rights, the exercise of which is provided for by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. as an option.

The Report includes a separate Annex 11, which contains a list and number of specific deficiencies in the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. identified in the framework of the activities of public administration bodies on the basis of a questionnaire survey.

In the case of municipalities, according to the results of the survey, the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. has improved compared to the previous period, especially in the case of municipalities with Hungarian, Ruthenian and Roma national minorities, and in the case of municipalities with Ukrainian national minorities and German national minorities, the situation has improved, but not as significantly as in the case of the remaining municipalities.

Local government authorities have also improved the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in comparison to previous periods. In the area of designations in the language of a national minority, 99% of public authority bodies now provides their designation, including the designation of the municipality, in the language of a national minority. In general, the languages of national minorities have been used more widely in the official communication of public authority bodies. The situation in the area of information concerning threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic also in the language of a national minority has gradually improved.

More than half of the municipalities and public authority bodies rated the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication as seamless, 12% of the municipalities and public authority bodies as problematic and 28% as

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to two national minorities (11 to the Ruthenian and Ukrainian, 5 to the Hungarian and Roma, 1 to the Ukrainian and Roma, and 1 to the Ruthenian and Roma).

partially problematic. Compared to the last survey, the number of municipalities that rated enabling conditions as problematic has increased, as well as has the number of municipalities that rated it as not problematic. The increase in both categories was probably due to an increase in the return rate of questionnaires. In the case of public authority bodies, there was a shift from the last survey in that more public authority bodies rated the creation of conditions as seamless and fewer as problematic.

Most municipalities stated insufficient funding as the reason for the problem, insufficient qualified employees as another problem, fewer municipalities stated inadequate professional support, some municipalities stated lack of time and employees, or a large number of tasks in different areas.

The main problems in creating the conditions for the use of minority languages in official communication were identified by the majority of public authority bodies as the lack of professional support and the insufficient number of qualified employees. Insufficient funds or a combination of the above factors were given as other reasons. The public authority bodies also gave other reasons, e.g. the absence of requests from clients, the difficulty of using the language of a national minority in professional texts and areas regulated by legislation available only in the national language, the absence of professional terminology in the language of a national minority, or its uniformity, unambiguity and stability, the financial and administrative difficulty of using translation or interpreting services, and the absence of uniform forms and their translations. In the case of the Ruthenian language, it is the lack of knowledge of the codified Ruthenian language on the part of the employees.

This Report shows that, despite the improvement of the situation, significant reserves remain the application practice of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. Based on the results of this year's questionnaire survey and following the conclusions of previous reports, the Report also contains recommendations for improving the level of application of the individual provisions of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., in particular that:

- more consideration is given to the language competences of applicants when recruiting,
- more support is given to the development of language competency training for employees aimed at improving their proficiency in professional terminology in the languages of national minorities,
- in order to ensure continuity in the performance of the agenda in question, in particular at the level of public authority bodies (at individual ministries as well as at the competent local authority offices), consider the possibility of establishing a position of an officer responsible for the observance of minority language rights,
- methodological and technical assistance from the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is strengthened,
- the establishment of a compensation fund from which, in particular, territorial local authority bodies and legal entities established by territorial local authority could draw financial resources to cover the costs associated with the fulfilment of the obligations imposed by Act No. 184/1999 Coll., which, although this Act has so far imposed obligations on the above entities, they are currently obliged to cover from their own budget. The Government of the Slovak Republic reflected on this persistent problem in 2021, when it imposed the task of preparing and issuing the Methodological Guidelines on the method of funding tasks arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on

the Use of Languages of National Minorities by public administration bodies. The aforementioned Guidelines were issued in late 2021 by the Head of the Office of the Government and the Government Plenipotentiary. The above proposal was reflected in task B.1 of the draft resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic on the Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the Period 2021 – 2022

The fulfilment of the constitutional right of citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups to use their language in official communication is now closely related to the creation of adequate possibilities within the framework of the gradual electrification of communication between citizens and the state. In connection with the transition of the exercise of the powers of public authority bodies to electronic form:

- it is necessary for the promoters of the activities in question to reflect on the existence of linguistic rights of members of national minorities and to consider them as a natural part of a modern democratic society.

The results of the submitted Report show that in the following period there is still a need to continue the cooperation and activities started and to continue to eliminate the remaining shortcomings and to strengthen the provision of professional and methodological assistance by the Office of the Government in the application of Act No.184/1999 Coll. in cooperation with the relevant ministries, public authority bodies, municipalities and the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to national minorities themselves.

On the basis of the conclusions of the Report, which was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution No. 830/2022, the members of the Government of the Slovak Republic were assigned several tasks. In order to improve the application practice of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, the Government of the Slovak Republic has instructed the Head of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic and the Plenipotentiary to prepare a proposal for a financial support mechanism to compensate for expenses incurred in connection with the fulfilment of the obligations arising therefrom and to update and issue methodological guidelines of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic on Act No. 184/1999 Coll. to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and the Minister of Health of the Slovak Republic, the Government of the Slovak Republic has assigned by this resolution the task to be carried out by 1 December 2023 and to increase the level of existing competency training aimed at improving the level of proficiency in the language of national minorities for the group of civil servants performing civil service in the municipalities defined in the special regulation and to ensure its availability in the public administration bodies within its competence, and also the task to take measures by 31 December 2024 to eliminate the shortcomings listed in Annex 11 of the Report and to evaluate their implementation within its competence on an ongoing basis.



## Conclusions and Recommendations

The Report on the Status and Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities for 2021 – 2022 contains an assessment of the fulfilment of the obligations in the field of the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the conditions of the Slovak Republic. In the individual sections, the material focuses on the national and international obligations of the Slovak Republic, participation, culture, education and the use of languages of national minorities. It contains relevant data and information that is directly relevant to the subject area. Further additional information is included in the annexes to this Report. On the basis of the analysis of the available information and the data processed, the following conclusions can be drawn and the following recommendations can be proposed:

- In the area of national commitments, a number of legislative changes were made during the reporting period which had a positive impact on the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities. In the reporting period, the Government of the Slovak Republic also approved significant non-legislative materials in this area. In particular, the Action Plan for the Protection of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2021 – 2025, which sets out 6 operational objectives and, compared to the Action Plan for the previous period, which contained 28 activities, it includes 34 measures that are systematically divided into thematic areas and also commits to the implementation of activities, compared to the previous Action Plan, more entities as lead or cooperating entities and the Interpretation of the results of the 2021 Census of Population, Housing Dwellings on the nationality and other nationalities of the population, under which both nationality categories were subsequently enumerated for the purposes of assessing the percentage criterion for the exercise of linguistic rights. In the area of Slovakia's international obligations, further rounds of monitoring of the implementation of individual recommendations of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages were carried out. Taking into account the conclusions of the monitoring cycles in question, an effective and coordinated implementation of the individual recommendations needs to be put in place.
- The institutional forms of participation of national minorities remain unchanged, but it is important that in the framework of the preparation of a comprehensive act on the status of national minorities, the attention of experts in the field, as well as the attention of the interested public, has turned to this long-neglected topic, and specific proposals have been formulated, the implementation of which would significantly affect the possibilities of participation of persons belonging to national minorities in the field of participation in the meaning of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Rights of National Minorities.
- In the field of culture, preparation and finalisation of an important conceptual document called the Culture and Creative Industries Strategy 2030 has been completed, but it only minimally addresses specific measures for national culture. In terms of institutional arrangements, during the reporting period, the Department of Culture of National Minorities was placed under the direct management of the State Secretary 2. The cultural area was also marked by measures related to COVID-19 during this period.
- In the field of national education, a number of legislative changes have been made in the reporting period, including in particular the introduction of legal definitions of the terms national schools, national school establishments, national education, national classroom

and inclusive education. In order to maintain an individual approach to the child, the right for schools and school establishments to ascertain and process information on the mother tongue has been introduced. The teaching of the subject the Slovak Language and Slovak Literature, which is taught using the methods and forms of education and training as a foreign language, has also been introduced in primary schools and secondary schools with a language of instruction other than the state language. This area was also affected by a pandemic during the reporting period.

- With regard to the use of the language of national minorities, it is necessary to highlight the activities of the Advisory Language Group of the Plenipotentiary, which continued to work intensively on translations of legislative texts, forms, methodological materials on the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., as well as translations of information relating to threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic. Also, in cooperation with its members, the *Language Guides* for citizens of the Slovak Republic using Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages were prepared by OPNM in cooperation with the Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. During the reporting period, the level of methodological assistance in this area was further intensified. However, the most significant achievement for increasing the level of use of the languages of national minorities was the results of CPHD 2021, which proved the national diversity of the composition of the Slovak population, and following which the Slovak Government subsequently approved the interpretation of the results of CPHD 2021 concerning nationality and other nationality as the sum of both nationality categories, which are equal. The above served as the basis for the adoption of Government Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll., and thus for the extension of the list of municipalities in which members of a national minority have the right to use a minority language in official relations, and also as the basis for the establishment of mechanisms to strengthen the linguistic rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

Following on from the above conclusions, it should be noted that more or less in each of the areas there has been a more or less significant shift. However, the presented findings also point to persistent challenges and tasks, the identification of which is the first step towards effectively raising the level of application of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

**In the light of the above, the Plenipotentiary recommends the following:**

- to take into account the needs of persons belonging to national minorities in legislative work and involve existing structures in legislative drafting;
- to introduce temporary equalisation measures in all spheres of public life in relation to achieving real equality of opportunity for persons belonging to national minorities;
- to adopt a comprehensive act on the status of national minorities;
- in order to increase the level of participation in matters concerning national minorities, local authorities to consider establishing commissions of municipal councils and self-governing regions that deal exclusively with issues relating to the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities;

- in the field of culture, to take care of the needs of persons belonging to national minorities, intensively involve actors of minority culture and representatives of national minorities in the development of state and regional policies and adequately respond to changes in the needs of minority communities, as well as to ensure proper provision of sufficient financial support;
- to take measures to increase the efficiency of FPNMC;
- to ensure that the roles of higher territorial units and other providers of subsidies in the area of support for regional culture are defined, that they are sufficiently staffed and that separate strategies for the protection and development of minority culture are developed;
- to strengthen institutional arrangements for the provision of methodological assistance in the field of national minority culture at both central and regional level;
- to develop, improve and complete the national broadcasting of RTVS;
- to take into account the specific educational needs of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups based on different conditions, requirements, including education in their mother tongue;
- in order to increase the level of use of the languages of national minorities, to provide financial support for local self-government bodies to cover the costs associated with the fulfilment of the obligations imposed on them by Act No. 184/1999 Coll.;
- to adopt strategies for the development of minority languages at the level of the relevant higher territorial units, which will guarantee the fulfilment of the international and national obligations of the Slovak Republic;
- to ensure the application of language rights in the digitalisation of public administration, in the field of road signs and in the private sector – for which increased methodological and technical work is needed in each of the key areas.

## **List of Abbreviations**

Action Plan – Action Plan for the Protection of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups 2021 – 2025

ADT – Alexander Duchnovič Theatre

HDC – Holocaust Documentation Centre

ECRI – European Commission against Racism and Intolerance

EU – European Union

FPNMC – Fund for the Promotion of National Minority Culture

Language Charter – a framework multilateral international treaty of a cultural nature designed to protect and promote regional or minority languages as an endangered aspect of Europe's cultural heritage

JTK – Jókai Theatre in Komárno

OSGSO – Office of the Secretary-General of the Service Office

Lund Recommendations – Lund Recommendations on the effective participation of national minorities in public life

MoC SR – Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

MPC – Methodological and Pedagogical Centre

MoESRS SR – Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

MoI SR – Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

MFEA SR – Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

NEV – Editorial Office of Nationality Broadcasting Košice

NEC – National Educational Centre

NC SR – National Council of the Slovak Republic

NICEM – National Institute of Certified Educational Measurements

NIEY – National Institute of Education and Youth

OSCE – Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

UN – United Nations

DDNE – the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, specifically the Department for the Development of National Education

RRP – Recovery and Resilience Plan

Language Advisory Group of the Plenipotentiary – the Plenipotentiary's advisory group for ensuring the alignment of practice with the current Act on the Use of National Minority Languages

Advisory Committee – Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Manifesto – Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2020 – 2024

PFAE – Poddukeský Folk Art Ensemble

Framework Convention – Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

RTVS – Radio and Television of Slovakia

CGHR – Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality

SNM – Slovak National Museum

CPHD 2021 – Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings 2021

Plenipotentiary – Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities



SR – Slovak Republic  
Strategy – Culture and Creative Industries Strategy 2030  
SIVE – State Institute of Vocational Education  
SPI – State Pedagogical Institute  
SEP – State Educational Programme  
SEN – Special Educational Needs  
ISDT – Ifjú Szivek Dance Theatre  
UPR – Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council and the implementation of the universal human rights conventions  
Office of the Government of SR – Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic  
Constitution of SR – Constitution of the Slovak Republic  
OPNM / Office of the Plenipotentiary – Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities  
OPRC – Office of the Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities  
HLI – Hungarian Language of Instruction  
CNMEG – Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups  
Committee of Experts – Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages  
Committee of Ministers – Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe  
HTU – Higher territorial unit  
CMD – Committee of Ministers' Deputies  
Act No. 184/1999 Coll. – Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended  
PS – Primary School

## **List of Annexes**

**Annex 1:** List of municipalities added to the list by the adoption of Government Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll.

**Annex 2:** Activities of cultural and educational institutions under the jurisdiction of self-governing regions, which in their activities are dedicated to members of national minorities or present their culture

**Annex 3:** Library activities aimed at the preservation and development of the culture of national minorities

**Annex 4:** Museum activities aimed at the preservation and development of the culture of national minorities

**Annex 1: List of Municipalities Added to the List by the adoption of Government Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll.**

<b>No.</b>	<b>REGION</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>
<b>Municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the Roma national minority make up at least 15% of the population</b>			
1.	Trnava Region	Dunajská Streda District	Zlaté Klasy
2.	Žilina Region	Liptovský Mikuláš District	Pribylina
3.	Banská Bystrica Region	Banská Štiavnica District	Bad'an
4.	Banská Bystrica Region	Lučenec District	Nitra nad Ipľom
5.	Banská Bystrica Region	Revúca District	Držkovce
6.	Banská Bystrica Region	Revúca District	Chvalová
7.	Banská Bystrica Region	Revúca District	Hucín
8.	Banská Bystrica Region	Revúca District	Nandraž
9.	Banská Bystrica Region	Rimavská Sobota District	Blhovce
10.	Banská Bystrica Region	Rimavská Sobota District	Hostice
11.	Banská Bystrica Region	Rimavská Sobota District	Chrámec
12.	Banská Bystrica Region	Rimavská Sobota District	Kesovce
13.	Banská Bystrica Region	Rimavská Sobota District	Kráľ
14.	Banská Bystrica Region	Rimavská Sobota District	Martinová
15.	Banská Bystrica Region	Rimavská Sobota District	Sútor
16.	Banská Bystrica Region	Rimavská Sobota District	Šimonovce
17.	Banská Bystrica Region	Rimavská Sobota District	Širkovce
18.	Banská Bystrica Region	Rimavská Sobota District	Uzovská Panica
19.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Malcov
20.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Nižný Tvarožec
21.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Snakov
22.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Varadka
23.	Prešov Region	Humenné District	Zbudské Dlhé
24.	Prešov Region	Kežmarok District	Holumnica
25.	Prešov Region	Kežmarok District	Krížová Ves
26.	Prešov Region	Kežmarok District	Podhorany
27.	Prešov Region	Kežmarok District	Rakúsy
28.	Prešov Region	Kežmarok District	Veľká Lomnica
29.	Prešov Region	Levoča District	Doľany

30.	Prešov Region	Medzilaborce District	Brestov nad Laborcom
31.	Prešov Region	Sabinov District	Olejníkov
32.	Prešov Region	Sabinov District	Pečovská Nová Ves
33.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Kyjov
34.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Šarišské Jastrabie
35.	Prešov Region	Stropkov District	Kolbovce
36.	Prešov Region	Stropkov District	Veľkrop
37.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Kečkovce
38.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Kružlová
39.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Roztoky
40.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Stročín
41.	Prešov Region	Vranov nad Topľou District	Jastrabie nad Topľou
42.	Prešov Region	Vranov nad Topľou District	Kamenná Poruba
43.	Prešov Region	Vranov nad Topľou District	Sačurov
44.	Prešov Region	Vranov nad Topľou District	Sol'
45.	Prešov Region	Vranov nad Topľou District	Vehec
46.	Prešov Region	Vranov nad Topľou District	Zámutov
47.	Prešov Region	Vranov nad Topľou District	Banské
48.	Prešov Region	Vranov nad Topľou District	Čaklov
49.	Prešov Region	Vranov nad Topľou District	Hanušovce nad Topľou
50.	Košice Region	Gelnica District	Richnava
51.	Košice Region	Gelnica District	Úhorná
52.	Košice Region	Košice II District	Košice-Luník IX
53.	Košice Region	Košice - okolie District	Bidovce
54.	Košice Region	Košice - okolie District	Boliarov
55.	Košice Region	Košice - okolie District	Drienovec
56.	Košice Region	Košice - okolie District	Nižný Lánec
57.	Košice Region	Košice - okolie District	Veľká Lodina
58.	Košice Region	Košice - okolie District	Vtáčkovce
59.	Košice Region	Michalovce District	Vrbnica
60.	Košice Region	Rožňava District	Bôrka
61.	Košice Region	Rožňava District	Krásnohorské Podhradie
62.	Košice Region	Sobrance District	Úbrež
63.	Košice Region	Spišská Nová Ves District	Poráč
64.	Košice Region	Trebišov District	Sečovce

**No.                      REGION                      DISTRICT                      MUNICIPALITY**  
**Municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the Ruthenian national minority make up at least 15% of the population**

1.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Andrejová
2.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Beloveža
3.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Hutka
4.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Kurov
5.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Lipová
6.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Livov
7.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Nižná Polianka
8.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Ondavka
9.	Prešov Region	Bardejov District	Ortuťová
10.	Prešov Region	Humenné District	Rokyty pri Humennom
11.	Prešov Region	Humenné District	Zubné
12.	Prešov Region	Humenné District	Rohožník
13.	Prešov Region	Humenné District	Ruská Kajňa
14.	Prešov Region	Humenné District	Maškovce
15.	Prešov Region	Levoča District	Oľšavica
16.	Prešov Region	Levoča District	Torysky
17.	Prešov Region	Medzilaborce District	Čabalovce
18.	Prešov Region	Medzilaborce District	Radvaň nad Laborcom
19.	Prešov Region	Medzilaborce District	Roškovce
20.	Prešov Region	Medzilaborce District	Sukov
21.	Prešov Region	Medzilaborce District	Svetlice
22.	Prešov Region	Medzilaborce District	Volica
23.	Prešov Region	Medzilaborce District	Zbojné
24.	Prešov Region	Sabinov District	Bajerovce
25.	Prešov Region	Sabinov District	Tichý Potok
26.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Dúbrava
27.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Hostovice
28.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Kalná Roztoka
29.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Klenová
30.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Kolbasov
31.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Ladomirov
32.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Osadné
33.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Pčoliné
34.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Pichne
35.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Príslop
36.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Ruský Potok
37.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Stakčínska Roztoka
38.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Stakčín
39.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Šmigovec
40.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Topoľa
41.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Ulič
42.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Uličské Krivé
43.	Prešov Region	Snina District	Zboj
44.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Čirč

45.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Hajtovka
46.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Kamienka
47.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Kyjov
48.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Matysová
49.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Starina
50.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Stráňany
51.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Šambron
52.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Údol
53.	Prešov Region	Stropkov District	Gribov
54.	Prešov Region	Stropkov District	Jakušovce
55.	Prešov Region	Stropkov District	Kolbovce
56.	Prešov Region	Stropkov District	Korunková
57.	Prešov Region	Stropkov District	Olšavka
58.	Prešov Region	Stropkov District	Staškovce
59.	Prešov Region	Stropkov District	Varechovce
60.	Prešov Region	Stropkov District	Veľkrop
61.	Prešov Region	Stropkov District	Vyškovce
62.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Svidník
63.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Beňadikovce
64.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Hunkovce
65.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Kapišová
66.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Korejovce
67.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Krajná Bystrá
68.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Krajná Poľana
69.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Krajné Čierne
70.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Kurimka
71.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Mirol'a
72.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Nižná Jedľová
73.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Nižný Komárnik
74.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Nižný Orlík
75.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Pstriná
76.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Rovné
77.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Roztoky
78.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Soboš
79.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Svidnička
80.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Šarbov
81.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Šarišský Štiavnik
82.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Vagrinec
83.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Vyšný Komárnik
84.	Prešov Region	Svidník District	Vyšný Orlík
85.	Košice Region	Gelnica District	Závadka
86.	Košice Region	Sobrance District	Inovce
87.	Košice Region	Sobrance District	Ruský Hrabovec

<b>No.</b>	<b>REGION</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>
<b>Municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the Hungarian national minority make up at least 15% of the population</b>			

1.	Trnava Region	Dunajská Streda District	Potônske Lúky
2.	Trnava Region	Okres Galanta	Malá Mača
3.	Nitra Region	Okres Nitra	Štitáre
4.	Nitra Region	Nové Zámky District	Obid
5.	Banská Bystrica Region	Rimavská Sobota District	Belín

<b>No.</b>	<b>REGION</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>
<b>A municipality in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the German national minority make up at least 15% of the population</b>			

1.	Prešov Region	Stará Ľubovňa District	Chmeľnica
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**Annex 2: Activities of cultural and educational institutions under the jurisdiction of self-governing regions, which in their activities are dedicated to members of national minorities or present their culture**

founder	Cultural and educational facilities	event
<b>Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region</b>	Novohradské Educational Centre in Lučenec	Mihály Tompa Hungarian Language District Recitation Competition (2021, 2022)
		József Kármán Cultural Days (2021, 2022) – main organizer – Fundamental Organization of Csemadok in Lučenec
		Ipeľ Art Festival (2022)
		Palócky Folk Art Camp (2021, 2022)
		National Festival of Musical Verse (2021)
		Lajos Mocsáry Memorial Days (2021, 2022)
	Gemersko-Malohontské Educational Centre in Rimavská Sobota	Petőfi – Tompa – district competition in artistic recitation in the Hungarian language (2022)
		Children's Folklore Festival (2022)
		Cinka Panna Festival (2022)
		A Good Word (2022)
		István Ferenczy Art Competition (2021)
		Cultural Festival of the Hungarians of Gemer (2021, 2022)
		Dezső Győry Cultural Days (2022)
		In the Footsteps of Géza Gárdonyi (2022)
		I Want to Keep Learning (2022)
		Fecskem – Concert by Éva Korpás (2022)
		Creative Workshops for Roma Children (2022)
		This is How I See It (2022)
		Hontian-Ipeľ Educational Centre in Veľký Krtíš
	Juniáles (2021, 2022)	
	Message from the Past (2021, 2022) – a multi-genre festival of traditional and contemporary culture	
	Young Talent Festival (2022)	
	In the Footsteps of Literary Creators (2022)	
	Craft Camp (2021, 2022)	
	Kálmán Mikszáth Memorial Day (2021, 2022) – commemoration of the writer, journalist and politician	
	Memorial Day of the Events of 1848/49 (2022)	
	Lajos Kubányi Memorial Day (2022) – commemoration of the painter	
	Bálint Balassi Memorial Day (2022) – commemoration of the Renaissance poet	
	Zsélyi Nagy Lajos Memorial Day (2022) – anniversary of the poet's birth	
	Gyula Krúdy Memorial Day (2022) – commemoration of the playwright	
	Imre Madách Memorial Day (2022) – anniversary of the death of the writer and journalist	
	Pohronie Educational Centre in Žiar nad Hronom	Winter Customs (2022) – production of a multimedia medium about Christmas customs from the region and creative workshops
		Summer Theatre “Količka” (2021)
Podpolianské Educational Centre in Zvolen	Creative Workshops (2021)	
	Old Stories (2022) – workshops aimed at creating bonds between children through drama	
	Roma Skill in Clay and Wood (2021, 2022) – exhibition of works by Roma children	
<b>Košice Self-Governing Region</b>	Cultural Centre of Medzibodrožie	Tokay Festival (2021, 2022) – an international multi-genre event in the spirit of tradition and folklore; the festival contributes to the rapprochement of European nations through culture and art



	and Použie in Kralovský Chlmec	Our Values (2021, 2022) publication IV. Mulatos Romale – regional Roma festival was prepared with the aim of presenting the unusualness and characteristic temperament of Roma culture in cooperation with other cultural organizations of the region (2021, 2022)
	Cultural Centre of Údolie Bodvy and Rudohorie in Moldava nad Bodvou	Folk Dance – Jewel of Hungarian Heritage – performance of the Szóttés Chamber Folklore Ensemble Exhibition of Moldava amateur photographers Reviving vanishing folklore traditions of seniors
	Cultural Centre of Abova in Bidovce	Bell towers – the work of regional artist Štefan Pereš
	Centre of Culture of the Košice Region	Zoltán Fábry Memorial House – improved services for visitors
		Costume Ball - traditional entertainment in costumes
		International Meeting of Bethlehem Shepherds – revived customs and traditions in the culture of national minorities (2021, 2022)
	Gemér Educational Centre in Rožňava	National conference of Hungarian craftsmen in Slovakia in cooperation with Hagymányok Háza Hálózat – Slovakia and Association of Gemer Craftsmen Krásnohorská Dlhá Lúka – exchange of experience, preservation and renewal of traditional crafts (2021, 2022)
		International festival of bobbin lace "Bobbin lace, csipkeverés, koronki" (2021, 2022)
		Folklore evenings carnival customs from southern Gemer also in Ruthenian dialect (2021, 2022)
		Inspiring cultural heritage – start of the Interreg/ViaCarpathia project to promote cross-border cooperation in the field of crafts and minority culture in cooperation with Palócföldi Népi Iparművészek Egyesülete Kozard HU (2021, 2022)
	Museum and Cultural Centre of Southern Zemplín in Trebišov	Activities in the field of astronomy for children in ethnically mixed villages within the region – Universe through the Eyes of Children, What Do You Know About the Stars; multimedia lectures – Night Under the Sky (2021, 2022)
<b>Nitra Self-Governing Region</b>	Regional Educational Centre in Nitra	Song of Podzoborie – International Folklore Festival (2021, 2022)
		Song of the Temple (2021, 2022)
		Slovak Wedding Costumes in Hungary (2021, 2022)
		Day of the Tardoš Slovaks (2021, 2022)
		Meeting of Craftsmen in Tatabánya (2021, 2022)
	Regional Education Centre in Komárno	competitive shows of children's and youth choirs in the Hungarian language
		Once Upon a Time .../ Hol volt, hol nem volt ... – art exhibition (2021, 2022)
		Regional Competition and Showcase of Children's, Youth and Small Brass Bands (2021, 2022)
		Komárno ART Spectrum (2021, 2022)
		Youth Sings 2022 Regional Competition
	Contact 2022 Regional Competition	
	Regional Education Centre in Nové Zámky	What Csaba Kanyicska Left Behind – Alex Hanck's solo exhibition, exhibitions (2021, 2022)
	Regional Education Centre in Levice events	Days of Photography in Levice (2021, 2022) That's the Way We Are – folklore festival (2021, 2022)
<b>Prešov Self-Governing Region</b>	Podtatranské Educational Centre in Poprad	Zamagurie Folklore Festival in Červený Kláštor – the announcer is NOC Bratislava, the promoter is POS Poprad (2021)
		collection of art works for the national art competition: Roma Palette (2021, 2022)
	Horný Šariš Educational Centre in Bardejov	Christmas Star – a show in singing Christmas songs performed by children and adult individuals and groups in cooperation with the Museum of Ukrainian Culture (2021, 2022) Creative workshops for Roma pupils (2021, 2022)

		workshop focused on dance teaching according to Jozef Mike "Kopýtka" from Poštárka (2021)
	Podduklianske Educational Centre in Svidník	Traditional Roma Culture – boarding camp for children and parents (2021) Getting to know the common and different features of culture in the Polish-Slovak border region, boarding summer camps for children (2021, 2022) Implementation of workshops, folklore festivals and various presentation events (2021, 2022) Cooperation with non-governmental organisations of national minorities: Union of Ruthenian-Ukrainians of the Slovak Republic, Ruthenian Revival and Roma civic associations (2021, 2022)
	Lubovňa Educational Centre in Stará Lubovňa	Songs of My Family – regional selections for the national competition of performers of Ruthenian folk song (2021, 2022) Duchnovič's Prešov – district competition in recitation in Ruthenian language (2021, 2022) Makovica String – regional competition of singers of Ruthenian and Ukrainian folk songs (2021, 2022) Folklore Festival of Ruthenian-Ukrainians of Slovakia (2021, 2022) Days of German culture – culture of Spiš Germans (2021, 2022) Holose, holose – competitive show of Ruthenian singing groups (2021, 2022) National celebrations of the Day of Ruthenians in Slovakia (2021, 2022) Lackov Basket – an event presenting Polish and Goral culture (2021, 2022) District showcase of sacred song – an event featuring church choirs and folklore groups from across the region (2021, 2022) Exhibition Know Your Costume – photographic exhibition of primary research and documentation of costumes of the villages of the Lubovňa Region (2021, 2022) Primary research Know Your Costume (2021, 2022) Seminar on Folk Song – a nationwide seminar organized annually in a different region of Slovakia in cooperation with the Society of Musical Folklore from Bratislava, from which a collection of proceedings was created (2021, 2022) Christmas in the Lubovňa Region (2021, 2022)
	Horný Zemplín Educational Centre in Vranov nad Topľou	Easter Workshops – painting Easter eggs and making Easter decorations with Roma children (2021, 2022) Christmas Workshops – making Christmas ornaments and decorations with children (2021, 2022) Children's Art Vranov – the competition presented Roma art and crafts (2021, 2022) Handicraft Festival – presentation of Roma handicraft production combined with workshops (2021, 2022) One World – Regional Documentary Film Festival (2021)
<b>Trenčín Self-Governing Region</b>	Regional Cultural Centre in Prievidza	Harmonies – festival of singing groups of Carpathian Germans' associations (2021, 2022) project Let's Pass on the Tradition to the Followers (2021)
<b>Trnava Self-Governing Region</b>	Galanta Educational Centre	Romafest (2021, 2022) The Golden Strings of the Zither – festival of ensembles and soloists playing the zither from the Trnava Region (2021, 2022)
	Žitný ostrov Educational Centre in Dunajská Streda	International Roma Day – a showcase of Roma talents, which included the evaluation and opening of the district art competition Coloriskeriluma (2021, 2022) Bihari Festival – festival with a gala programme in honour of the famous gypsy primate János Bihari (2021, 2022) The Coloured World of Roma (2021, 2022)



## **Annex 3 Library Activities Aimed at the Preservation and Development of the Culture of National Minorities**

### **State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica**

In 2021, the State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica in cooperation with the German Study Room conducted an interview about the activities of the language centre for the magazine of the Association of Carpathian Germans in Slovakia *Karpattenblatt*.

In 2022, the library cooperated with the Sásová Community Center in organizing a week-long camp for Roma children aged 10-14 within a project funded by a grant from the U.S. Embassy in Slovakia for the activities of the American Center to 30. 8. 2022 and a new grant from the US Embassy in Slovakia for the activities of the American Center to 30. 9. 2023 for activities such as Ozobot programming, Scratch programming, Micro:Bit programming, legorobots and exploring virtual reality through a virtual headset.

At the same time, in the reporting period, the library collection was supplemented with documents related to the issues of national minorities, non-periodical publications in the languages of national minorities were made available in print or electronic form, and periodical publications in the languages of national minorities, published by national minorities or in the language of a national minority, were made available. Periodicals in Hungarian, German, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Russian, Polish and Roma languages were made available.

### **State Scientific Library in Košice**

In July 2021, the library, in cooperation with the American Center in Košice and the non-profit organization ETP Slovakia, organized the 2nd Summer *STEM Academy* for Roma youth.

In 2022, the State Scientific Library in Košice prepared the following events:

- *Spring Break With Lego Robots*, educational activities in cooperation with the American Center in Košice, the non-profit organization ETP Slovakia and the Secondary Industrial School of Electrical Engineering, Košice,
- *How To Teach About The Holocaust*, a methodological day for teachers in cooperation with the Grammar School of St. Edita Steinová and the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice,
- 3rd summer *STEM Academy* for Roma youth in cooperation with the American Center in Košice and the non-profit organization ETP Slovakia.

### **University Library in Bratislava**

On the occasion of the anniversary of the issuance of *Regulation No. 198 on the legal status of Jews*, known as the *Jewish Code*, the University Library in Bratislava, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, presented archival documents related to this stage of Slovak history, which are stored in Slovak state archives. These were in the term 8. 9. – 8. 10. 2022 made available through the exhibition *The Jewish Code - A Dark Story Of History*, subtitled *80 Years Since The Adoption Of Anti-Jewish Measures In Archival Documents*. The aim of the exhibition was to illustrate a facet of one of the most tragic periods of Slovak history through preserved archival documents and at the same time to draw attention to the research potential they contain.

In March 2022, the University Library in Bratislava hosted expert discussions focused on the issues of national minorities *National Minorities In Slovakia In The New Millennium I*

and 2. The discussions shed light on the topics of national identity and its transformations, the linguistic and cultural diversity of the country, as well as the transformation of the media of national minorities. The topic of the first discussion was, among other things, the causes and consequences of the forced disappearance and reappearance of nationalities in Slovakia in the last century, the transformations and heterogeneity of our identity, and the roots of our culture and art. The guests were the poet, translator and Russianist Valerij Kupka and the historian and Germanist Jozef Tancer. The topic of the second discussion was the media of national minorities, their transformations, births and deaths. Sociologist Michal Vašečka with comedian, journalist and editor of the Czech-Slovak Jewish television Tachles Michael Szatmary and historian, journalist and editor-in-chief of the nationality broadcast of the Košice studio of Radio Patria Kristína Mojžišová sought answers to the questions of how the media functioned in the past and how they fulfil their vitality now, what is the relationship between the minority and the media that represents it, and in what sense is national pride a concept that needs to be addressed in the 21st century.

In April 2022, the University Library in Bratislava in cooperation with the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, the Platform of Young Roma, the National Democratic Institute and Adel Slovakia organized the *Congress of Young Roma Women and Roma Men* with nationwide representation of socially active young people. The aim of the congress was a multilevel discussion on the adopted policies aimed at the integration of Roma into society and the creation of a joint declaration with proposals to address the current problems and shortcomings. The *Congress of Young Roma Women and Roma Men* was held as a continuation of the first *Congress of Young Roma* from 2018. The congress was attended by 40 young people from Roma communities from all over Slovakia, who worked in four commissions to present their demands and proposals in the form of a *Declaration of Young Roma Women and Roma Men* at the end of the congress.

On the occasion of the commemorative *Day of the Victims of the Holocaust and Racial Violence*, a lecture was held in the lecture hall of the University Library in Bratislava on 7. 9. 2022, the discussion *Deportations of Jews from Slovakia in 1942 - Questions That Remain Even After Decades*, which was devoted to the topic of deportations of the Jewish population from Slovakia to Nazi concentration and extermination camps and ghettos on the territory of occupied Poland, took place. The discussants were Tomáš Fedorovič, historian from the Terezín Memorial, and Ján Hlavinka, historian from the Holocaust Documentation Centre. The event was moderated by journalist Soňa Gyarfášová.

#### ▪ **Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region**

Among the libraries established by the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region, the Mateja Hrebenda Library in Rimavská Sobota and the Novohrad Library in Lučenec operate in the ethnically mixed area. Events for national minorities are organised for the general public, especially for kindergarten and primary school children and students of secondary schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction.

#### **Novohrad Library in Lučenec**

One of the professional activities of the Novohrad Library are also activities for citizens of national minorities living in the library's methodological competence. The library supports the

culture of national minorities through events for the general public and regular purchases of library items. During the reporting period, the library added 723 library units in the Hungarian language to its library collection. Some minority-oriented activities:

- *Exhibition Of J. Szabó (2021)* – exhibition of prints by Hungarian artist Július Szabó within the project Kultminor. The exhibition was presented in Hungarian;
- *The Treasury Of Secrets (2021)* – a discussion with Anikó N. Tóth, a writer who writes in the Hungarian language, was addressed to children from an elementary school with Hungarian as the language of instruction. In a playful way and in a close circle the children had fun with the writer. The event was held in Hungarian;
- *The Leather Products (2021)* – workshop with Erika Kováčiková, where children from a primary school with Hungarian language of instruction created leather objects – earrings, key rings. The event was funded by Kultminor. The event was held in the Hungarian language;
- *Printers From Gutenberg To The 18 th Century (2021)* – lecture on the development of printing and books from Gutenberg to the 18th century, combined with demonstrations of books, simple printing presses with the opportunity to reprint images. The event was funded by Kultminor. The event was held in Hungarian language. The lecture was attended by pupils from a primary school with Hungarian as the language of instruction;
- *Musical Cabaret i. II. (2021)* – musical performance with short humorous sketches performed by theatre actors from the J. Kárman Theatre in Lučenec. The event was funded by Kultminor. The event was held in the Hungarian language;
- *Uncertainty Of Transition (2022)* – the audience was introduced to Attila Simon's work entitled Uncertainty of Transition – the change of empire from Bratislava to Košice in 1918/1919. How did the people of the Upper Earth experience the Astral Revolution? How did they react to the occupation by Czechoslovak troops? How did their relationship with the new state power evolve? What was the transition like during which they suddenly became Czechoslovak citizens? The event was held in the Hungarian language;
- *Sources Of Information On Personalities And Regional History (2022)* – visit to the State Archive in Lučenec, the library of the Novohrad Museum and Gallery and the Department of Regional Literature and Bibliography of the Novohrad Library - presentation of the archives and the possible process of obtaining information. The event was funded by Kultminor. The event was held in the Hungarian language;
- *Literary-Historical Walk In Lučenec Cemeteries (2022)* – visit to graves and tombs of personalities. The aim of the event was to get to know the personalities of our region better. The event was funded by Kultminor. The event was held in the Hungarian language.
- *The Greatest Natural Disasters (2022)* – the greatest natural disasters, but also beauty and camouflage of animals, volcanoes and dinosaurs. Lecture by Mgr. Dušan Valenta attracted more than 100 Roma children from the Lučenec school to the library;
- *Experiential Reading (2022)* – reading from fairy tale books for children of Roma origin from the Centre for Children and Families Panické Dravce based in Hriňová.

### **Matej Hrebenda Library in Rimavská Sobota**

The Matej Hrebenda Library operates in an ethnically mixed area and therefore every year it focuses its activities on the citizens of nationalities living in Rimavská Sobota and the adjacent area. In 2021, 507 Hungarian-language library items were added to the library's collection. In 2022, this amounted to 1,009 library units in the Hungarian language. Events for national minorities were prepared for visitors of all ages, but especially for children of kindergartens, primary and secondary schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction. In the reporting period KMH RS prepared a number of one-off and cyclical events, from which we select, for example:

- *I Live In Your Speech / Nyelvedben élek (2021)* – non-traditional literature lesson with Róbert Laboda for pupils of primary schools and students of grammar schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction;
- *I Thought... / Gondoltam... (2021)* – meeting with slam-poetry representative Róbert Laboda for the public. The event was held in the Hungarian language;
- *Forgotten Crafts / Elfeledett mesterségek (2021, 2022)* – a series of meetings with craftsmen combined with workshops for children and their parents and grandparents. There were 6 events in 2021 and 5 events in 2022;
- *Surrounded By Treasures / Kincsekkel körülvéve (2021)* – lecture on the cultural values of the Gemersko-Malohontský region for students of grammar school with Hungarian as the language of instruction;
- *Tales Of King Matthias / Mesék Mátyás királyról (2021)* – a fairytale afternoon performed by the storyteller Tamás Zagiba for the public in Hungarian;
- *Bibliotherapy / Biblioterápia (2021)* – bibliotherapy meeting for educators and librarians led by Lilly Bolemant in the Hungarian language;
- *Golden Country / Aranyország (2021, 2022)* – a literary showcase of works by pupils of primary schools and 8-year grammar schools of the town and district of Rimavská Sobota, independently lectured in the Hungarian language;
- *International Year Of Caves And Karst / Barlangok és karsztok nemzetközi éve (2022)* – lecture by caver Ľ. Gaála for pupils of primary schools and students of grammar schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction;
- *The Story Of A Football Goalkeeper / Egy futballkapus története (2022)* – discussion with the author of the book Titanilla Bőd and football goalkeeper Ján Novota for the public in the Hungarian language;
- *The Quarantine Diaries / Karanténnapló (2022)* – discussion with Róbert Laboda for students of the Hungarian grammar school;
- *The Little Book Said To The Little Book / Könyv mondta könyvnek (2022)* - 15th annual adult reading aloud for children – representatives of the various professions read their favourite fairy tales in their uniforms;
- *Our Planet / A mi bolygónk (2022)* – an experiential lesson on the occasion of Earth Day for children of kindergartens in the Hungarian language;

- *The Girl Set Out To Discover The World... / Elindult a leány felfedezni a világot...* (2022) – public talk with actress Vica Kerekes in the Hungarian language;
- *Interesting Features Of The Cerova Highlands / A Cseres-hegység érdekességei* (2022) – thematic lecture for students of secondary schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction;
- *Summer Theatre Debate / Nyári színházi beszélgetés* (2022) – theatre performance for the public in the Hungarian language;
- *Otello Of Rimavská Sobota / Rimaszombati Othello* (2022) – discussion with regional opera singer Titusz Tóbisz, accompanied by musical inputs in Hungarian.

### **Hontian and Novohrad Library in Veľký Krtis**

In the reporting period, the Hontian and Novohrad Library added 37 library units in the Hungarian language to its library collection. In the reporting period, the library carried out the following events:

- *Gorbachev's Secrets Comics*(2022) – a discussion about the boy who changed the world with the writer János Zolcer, who lives in Budapest. The discussion was held in Hungarian for visitors of Hungarian nationality;

### **Ludovít Štúr Regional Library in Zvolen**

The 17th annual Czech-Slovak Reciprocity Week took place at the Ludovít Štúr Regional Library in 2022. The week was prepared in cooperation with the Czech Association in Zvolen and the company Bona Fide Praha.

- *Exhibition Of Czech Literature* (2022) – exhibition of Czech books for children and youth from the fund of the L. Štúr. Discussions on language affinities and workshops;
- *A Woodpecker And A Weakling* (2022) – presentation of a book by Czech writer Daniel Rušar, combined with a talk and workshop;
- *Czech Fairy Tales and Their Translations (“Pohádky sú rozprávky”)* (2022) - dramatised readings from books by Czech authors in the original and in Slovak translations. Performers were Markéta Pellarová, Viera Kučerová, Alexandra Švolíková, Richard Trst’an, Milan Horváth, Ján Sebechlebský;
- *Slovak-Czech Calendar For Children* (2022) - presentation of an educational bilingual calendar connected with an exhibition and workshop of the Czech illustrator Alexandra Švolíková and the creation of her own Czech-Slovak calendar;
- *The Birth Of The Comedian* (2022) – a drama performance by the BONA FIDE Theatre from Prague. Performers Markéta Pellarová, Richard Trst’an, Milan Horvát. Directed by Ján Sebechlebský;
- *About The Little Red Hood* (2022) – a puppet performance by the BOŘIVOJ Theatre from Prague. Performers: Pavlína Kordová and Mirka Vydrová;
- *Kašpár(ek)* (2022) – puppet performance by the BOŘIVOJ Theatre from Prague. Performers: Pavlína Kordová and Mirka Vydrová;
- *Czech Builders In Zvolen* (2022) – lecture by Elena Matisková about Czech builders B. Mandýs, F. Večeř and B.O. Sýkor, who worked in Slovakia;
- *Come, Let’s Read* (2022) – reading excerpts from Czech originals and Slovak translations;



- *Czech Literature For Children (2022)* – exhibition of Czech books for children connected with creative workshops and talks about the affinity of the Czech and Slovak languages;
- *Friends Of Sevda Kvářová (2022)* – exhibition of illustrations by the artist Sevda Kovářová;
- *Animals And Robbers (2022)* – a theatrical variation of František Hrubín's fairy tale. Performers: Krystyna Skalická and Renata Kubišová;
- *Fairy tales Are Fairy Tales, Sometimes Even From A Suitcase (2022)* – puppet show About Goats. Performers: Krystyna Skalická and Renata Kubišová;
- *A Woodpecker And A Weakling (2022)* – an adaptation of Daniel Rúsar's book, Performed by: Martin Kollár;
- *We Still Understand Each Other (2022)* – Czech-Slovak literary and musical evening Performers: Krystyna Skalická, Renata Kubišová, Martin Kollár, Ondřej Daniš, Terézia Králiková, Viera Kučerová, Patrícia Pivolusková;
- *Friends (2022)* – a literary workshop on the power of friendship. Performers: Martin Kollár and Patrícia Pivolusková;
- *Jan Koutný And Jan Bezrouk In Zvolen's Sports Scene (2022)* – lecture of E. Matisková about Czech athletes who played in Zvolen

#### **Ján Kollár Library in Kremnica**

The Ján Kollár Library implemented the following event for the Roma community in the monitored period:

- **INFO KIV (Library and Information Education) (2022)** – educational zone for the marginalized Roma community;
- **Creative Workshops (2022)** – creative workshops for the marginalized Roma community.

#### **Mikuláš Kováč Public Library in Banská Bystrica**

In the reporting period, the Mikuláš Kováč Public Library enriched its collection with 44 library units (LU) in the Ukrainian language intended primarily for children and young people as part of its acquisition activities.

- *Meetings with Heart (2022)* – the library in cooperation with students from Ukraine studying at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Economics provided informal Slovak language lessons for adults and students. The children had access to the branch premises for playing, reading story books in the Ukrainian language, drawing and working with colouring books and worksheets. These cyclical events were held twice a week continuously for 8 months.

#### ▪ **Bratislava Self-Governing Region**

The Regional Methodologist of the **Small Carpathian Library in Pezinok** monitors the situation concerning national minorities in municipal and city libraries of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region and monitors activities and projects focused on national minorities (library collection, discussions with authors, creative workshops, events for children and youth, school and extracurricular activities of schools and classes with the Hungarian language of instruction,

and activities, projects and events supporting the integration of the Roma population – especially children).

▪ **Košice Self-Governing Region**

Support for the culture of national minorities is also reflected in the activities of regional libraries under the jurisdiction of the KSK:

**Pavel Dobšínský Library in Rožňava**

**Spiš Library and Cultural Centre**

**Zemplín Library in Trebišov**

**Zemplín Library of Gorazd Zvonický in Michalovce**

**Ján Bocatius Public Library in Košice**

Libraries regularly add titles published in the languages of national minorities to the library collection. For these purposes, they regularly apply for grants from KULTMINOR or from foreign grants. They systematically prepared e.g.:

- various discussions, meetings with writers, or even commemorative literary events
- activities in cooperation with the Czech Association in Michalovce
- experiential reading comprehension for Roma children
- activities for children and young people from multilingual backgrounds – Meeting with representatives of children's literature; A book is the key to a child's heart

▪ **Nitra Self-Governing Region**

Libraries provide services to readers and visitors of both Slovak nationality and members of national minorities. They provide information resources from Slovakia and abroad, mostly in Hungarian. They develop the identity and cultural values of members of national minorities, and work primarily with children and youth from schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction and with children speaking their mother tongue, Roma. In addition to providing library and information services, libraries also carry out cultural and educational events. Of particular importance are dramatizations of books for the youngest children and children from Roma communities, literary lessons and fairy-tale afternoons, preventive-educational events, holiday workshops and quizzes. They also organize poetry recitation competitions, where a separate category is the recitation in the Hungarian language, the "Hungarian Fairy Tale Day", readings of Roma fairy tales, meetings and discussions with Hungarian writers and personalities of Hungarian cultural life.

**Anton Bernolák Library in Nové Zámky**

Its activities support the development of the culture of the national minorities living in the region, with particular attention to the larger Hungarian minority. Through grants from Hungary Nemzeti Kulturális Alap acquires new literature of its own choice as well as through purchases and donations from publishers in Slovakia. The library also organises cultural and educational activities in the Hungarian language for schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction. For the rest of the public, in cooperation with the GENERATIONS Literary Club, e.g. the literary evening *It Had To Come* – a presentation of the poetic works of the Hungarian regional poet Andrea Ágg, a meeting with the translator and publicist Edita Chrenková, an evening of

Roma poetry *Children Of The Wind*, where she presented the poetry of regional authors Daniela Hivešová – Šilanová, Dezider Banga and Adriana Sulcsányiová. Within the framework of cross-border activities, the library cooperates with its partner library József Attila Megyei és Városi Könyvtár in Tatabánya as well as with the Ervin Szabó Metropolitan Library in Budapest. Within the framework of the acquisition of the book collection, there is an active cooperation with NKA, Könyvtárellátó Nonprofit Kft. They also cooperate with the Association of Hungarian Librarians in Slovakia and the Association of Hungarian Writers in Slovakia.

### **Karol Kmeťo Regional Library in Nitra**

In 2021, the library organized the third annual event dedicated to national minorities called the *Day Of Czech Culture In The Library*, which included concerts and an exhibition of works by primary school children on the theme: *Czechia - As You See It!* and in 2022, the fourth annual *Hungarian Culture Day In The Library*, dedicated to the national minority living in Slovakia. From the subsidy of the Fund for the Promotion of National Minority Culture, it implemented the project *On The Road – Beyond the Road To Czech Culture* and the project *Revitalization Of The Hungarian Fund*. It also received funds for the purchase of Czech and Hungarian literature.

### **József Szinnyei Library in Komárno**

Among the most popular events are meetings with well-known personalities. In 2022, the József Szinnyei Library in Komárno welcomed a number of artists working in Slovakia and Hungary – literary scholars, writers, historians.

### **Tekov Library in Levice**

Also in the reporting period, it cooperated with schools, cultural and social organisations of national minorities.

#### ▪ **Prešov Self-Governing Region**

### **Lubovňa Library in Stará Ľubovňa**

Activities oriented towards members of national minorities:

- cooperation with the Czech Association in Košice, the Czech Centre in Bratislava in organizing Days of Czech Culture, lectures, concerts and exhibitions
- cooperation with the Town of Stará Ľubovňa as the founder of the Roma Community Centre in activities to support reading for children from excluded communities in the town

### **Vihorlat Library in Humenné**

Activities oriented towards members of national minorities: Every month, a designated library employee meets with Roma children of different ages (most often from 6 to 15 years old) and discusses a specific literary topic with them. These are prepared on the basis of the requests of the centre's social workers and the children themselves. In addition to reading and talking about what has been read, the meetings also include activities to encourage fine and gross motor skills. The events are held under a common name: Working with a Story in the Community Centre.

### **David Gutgesel District Library in Bardejov**

- An exhibition of cartoons featuring a selection of illustrations from the long-running Ruthenian series *Il'ko Owl From Bajusov*,
- Exhibition of Ruthenian traditions, various collected materials – prayer books written in the Ruthenian language, old photographs, period utensils, embroidery, napkins, costumes, beeswax candles, gingerbread
- literary and social event for the Ruthenian national minority *My Language, My Roots*
- *A Country Without A Language Is Like A Country Without A Heart* focused on the acquisition of Ruthenian literature, namely fiction from pre-school age to elementary school students, high school students, educational literature, especially dictionaries and other recreational fiction, and popular educational literature in the Ruthenian language
- District round of the Duchnovič's Prešov competition in recitation of Ruthenian poetry, prose, own works, small stage forms and folk narratives

### **Podtatranská Library in Poprad**

In the interest of deeper knowledge and specification of the significance of the Tatry Mountains for Slovak and Polish national culture, the Podtatranská Library in Poprad has in its collection a book donation from the Central Mountain Library of the PTHS (Polish Tourist and Heritage Society) in Krakow and the TNP (Tatry National Park) Library in Zakopane, so that Slovak researchers and interested parties could also have access to the results of research into the cultural role of the Tatry Mountains (especially as reflected in artistic literature) on their northern side. Both Polish libraries have been intensively focusing on the acquisition of Slovak sources with Tatry themes for many years. The Polish Mountain Library in the Podtatranská Library in Poprad contains, besides art, also professional literature (mainly PTHS and TNP publications). The publications are available for study in the regional reading room. The content of the Polish Tatry Library was made available to users on the basis of an annually updated catalogue. On the basis of the presented catalogue, interested persons can borrow publications or request xerox copies of articles from periodicals or chapters from monographs and collections.

- *Know The Language, Get More* – the project was focused on the Polish national minority, in cooperation with OZ POLONUS

#### **▪ Trnava Self-Governing Region**

The **Žitný ostrov Library in Dunajská Streda**, the **Galanta Library** and the **Juraj Fándly Library in Trnava** take into account the fact that citizens belonging to a national minority live within their area of competence when building up library collections and providing methodological assistance and advisory services to municipal, town and special libraries. The intention is to build an interesting offer for the Hungarian national minority living in the Trnava region.

#### **▪ Žilina Self-Governing Region**

Libraries in the Žilina Self-Governing Region have focused their activities mainly on the Czech and Polish national minorities, but in 2022 they were mainly devoted to Ukrainian refugees.

### **Regional Library in Žilina**

- *Buy - Send - Donate* - publishing an appeal to librarians, readers, public to help Ukrainian children with books.
- *Cooperation Of Regional Library in Žilina with Camp Žilina (Refugee Camp)*. Publishing the Library Helps Manual in the camp premises. Donation of a collection of children's picture books (a collection compiled from donations and discarded books from the Regional Library in Žilina fund), colouring books and crayons
- *Mass Blood Donation In The Premises Of Regional Library In Žilina In Cooperation With NTS*
- *Read And Experience* – regular reading in the Regional Library in Žilina in cooperation with the Municipal Theatre in Žilina. In connection with current events, the selection of literature has been changed. Actresses of the Municipal Theatre in Žilina Ada Juhásová and Natália Fašánková read selected passages about Russian-Ukrainian relations from the book *All the Might of Kremlin* by Machail Zygaro.
- *We Can Be Heard* – activity within the Slovak Libraries Week – librarians read for people on A. Bernoláka Street. Excerpts from the works of Ukrainian authors were read.

### **Kysuce Library in Čadca**

- The library took part in a book appeal to buy books for Ukrainian children under the title *Buy - Send - Donate "Children Need Books"*.

### **Turčianska Library in Martin**

- Based on an agreement with the Office of Social Affairs and Family and the Crisis Staff at the MsU in Martin, the library provided its premises for mothers with children and Slovak language lessons for refugees from Ukraine. The library offered free wifi, document printing, a children's corner and a meeting area.

### **Orava Anton Habovštiak Library in Dolný Kubin**

- *We Can Be Heard* – activity within the Slovak Libraries Week – librarians read for people on A. Bernoláka Street. Excerpts from the works of Ukrainian authors were read.
- The Slovak language lessons for Ukrainians with lecturer Oksana Dovner
- The library also purchased 2 keyboards with Cyrillic characters to make it easier for Ukrainian citizens to access the internet and type documents. While the mothers were attending the course, library staff and volunteers prepared creative workshops and fun meetings for their children with books and stories.

### **Liptov Library of G. F. Belopotocký in Liptovský Mikuláš**

- Lectures by journalist Vladimír Šnidl: *Tricks of Pro-Kremlin Propaganda*
- *Children Need Books* – library involvement in the project in cooperation with Martinus bookstore,
- Creative workshops for Ukrainian children *Merry Rhinestones* were organized in cooperation with the organization People in Danger.

#### **Annex 4: Museum Activities Aimed at the Preservation and Development of the Culture of National Minorities<sup>1</sup>**

- **Museums and galleries under the jurisdiction of the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region**

The **Novohrad Museum and Gallery Lučenec** devotes its activities to collection objects in permanent exhibitions as well as in exhibitions in the Hungarian language. In addition to the above, the permanent exhibition also has an audio guide in tablets available for use, in both Hungarian and English. Information on the exhibitions is also available in text form, in Hungarian and English.

In 2021, the Novohrad Museum and Gallery Lučenec focused on lectures in the Hungarian language for the students of the Secondary Vocational School of Pedagogy Lučenec, entitled Secret Gates. Furthermore, it organised the "Create your own paraphrases" workshops for the exhibition of the 33rd International Ceramic Symposium in the Hungarian language for students of the Secondary Vocational School of Pedagogy Lučenec.

In 2021, the exhibition Komárno's King of Operettas Franz Lehár was organised to mark the 150th anniversary of Franz Lehár's birth. The exhibition was taken from the Danube Museum in Komárno. The opening of the exhibition was also held, which was combined with a lecture by Terézia Klemen.

The **Gemersko-Malohontské Museum in Rimavská Sobota** prepared many museum activities aimed at supporting the Roma and Hungarian national minorities in the monitored period. In both 2021 and 2022, the János Fábry exhibition was realised, reflecting his multifaceted life path along with his family history. A bilingual Slovak-Hungarian catalogue was created for the exhibition.

In the reporting period, there was also the exhibition Biology of Excitement-azizgalom biológiája, which was a bilingual travelling commemorative exhibition of the Danube Museum in Komárno, and Rimavská Sobota 1271-2021, which was a jubilee exhibition on the occasion of the 750th anniversary of the first precise written mention of the settlement of Rimavská Sobota.

In the reporting period, an exhibition and a competitive show of children's artwork Romano dživipen – Roma Life was held, which presented art works of children from primary schools in the districts of Rimavská Sobota, Revúca and Poltár. The theme of the artworks were manifestations of Roma culture in various forms, presented through a variety of artistic techniques, which were evaluated by an expert jury before the opening of the exhibition. During the event, an online creative workshop with Roma artist Šarlota Bottová from Hnúšte was also held, focused on the presentation of the process of drawing a portrait with crayons. In 2021, within the framework of the Object of the Month activity, a presentation of the women's clothing of the Olasian Roma from the Ákosfalva locality in Romania entitled Women's Clothing of the Olasian Roma was realized.

In addition to the aforementioned, in the reporting period, the following were realised: the Meyke, art-industrial exhibition: tradition in fashion-hagyomány and divatban exhibition,

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<sup>1</sup> The above information is based on the documents submitted to OPNM by the individual HTU.

the curatorial interpretation and discussion for schools and the public A Day with Meyke, the exhibition prepared on the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the museum, the most recent and restored collection objects of the Gemersko-Malohontské Museum, travelling outdoor exhibition The Persecution of the Roma in the Period of the Slovak State, lecture focused on the presentation of research and collection objects documenting Roma culture in Gemeri-Malohonte Čajori Romani Roma culture hidden in objects.

In addition to the above events, the museum offers guided tours of all exhibitions as well as the permanent exhibition in Hungarian.

The **Central Slovak Museum in Banská Bystrica** prepared the exhibition *From the Hills to the Lowlands* for the Slovak minority in Serbia. The exhibition was a continuation of the cooperation of the Central Slovak Museum with the Babka Kovačica Gallery and the Memorial Centre of Dr. Janko Bulik Kovačica with a biennial periodicity. The exhibition presented paintings by living Serbian painters. It was thematically linked to the current season (autumn and winter). At the same time, all presented items were for sale. The exhibition was financially supported by the BBSK through earmarked funds. The ethnologist PhDr. Zuzana Drugová was involved in the preparation of the exhibition. The exhibition was held under the auspices of the Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia in Slovakia J. E. Prof. Dr. Momčilo Babić and the then President of BBSK Ing. Ján Lunter. During the exhibition there was an opening and a guided tour with an accompanying word by PhDr. Zuzana Drugová.

The **Central Slovak Gallery in Banská Bystrica** prepared in the reporting period a didactic course – art education online, which was created in cooperation with the Methodological Centre of Matej Bel University. The course was intended for Slovaks living abroad.

Within the framework of the Methodological Centre of the Matej Bel University for Slovaks living abroad under the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, four online educational tours of small and young regions Art of the Central Slovak Gallery with Lienka and Janka Abroad were realized in the summer months. They included the preparation and processing of short educational films in the field of history, art, nature and tourism. The video on the topic of art was created in cooperation with the gallery teachers of the Central Slovak Gallery.

In 2022, creative activities were carried out in the permanent exhibition of the painter Dominik Skutecký for Ukrainian children living in Banská Bystrica called Creative Activities in the Villa of Dominik Skutecký.

- **Museums under the jurisdiction of the Nitra Self-Governing Region**

In the reporting period, the **Ján Thain Museum in Nové Zámky** implemented the expositions "Gergely Czuczor – Life and Work" and "Life and Work of Ján Thain", dedicated to the giants of Hungarian linguistics and literary science, natives of Nové Zámky. The exhibitions in the museum are bilingual (the openings, texts and descriptions, and worksheets for individual exhibitions are also in Hungarian).

The museum also organizes creative workshops, cultural and social activities for families and Days of traditional children's games, Night of Museums and Galleries. The Ján

Thain Museum in Nové Zámky also has an exhibition in the village of Svodín, which contributes to the activities of the museum, mainly in the Hungarian language.

The **Tekov Museum in Levice** also provides interpretation in the language of national minorities and a trilingual exhibition guide is available. In addition to cooperation with local organizations, Csemadok ZO Levice and Association Reviczky Levice organized joint events with the Business Academy and UNIS in Vienna – on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The **Ponitran Museum in Nitra** as a member of the research team of the project APVV-17-0199 Life in Totalitarianism in the Years 1939 – 1945 organized an exhibition – Where Did the Nitra Jews Go? In the cycle of lectures to Nitrans about Nitra in 2022 was also presented a lecture by prof. PhD. M. Hetényi, PhD. Hungarian Minority in Nitra.

The **Danube Museum in Komárno** focuses, among other things, on research, documentation and presentation of the history, ethnography and cultural history of the Hungarian minority in the territory of the Nitra Self-Governing Region. In the period 2021 – 2022, the following activities were carried out: in the field of scientific and research activities – research works: Folk clothing in Chotín in the first half of the 20th century, Funeral customs and songs from the surroundings of Komárno – village Iža, Art teachers working in Komárno in the 1st half of the 20th century, the results of the research were compiled in the form of studies. The Life and Work of Mikuláš Konkola-Thege (preparation of a temporary memorial exhibition of the world-famous astronomer), The Life and Work of the Painter Karol Harnos, In Cultural and Educational Activities – Greetings from the Danube Region (exhibition of the Society of Hungarian Creative Artists in Slovakia), Komárno King of Operettas (Jubilee Exhibition for the 150th anniversary of the birth of the composer Franz Lehár), Manon of the Century – exhibition in honour of Erzsébet Házy (Memorial exhibition of SNM – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava). Participation in the professional conference MUSAEUM HUNGARICUM XVII. in Šamorín.

The **Nitra Gallery** prepared for the 13th year of the art competition Everyone Can Create! manual of ideas for its collection objects for educators of pupils from the Roma community with mental disabilities integrated in school groups. The project involved 3 schools from Nitra and one from Šurany. In 2022, the final exhibition of the art works of the participants of the workshops and educational programs From the Kite to the Windmill of the Nitra Gallery was organized for the exhibition All the Best.

The **Ernest Zmetak Art Gallery in Nové Zámky** carries out almost all exhibitions and publications in two or three languages – Slovak – Hungarian – English.

- **Museums and galleries under the jurisdiction of the Prešov Self-Governing Region**



The **Šariš Museum in Bardejov** carried out international cooperation and cooperation with national minorities in the form of a joint presentation of Ruthenian and Šariš folklore in the form of a show in the open-air museum in cooperation with the Ruthenian Revival in Bardejov in the reporting period.

Furthermore, the museum in cooperation with the Museum of the twin city of Bardejov in Russia organized the Exhibition Bardejov – UNESCO World Heritage in Russia.

Subsequently, it cooperated with the Ruthenian national minority in the partnership of the Ruthenian Revival in Bardejov in the form of a festival of Ruthenian and Šaris folklore in the Bardejov open-air museum in 2022.

In 2021, the **Vihorlat Museum in Humenné** organised the presentation of the folklore of Upper Zemplín at the festivals in San Remo and Cannes and at national festivals in Slovakia, an international exhibition of Carpathian Easter Eggs, created a CD with the FS Hope from Paris, organised the Ruthenian Folklore Festival Ruthenians of Humenné, organised events within the project Legacy of A.I. Dobriansky for the Present, was a co-organizer of the 11th International Exhibition of the Carpathian Biennial of Graphic Art for Children and Youth, and these activities were also made possible thanks to the museum's partnerships with the Carpatho-Ruthenian Regional Centre Prague, FS Hope Paris, Centrum kuluralne Przemysl, the Transcarpathian Museum of Folk Architecture and Dwelling in Uzhhorod, the Transcarpathian Regional Art Museum of Jozef Bokšay in Uzhhorod, and the Ruthenian Revival in Slovakia.

In 2022, the museum organized exhibitions such as Carpathian Easter Egg 2022, 11th Carpathian Biennial of Graphic Art for Children and Youth, the International Museum Day, the Traditional Carpathian Handicrafts, the Research on the History of the Ubl'a and Ulica Valley Villages, the Multicultural Museum, the Festival of Ethnic Reciprocity, Zemplín is Singing and other events. These outputs were also created thanks to partnerships with the Centrum kuluralne Przemysl, Tojás múzeum Zengövárkony, Ethnographic Museum Uzhhorod, Uzhhorod Gallery, Transcarpathian Regional Art Museum of Joseph Bokšay in Uzhhorod, regional ensemble Hope from Paris, museums in the Czech Republic, Romania, Poland.

The **Tatra Gallery in Poprad** did not implement wider cooperation with national minorities in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The projects that were focused on this form of cooperation (We to You – You to Us and Integration through Art) were financially supported, but since the Tatra Gallery was closed to the public several times during the year, they could not be implemented and the funds were returned to the Fund for the Support of Art. The above-mentioned cooperation projects with national minorities were implemented in the second half of 2022. Within the framework of international cooperation, the exhibition Leonardo da Vinci – Machines and Others (in cooperation with the Polish company Araneus Association) and the exhibition Anna Ondrušeková – Synesthesia of Places and Cities took place in Hradec nad Moravicí in the Czech Republic.

The **Lubovňa Museum – the castle in Stará Lubovňa** in 2021, for example, organized a presentation of folk clothing of Ruthenian villages of the Stará Lubovňa district, also an international project implemented within the framework of the EEA Grants, Várdohús Museum Vardó, while the project "Restoration of Lubovňa Castle – Reconstruction of the northeastern

wall and 3 courtyards" was implemented. Furthermore, the museum participated in the publication of the Sandecsko-Spiš Notebooks XI in cooperation with Muzeum okręgowie w Nowym Sączu. Subsequently, the museum made a presentation of the castle, the open-air museum in Stará Ľubovňa and other attractions of the Prešov Region directly in Taipei, in partnership with MoE SR, MFEA SR, the Taipei Office in Bratislava represented by David Nang Yang Lee.

In 2022, the Ľubovňa Museum organised an exhibition Furriers in Spiš in Poland, the implementation of presentation and educational events focusing on the traditional folk culture of ethnically mixed villages, the reconstruction of the northeastern wall and the 3rd courtyard at the Ľubovňa Castle and the creation of a permanent falconry scene.

The **Regional Museum in Prešov** released the publication The Roma World through the Lens of Jozef Kolarčík-Fintický, the intention of the project was to publish a pictorial-representational publication, which is a synthesis of the artistic content of selected photographs of the Roma ethnic group by the prominent eastern Slovak ethnographic collector Jozef Kolarčík-Fintický. The main aim of the project was to show the ethnographic view of Jozef Kolarčík-Fintický documenting the way of life of the Roma in the period 1930 – 1960 and to outline the colour and culture of the Roma ethnic group for the reader. This pictorial-representational publication is intended for both professional and general public and could be taken as a study material not only in social sciences but also in art disciplines. The main project activity is a workshop aimed at learning about an ethnic group and its culture through the lens of an amateur photographer who has left a testimony of the times.

The museum also organized a travelling exhibition about Roma personalities called Unknown Faces of Personalities. A total of 23 large-format paintings with world personalities of Roma origin travelled around the cultural organisations of the Prešov Self-Governing Region. The exhibition was placed at KM PO in April 2021.

The museum also collaborated with the Ďusi Band, organized a music concert, and provided the museum premises for the filming of a video clip.

The museum implemented a project called "In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors", the intention of which was to make the oldest history of the region accessible in an interactive way to marginalised groups of the population (Roma communities, mentally and physically handicapped museum visitors) and of course to all visitors. The aim of the project was to create three interesting and innovative events in the summer period, aimed specifically at marginalised groups of the population.

In cooperation with the State Scientific Library in Prešov, the publication The Current State of Roma Studies in Slovakia I was published.

In 2022, the project "Summer with Rákoci V." was implemented, which was aimed at the realization of folklore performances of folk ensembles, among which the Ruthenian girls' folklore group Polonyna was also invited, in order to achieve a variety of cultural performances.