

REPORT

ON THE STATE OF USE OF LANGUAGES OF NATIONAL
MINORITIES IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

FOR 2021 – 2022

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
2022

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List of Abbreviations

ERO - Efficient, reliable and open public administration
FaRC - Fire and Rescue Corps
OSGSO - Office of the Secretary General of the Service Office of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic
MCF - Municipal Cultural facility
K - Kindergarten
MoI SR - Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
MFEA SR - Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
NC SR - National Council of the Slovak Republic
OSCE - Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
UN - United Nations
AF SR - Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic
MO - Municipal Office
RTVS - Radio and Television of Slovakia
RPHA - Regional Public Health Authority
CGHR - Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality
RVFA - Regional Veterinary and Food Administration
SNCHR - Slovak National Centre for Human Rights
CPHD - Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings
SR - Slovak Republic
UPR - Universal Periodic Review
OLSAF - Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
OPNM - Office of the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities
OPRC - Office of the Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities
OG SR - Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic
HTU - Higher Territorial Unit
ES - Elementary School
PJGC - Prison and Judicial Guard Corps

Introduction

Pursuant to Sec. 7a(2) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of National Minority Languages, as amended (hereinafter the "Act No. 184/1999 Coll."), the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter the "Office of the Government") is submitting the sixth *Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic* (hereinafter the "Report"). In accordance with the above-mentioned provision, the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (hereinafter the "Government Council") shall take a position prior to the submission of the Report. For the purpose of obtaining information necessary for the preparation of the Report, the Office of the Government was entitled, pursuant to Sec. 7a(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., to request information and written documents from public administration bodies on the use of the language of national minorities in the area of their competence.

This Report has been prepared by the Office of the Government in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter the "Office of the Plenipotentiary") in order to provide up-to-date information on the use of languages of national minorities for the period 2021 – 2022. The Report describes the national legislative framework for the use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic, summarises the process and results of the implementation of the international legal framework for the use of minority languages, as well as current developments in the field of institutional provision for the use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic.

A significant part of the Report consists of an overview of the state of fulfilment of the obligations arising from Act No.184/1999 Coll. in the field of the use of languages of national minorities by local public authority bodies, organisational units of the Armed Security Forces and Rescue Corps, local authority bodies and legal entities established by local authority bodies in municipalities defined by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. This part of the Report, which presents the results of an extensive questionnaire survey, maps the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. by the entities concerned in the period 2021 and 2022 (until 1 July).

In order to provide a comprehensive and structured picture of the current state of use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic, the Office of the Government, through the Office of the Plenipotentiary, conducted an extensive questionnaire survey aimed at collecting data in relevant areas of the use of languages of national minorities within the meaning of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. for the period 2021– 2022. The questionnaires distributed to the entities as part of the survey were optimised compared to previous surveys, but it should be noted that, despite the minor changes, the main criterion for its design was to keep the data as comparable as possible with previous Reports in order to identify trends in this area.

The data was collected between July and September 2022. In total, 757 entities were addressed (637 municipalities; 6 self-governing regions, 89 public authority bodies, 6 district courts, 6 district prosecutor's offices, 6 district directorates of the Fire and Rescue Corps, 6 organizational units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic - military units and 1 organizational unit of the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps - the Institute for the Execution of Imprisonment Sentences.

The municipalities that are listed in the Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. issuing the 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 Slovak Government Regulation No. 534/2011 Coll. (hereinafter the "Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999

Coll."), were contacted on 6 July 2022 with a request to fill in the questionnaire. In total, there are 638 municipalities, 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 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). In order to ensure the highest possible return rate, the municipalities were repeatedly invited to send in a completed questionnaire, which resulted in a 98% return rate.

The municipalities were asked a total of 82 questions in 6 thematic areas relating to the use of languages of national minorities within the scope of territorial local authority bodies as they arise from Act No. 184/1999 Coll., i.e.: designations in the language of a national minority, official communication, bilingual documents, meetings of local administration bodies, public information, and final questions.

The survey addressed the use of the languages of national minorities by legal entities established by local authority bodies (municipalities and self-governing regions). As there is no list of such legal entities, the Office of the Plenipotentiary addressed 6 self-governing regions (Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov) where such municipalities are present, and asked them to cooperate in terms of data collection. In this area, data was processed for 112 legal entities established by local authority bodies (58 legal entities established by municipalities and 54 legal entities established by self-governing regions). Legal entities were asked a total of 60 questions under 6 headings: designations in the language of a national minority, official communication, bilingual documents, meetings of local authority bodies, public information and final questions.

The survey also explored the use of languages of national minorities among state administration bodies. For the purposes of this survey, 89 state administration bodies as well as their organizational units (branches, contact points, departments or stations) were contacted, of which 85 state administration bodies in municipalities with the Hungarian national minority and 4 state administration bodies in municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority. Namely, 14 district offices, 27 Central Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, 16 tax offices, 13 customs offices, 8 RVFAs, 6 RPHA and 5 state archives were contacted. The district offices were asked 58 questions under 6 headings: designations in the language of a national minority, official communication (extended to include questions on language competence training of employees), bilingual documents, meetings of local authority bodies, public information and final questions. The remaining state administration bodies were asked a total of 53 questions

in identical fields. The completed questionnaire was sent by all 89 entities, thus achieving a 100% return rate.

The survey also addressed relevant organizational units of the Armed Security Forces and Rescue Service, namely the Police Force, the Fire and Rescue Corps, the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and the Prison and Court Guard Corps. A total of 13 entities were contacted in this survey. FaRC were asked a total of 54 questions under 6 headings: designations in the language of the national minority, official communication, bilingual documents, meetings of local authority bodies, public information and final questions. 6 respondents of AF SR and one of the PJGC were asked a total of 11 questions under 3 headings: official communication, public information and final questions. Of all the organizational units of the Armed Security Forces and Rescue Forces, 13 of them sent in a completed questionnaire, achieving a 100% return rate.

Within the framework of this year's questionnaire survey, for the first time, the state of the use of languages of national minorities was also ascertained at the level of district prosecutor's offices and courts, which have their seat in municipalities pursuant to Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. in relation to Act No. 184/1999 Coll., these entities have a completely different status than the public authority bodies, which are analysed as a priority in the framework of this Report, and the use of minority languages in relation to these bodies is regulated primarily by other legal regulations of a procedural nature. Therefore, the questionnaire survey focused mainly on the area of visual bilingualism and communication with citizens belonging to national minorities directly in the proceedings, within the framework of 15 questions. The completed questionnaire was sent by all 12 entities, thus achieving a

100% return rate

The aim of the Report is not only to provide a presentation of comprehensive data on the state of the use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic, but also, based on the analysis of this data, to identify those areas where shortcomings in the application practice occur. These findings will again serve as a starting point for ensuring positive development trends in this area.

1. National Legislative and Institutional Framework for the Use of Languages of National Minorities

1.1 Legislative Framework for the Use of Languages of National Minorities

In accordance with Article 34 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, members of national minorities are guaranteed the right to education in their mother tongue, the right to use their mother tongue 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. 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. The languages are Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian.

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 (hereinafter the "Slovak Government Regulation No. 535/2011 Coll."), 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.

The use of the languages of national minorities is further regulated by a number of special regulations dealing primarily with other areas, such as administrative proceedings, civil proceedings, criminal proceedings, elections, education, names and surnames, civil registration, television and radio broadcasting, etc.¹

During the reference period, there were several significant changes in legislation on the use of languages of national minorities. This refers to, in particular:

- With effect from 1 January 2022, Act No. 417/2021 Coll. amending Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, was amended by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. The amendment was in the nature of a parliamentary proposal, the aim of which was, among other things, to explicitly enshrine the possibility of installing information road signs with the names of designated destinations serving 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 stipulates a condition in this matter, which is that such a designation in the language of a minority is part of the regulation pursuant to Sec. 2(2) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. The regulation in question, however, does not contain the names of the parts of the

¹ An overview of each piece of legislation is available on the Plenipotentiary's website: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/legislativa-metodicka-a-odborna-pomoc/legislativa/>

municipalities in the currently effective version, as required by Sec. 2(2) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. For this reason, a new regulation is currently being prepared to reflect all current legislative and non-legislative requirements.

- 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. 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 educational 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.
- With effect from 1 March 2022, the Decree of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 30/2020 Coll. on traffic signs was amended in connection with the amendment to Act No. 184/1999 Coll., which was already in force at that time,

specifically by adding Annex No. 4 on marking the beginnings and ends of the parts of municipalities with traffic signs in the language of a national minority.

- In the reference period, Act No. 264/2022 Coll. on Media Services and on amendments and supplements to certain acts (the Media Services Act) was adopted with effect from 1 August 2022, the primary objective of which was to introduce a new comprehensive legal regulation in the field of audio-visual 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 has also had a negative impact on the use of languages of national minorities, specifically in relation to private media, which are obliged by the Act to broadcast television programme in the languages of national minorities with subtitles in the national language.

- In the reference period, an amendment to 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, was also adopted. With effect from 1 August 2022, this Act refers 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.
- During the reference period, a significant change in the use of languages of national minorities in official communication was prepared. Following the wording of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in force since 2011 and also following the announcement of the results of the 2021 Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings, the territorial scope of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. is to be adjusted by issuing a new regulation containing a list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 15% of the population. Compared to the effective version of the regulation, with effect from 1. 1. 2023, 125 municipalities will be added to the list in which members of national minorities will have the right to use their mother tongue in official communication (in 4 of these municipalities, at least 15% of the population will be from two national minorities). In 28 municipalities that are already on the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 15% of the population, 1 more national minority will be added. In addition to the municipal designations in the language of a national minority concerned, the regulation in question will also provide for designations of the names of parts of municipalities in the minority language, which municipalities are obliged to indicate in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language, pursuant to the amendment to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. effective from 1 January 2022.

1.2 Non-Legislative Framework for the Use of Languages of National Minorities

1.2.1 Action plan for the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities

and ethnic groups for the period 2021 - 2025

The Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2021 – 2025 ²(hereinafter the “Action Plan”) and 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 2021 – 2025 were approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution No. 461 of 25 August 2021. At the same

² 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_akcneho_planu_ochrany_prav_osob_patriacich_k_narodnostnym_mensinam_a_etnickym_skupinam_na.pdf.

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. The Action Plan also responds to international requirements in this area.

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.

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, which this time include 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.

In terms of the use of minority languages, Operational Objectives 1 and 4 are the most relevant. In the framework of the implementation of Operational Objective 1: *To ensure comprehensive legislative and institutional protection of the rights and status of national minorities*, the Plenipotentiary has established working groups with which they have long cooperated in the preparation of legislative materials, the elaboration of which follows from the Plan of Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2022 in connection with

the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021-2024. The preparation of the materials was therefore carried out with the participation of representatives of the ministries concerned, representatives of national minorities and also the professional public.³

The Office of the Plenipotentiary organized an international conference entitled Minority Rights and their Legislative Arrangements, which was held online on 27 January 2022 regarding Operational Objective 1. 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 aim of the event was to create a platform for discussion in order to clarify the need to adopt a comprehensive legislative regulation of the rights of national minorities through a single act; to present the historical context of minority legislation; to identify the shortcomings of the current legislative regulation; to become familiar with international experience; to define the objectives of the new legislation and to highlight the benefits of the adoption of the new act on the status and rights of national minorities.

The implementation of Operational Objective 4 of the Action Plan “Improving the conditions for the use of the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups” is in practice closely linked to the establishment of the Plenipotentiary's Advisory Group for ensuring the alignment of practice with the Act on the use of national minority languages in force (hereinafter the "Plenipotentiary's Advisory Language Group"), which the Plenipotentiary re-established for the period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2024 in accordance with the rationale and the results of its work and which consists of five separate sub-groups for the Hungarian language, the Roma language, the Ruthenian language, the Ukrainian language and the German language. The main task of the Plenipotentiary's Advisory Language Group is to prepare background materials to ensure uniform professional terminology in the languages of national minorities, informative language versions of legislative texts, official forms, methodological materials for the areas of use of languages of national minorities regulated by Act No. 184/1999 Coll.. In particular, in 2021 and 2022, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the members also prepared further translations of information concerning threats to life and health, as well as translations of information concerning vaccinations, the Pope's visit in September 2021, and other matrimonial forms. The working group continued to translate or amend legislation. In total, 20 translations were received by the Office of the Plenipotentiary during the reference period, which are successively published on the Slov-lex legal and information portal.⁴

Within the framework of the implementation of the tasks aimed at improving the conditions for the use of the languages of national minorities, the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary during the reference period prepared and published the Methodological Guidance on the method of financial provision for the fulfilment of tasks arising from the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages by Public Administration Authorities.⁵

Within this operational objective, the Plenipotentiary also actively communicated with the ministries concerned regarding the implementation of competency-based language training for employees, with mostly positive feedback from the ministries concerned.

³ More information on the materials concerned can be found in the following sections of this Report.

⁴ The legislation in the languages of national minorities is available here: <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy-v-jazyku-narodnostnych-mensin>

⁵ See section 1.5 of this Report for more information.

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 Concept of the Legal Aid Centre's activities for 2022-2024⁶, 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.

At the initiative of the Plenipotentiary, 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 2022⁷, 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. The audit is scheduled for November 2022.

In the framework of measure 5 of this Operational Objective (Taking into account the needs of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the framework of public administration reform and digitalization of public administration), the introduction of the electronic birth registration was initiated by the Plenipotentiary and led to the introduction of the possibility for mothers of non-Slovak nationality to enter the surname of their new-born daughter in the birth register without the Slovak ending directly from the hospital and thus without an additional visit to the Registry Office. In fact, although the originally mentioned computerisation did relieve most parents from visiting the authorities, it forgot about the aforementioned life situations of women of non-Slovak nationality.

1.2.2 The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2021 - 2024⁸

In its Manifesto, the Government of the Slovak Republic paid significant attention to the position and rights of members of national minorities in the Slovak Republic, including linguistic rights. The Government declared that it considers the protection and promotion of national minorities to be its natural mission and has undertaken not to take steps that would lead to the abrogation or restriction of the rights already acquired by national minorities and will continue to provide effective protection to their members, while respecting the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Slovak Republic. More information on the content of the Manifesto concerning the status and rights of members of national minorities is available in the Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 – 2020⁹.

1.2.3 Plan for Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2022

The Government of the Slovak Republic, by its Resolution No.15 of 12 January 2022 on the Draft Plan for Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2022,

⁶ The material is available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/27569/1>

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

⁸ The Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 – 2024 is available at: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=494677>.

⁹ The Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 – 2020 is available at: https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3562/sprava_o_stave_pouzivania_jazykov_narodnostnych_mensin_na_uzemi_slovenskej_republiky_za_obdobie_rokov_2019_-_2020.pdf

assigned the Head of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities of the Slovak Republic to perform the tasks resulting from the *Plan for Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2022*, namely the task of submitting to the Government in May a draft act on the state of national minorities, in July a draft regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic amending and supplementing the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 221/1999 Coll., issuing the 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 Government Regulation No. 534/2011 Coll. and in September a draft act amending Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended¹⁰. These tasks are carried out by OG SR, which includes the Office of the Plenipotentiary. The Office of the Plenipotentiary has taken a number of steps in relation to the above tasks, however, as these tasks are substantively interrelated or very closely related, and also due to the lengthiness of the legislative processes, the deadline for the implementation of these tasks has been postponed and new deadlines have been set.

1.2.4 Other non-legislative material

Other non-legislative materials also partially covered the areas of language rights of persons belonging to national minorities. From the work of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, it is mainly *the Concept of Countering Radicalisation and Extremism until 2024*¹¹, which is an update of the *Concept of Countering Extremism for 2015 - 2019*. The intention of the material, which was submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic by the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic on 13 January 2021, is to promote, advocate and defend the democratic rule of law, its fundamental values and attributes and to appeal for the creation of a strong democratic and political environment rejecting hateful manifestations of national, racial, ethnic, religious or other intolerance.

A strategic document that partially addresses the rights of national minorities is the *Vision and Strategy for the Development of Slovakia until 2030 - Long-term Strategy for the Sustainable Development of the Slovak Republic - Slovakia 2030*¹², which was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic by its Resolution No. 41 of 20 January 2021 and which represents a revised version of the original material in the light of current social problems. Strengthening regions and developing communities is one of the key priorities of the material. The material also marginally addresses the need to increase the support and development of the education of children and pupils belonging to national minorities in their mother tongue, and also expresses the need to take care of the need to create a favourable environment for quality and diverse culture and its communication to broad groups of the population, respecting their specific needs and interests (local and regional culture, culture of national minorities and ethnic groups, vulnerable groups, physical and informational debarisation of cultural offers and services, etc.).

In the reference period, the OPRC developed another important strategic document related to the rights of national minorities, which is the *Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and*

¹⁰ For information on these tasks see section 1.2.3. of the Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 – 2020, which is available on the website of the Plenipotentiary:

https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3562/sprava_o_stave_pouzivania_jazykov_narodnostnych_mensin_na_uzemi_slovenskej_republiky_za_obdobie_rokov_2019_-_2020.pdf.

¹¹ The material is available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25631/1>

¹² The material is available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25655/1>

Participation of Roma until 2030. Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma until 2030. This strategy was approved by Government Resolution No. 181 of 7 April 2021 and as a framework strategic document represents a national commitment of the Government of the Slovak Republic, which defines at the level of priorities the direction of public policies in order to achieve a visible change in the field of equality and inclusion of Roma. The Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma until 2030 (hereinafter the “Strategy 2030”) was created on the basis of a request for a conceptual material that takes into account the development of the situation and the experience of the previous eight years since the adoption of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Roma Integration until 2020 and the relevant action plans. Due to its cross-cutting nature, it is an umbrella document for the development and implementation of the planned strategic documents of the responsible ministries in the relevant areas, and also provides linkages with existing materials. Its content contributes to the fulfilment of the Government's intentions in relation to the improvement of the position and situation of Roma, as stated in the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the period 2020 - 2024, and represents a set of starting points and objectives aimed at stopping the segregation of Roma communities, a significant positive turnaround in the social inclusion of Roma, non-discrimination, a change in attitudes and improved coexistence. Following this strategic document, another important strategic material was created at the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, namely the *Vision for the Development of Roma Culture, Language and Identity Promotion and Action Plan for 2022 - 2024*¹³. The global objective of the material is to develop the Roma national identity and to promote the implementation of the rights of the Roma as a national minority, with particular regard to their linguistic rights. In addition to the global objective, the material focuses on 5 other sub-objectives, with Operational Objective 4 being the most significant from the perspective of linguistic rights of national minorities: “*To support the development, vitality and preservation of the Roma language*”, which identifies 4 measures and several specific activities. However, all of the set objectives have the ambition to increase the level of linguistic rights of the Roma national minority.

During the reference period, the Department of Education submitted the *Strategy for an Inclusive Approach in Education* to the Government of the Slovak Republic¹⁴, which approved it by its Resolution No. 732 of 8 December 2021. It is a document aimed at improving the current state of education for all children, pupils and students in schools, equally. The document presents the basic philosophy of inclusive education in kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools and universities in the Slovak Republic, in the system of counselling and prevention, also with a focus on early childhood and lifelong learning. This applies not only to schools but also to other educational institutions; not only formal but also non-formal education. It also sets out the key areas and their objectives to be met. The main goal is an inclusive education system that provides education for all children, pupils and students, respecting the individual characteristics and diverse educational needs of each child, pupil or student and enabling them to fulfil their potential to the highest possible degree. The material in question is followed by the *First Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for an Inclusive Approach in Education and Training for 2022-2024*¹⁵. The Strategy for an Inclusive Approach in Education contains strategic objectives divided into six areas. The first action plan of Strategy

¹³ The material is available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/27460/1>

¹⁴ The material is available at: [Material detail | OG Portal \(gov.sk\)](https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/27294/1)

¹⁵ The material is available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/27294/1>

for an Inclusive Approach aims to start addressing 13 selected strategic objectives, for which action pathways and resulting activities are proposed. In the preparation of this material, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic cooperated with the Office of the Plenipotentiary, among other relevant entities.

1.3 Institutional Framework for the Use of Languages of National Minorities

1.3.1 Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic - rendering professional and methodological assistance in the field of the use of

languages of national minorities

Pursuant to Sec. 7a(1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the Office of the Government provides professional and methodological assistance to public administration bodies as well as to organisational units of security and rescue forces in the implementation of this Act. For the purpose of drawing up methodological guidelines in connection with the provision of professional and methodological assistance to the above-mentioned organisational units and drawing up opinions on initiatives submitted pursuant to Sec. 7b of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the OG SR has established the Expert Committee for the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. (hereinafter the "Expert Committee"), which is a permanent advisory body to the Secretary General of the Government Service Office. The Expert Committee dealt with two complaints during the reference period.

Pursuant to Sec. 7b(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. the Office of the Government discusses administrative offences in the field of the use of languages of national minorities. According to the Rules of Organisation of the OG SR the Secretary General of the Government Service Office ensures the fulfilment of tasks pursuant to Act No.184/1999 Coll. and the Office of the Secretary General of the Government Service Office ensures the handling of submissions pursuant to the Act in cooperation with the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. In the past period, no administrative offences were dealt with by the OG SR, and thus the submissions were dealt with without a fine.

1.3.2 Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities – cooperation in providing professional and methodological assistance in the field of the use of languages of national minorities

The Plenipotentiary, as an advisory body to the Government of the Slovak Republic, 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. According to Article 4 of the Statute of the Plenipotentiary, the Plenipotentiary may, inter alia, within the scope of their competence, prepare opinions and proposals on legislative and non-legislative measures related to the status and rights of members of national minorities. The activities of the Plenipotentiary are carried out by the Office of the Plenipotentiary, which is integrated into the organisational structure of the Office of the Government.

In accordance with the Rules of Organization of the OG SR, the Office of the Plenipotentiary cooperates with the Office of the Secretary General of the Government Service Office in the handling of submissions under Act No. 184/1999 Coll. and in providing

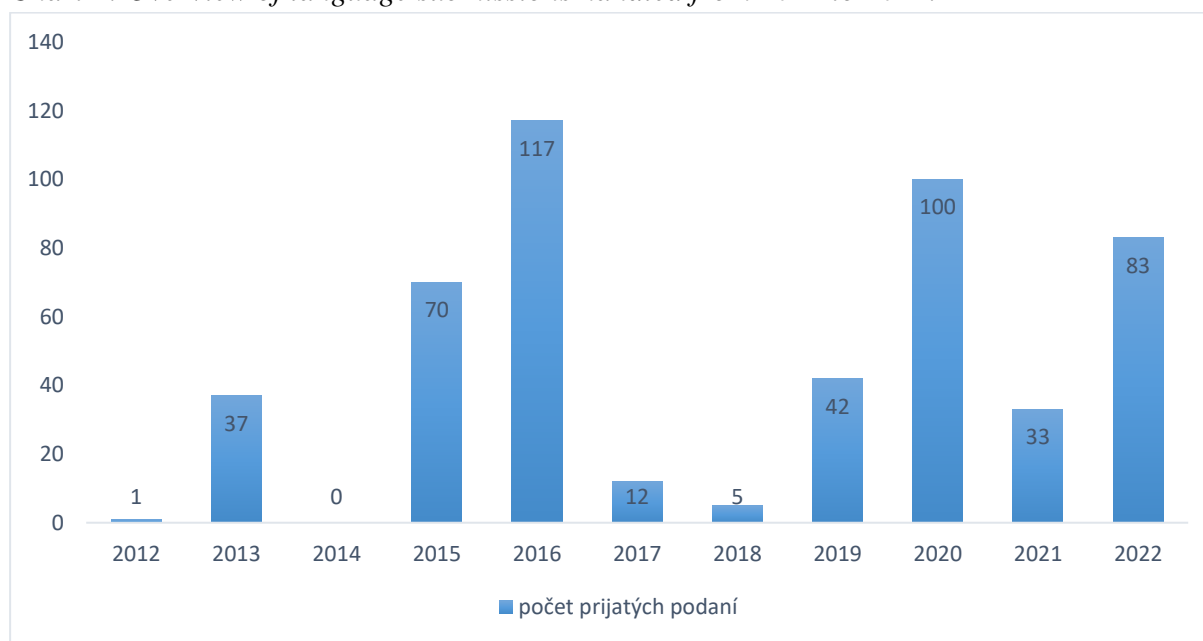
professional and methodological assistance to public administration bodies and organisational units of the security and rescue forces in implementing the provisions of this Act.

In the period 2021-2022, the Plenipotentiary and their office provided technical and methodological assistance to public authority bodies and legal entities. At the level of public administration bodies, technical and methodological assistance in most cases concerned the designations of buildings in the languages of national minorities, the provision of bilingual official forms, the mandatory publication of information on the use of minority languages in official communication, as well as the indication of the correct linguistic form of the surnames of members of national minorities.

The requests of legal entities concerned primarily the guidelines in connection with the application of Sec. 4(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., according to which in minority municipalities information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic shall be displayed in places accessible to the public in the language of a minority, in addition to the national language. Successful cooperation has been established with a number of entities in relation to the publication of this information.

In 2021, the Plenipotentiary and their office, in cooperation with the OSGSO, handled a total of 33 language submissions concerning possible violations of the provisions of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. of the total number of submissions, 1 submission was received from a legal entity and 32 from natural persons. In 2022, this number increased to 83 submissions, all of which were from natural persons. The majority of these submissions concerned primarily possible violations of Sec. 4(6) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. In the period 2021 and 2022, the Office of the Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the OSGSO, handled 62 language submissions, with a further 21 still pending resolution. A number of these submissions were received during the last weeks of the Report preparation and initial communication with the entities is currently underway. Some submissions are in the process of being resolved.

Chart 1: Overview of language submissions handled from 2012 to 2022.



In order to support the improvement of the conditions for the use of languages of national minorities and ethnic groups in practice, the Plenipotentiary continued to ensure the activities of advisory language groups, which prepared translations of legislative texts, forms, methodological

materials on the application of Act No.184/1999 Coll., as well as translations of information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic.

In their previous language report, the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities of the Slovak Republic pointed out that in recent years, the public administration bodies have become aware of their roles and responsibilities and have made considerable efforts to comply with the Act on Minority Languages, while at the level of regional local authority the application of minority language rights is marked by a significant number of shortcomings. In this context, the Plenipotentiary initiated a meeting with representatives of the association SK8, at which it was stated that the necessary professional and methodological assistance for HTU from the side of the gestor of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. was lacking. On the basis of the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic of 13 January 2021 on the language report, the Head of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Plenipotentiary were instructed to draw up and issue *Methodological Guidance on ensuring the fulfilment of the tasks arising from Act No 184/1999 Coll. in the conditions of higher territorial units*. The Head of the Office of the Government and the Plenipotentiary prepared and issued methodological guidance for higher territorial units in July 2021. The methodological guide can be found on the Plenipotentiary's website under "*Methodological and Technical Assistance*". The purpose of the methodological guideline is to provide summary information and methodological recommendations related to ensuring the fulfilment of the tasks arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in the conditions of higher territorial units and thus to ensure legal certainty and enforceability of the linguistic rights of national minorities.

The last language report focused for the first time on finding out information in the area of the financial difficulty of the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. The Office of the Plenipotentiary received responses from more than 50% of the municipalities in the survey. A large number of municipalities, including those that provided specific answers, said that they could not quantify the funds in question. Similarly, comparably sized municipalities reported diametrically different amounts for the provision of the same fields. An analysis of the municipalities' responses showed that most of them did not provide relevant data. In the case of the public administration, this objective could not be met as the surveyed entities either did not respond or did not provide relevant data. On the basis of the above, the Government of the Slovak Republic has assigned the Head of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Plenipotentiary, within the framework of the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2021 of 13 January 2021 on the language report, Task B.2. – to develop and issue 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*. The Methodological Guideline was developed by the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for National Minorities in cooperation with the *Temporary Working Group for the Development of 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* (hereinafter the "Working Group").

In connection with the approved amendment to Act No. 184/1999 Coll, which entered into force on 1 January 2022 and which provides that in a municipality under Sec. 2(1), in addition to the name of the municipality and its part in the national language, the designation of the municipality and its part in the language of a minority shall also be indicated on road signs marking the beginning of the municipality and its part and the end of the municipality and its

part, and introduces the possibility in a municipality under Sec, 2(1) to use of information road signs with the names of the marked destinations in the state language and in the language of a minority to guide road users to the marked destinations, the Plenipotentiary addressed a letter to the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Roman Mikulc, and the Minister of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic, Andrej Doležal, with a proposal to provide assistance in setting the parameters for the application of the amendment to the Act in the relevant ministries. On the basis of this call, the Plenipotentiary's meeting was held at the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic, which resulted in the issuance of *the Guideline on the Use of Languages of National Minorities on Road Signs by the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic*¹⁶.

The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for National Minorities 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 has prepared the *Language Guides* for citizens of the Slovak Republic using Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages. 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.

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter the "Language Charter") is a treaty adopted by certain countries of the Council of Europe to **protect historic regional or minority languages** in Europe. The Language Charter provides states with a number of tools to protect and develop historic regional or minority languages. On behalf of the Slovak Republic, the Language Charter was signed in 2001 and the announcement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic was subsequently published in the Collection of Acts. According to the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, the Language Charter takes precedence over acts. The document itself consists of three parts: general provisions, objectives and principles, as well as measures to promote the use of regional or minority languages in public life: in education, in the judiciary, in administrative bodies and public services, in the media, in culture, in economic and social life and in cross-border cooperation. The Language Charter covers 11 "regional or minority languages" in the Slovak Republic: the Bulgarian language, the Croatian language, the Czech language, the German language, the Hungarian language, the Polish language, the Roma language, the Ruthenian language, the Ukrainian language and, in Part II, the Russian language and the Serbian language. The language guides were created primarily for the users of minority languages and are a kind of guide to the provisions of the Language Charter, which the Slovak Republic is obliged to observe in relation to the individual minority languages. The latest language guides were also published on the Council of Europe website¹⁷ in February 2022.

- Hungarian in Slovakia
[Hungarian in Slovakia](#) | [Magyar Szlovákiában](#)
- Romani in Slovakia
[Romani in Slovakia](#) | [Rromani chib andi Slovakijakeri Republika](#)
- Ruthenian in Slovakia
[Ruthenian in Slovakia](#) | [Ruthenian language in Slovakia](#)

¹⁶ The material is available on the Plenipotentiary's website: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7732.pdf>

¹⁷ Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-charter-regional-or-minority-languages/language-guides>

- Ukrainian in Slovakia
[Ukrainian in Slovakia](#) | [Ukrainian language in Slovakia](#)

In addition to the latest language guides mentioned above, language guides for the use of Czech, Croatian, German and Polish in Slovakia are also available on the Council of Europe website.

- Croatian in Slovakia
[Croatian in Slovakia](#) | [Hrvatski u Slovačkoj](#)
- Czech in Slovakia
[Czech in Slovakia](#) | [Czech in Slovakia](#)
- German in Slovakia
[German in Slovakia](#) | [Deutsch in der Slowakei](#)
- Polish in Slovakia
[Polish in Slovakia](#) | [Polish language in Slovakia](#)

1.3.3 Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups

The Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (hereinafter the "Committee") is a permanent expert body of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (hereinafter the "Council") on issues relating to national minorities and ethnic groups and their members, and for the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages within the meaning of Art. 7(4) thereof and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities within the meaning of Art. 15 thereof, and acts as an advisory body. Within the framework of the advisory body, the Committee is active in matters of participation of members of national minorities and ethnic groups within the meaning of Art. 34(2)(c) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

The Committee consists of two chambers, the Committee Chairman, the Committee Vice-Chairman, the Committee Secretary, and standing invitees. One chamber is composed of representatives of national minorities, the other chamber is composed of representatives of central public authority bodies. The members of both chambers of the Committee have the right to

vote. Elections for the Committee members and alternates were held during the reference period. On 9 July 2021, 22 members, representatives of national minorities, and 16 alternate members of the Committee were elected. The first inaugural meeting of the Committee, attended by its newly elected members, took place at the Bôrik Hotel in Bratislava on 21 September 2021. A by-election meeting of the Committee was held on 15 July 2022 to elect the absent alternate for the Jewish minority.

The main activities of the Committee under Art. 3(f) of the Statute include the preparation of a regular biennial evaluation report on the promotion of national minority cultures, the state of national minority education and the use of languages of national minorities. 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 aim of this evaluation report, which is the seventh in the series, is to monitor the field of culture, national education and language use of the national minorities over the two-year period from the perspective of the representatives of the national minorities. 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.

The Committee adopted 35 resolutions during the reference period (12 of which were adopted by the per rollam procedure). In continuity with the 2021 Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings relating to the nationality, additional nationality, and mother tongue of the population, the Committee, by Resolution No. 191 of 28 February 2022, took note of the information on the conclusions of the working group for the development of interpretative frameworks from the 2021 Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings relating to the nationality, additional nationality, and mother tongue of the population, which was established by the Plenipotentiary following the Committee's Resolution No. 188 of 3 December 2021. At the same time, the Committee, by this resolution, approved the representative view of the interpretation of the results of the 2021 Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings and instructed the Plenipotentiary, as the Chairman of the Committee, to ensure that a proposal for the interpretation of the results of the 2021 Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings relating to nationality and other nationality as the sum of the two nationality categories is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic through the Head of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

1.3.4 Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, Public Defender of Rights

Any citizen of the Slovak Republic who belongs to a national minority may also turn to institutions providing assistance in the field of human rights in the area of the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. and submit a complaint to, for example, the Public Defender of Rights or, in the case of allegations of unequal treatment, to the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights.

The Public Defender of Rights deals with the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons and legal entities in the case of actions, decisions or inactions of public administration bodies, if their actions, decisions or inactions are contrary to the rule of law or the principles of a democratic and legal state. Anyone who believes that the actions, decisions or inaction of a public authority have violated fundamental rights and freedoms in violation of the rule of law or the principles of a democratic and legal state may address the Public Defender of Rights. Natural persons may use their mother tongue in their dealings with the Public Defender of Rights, with the costs of the interpreter being borne by the state. The Public Defender of Rights also submits to the National Council of the Slovak Republic each year a report on their activities, in which they state their findings on the observance of fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons and legal entities by public administration bodies and their proposals and recommendations for the remedy of the identified shortcomings. If the Public Defender of Rights establishes facts indicating that the violation of a fundamental right or freedom is serious or affects a larger number of persons, they may submit an extraordinary report to the NC SR.¹⁸

In the reference period, the Public Defender of Rights dealt with three complaints related to the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities. The first of them concerned the (un)availability of vocational secondary education in the Hungarian language. Another complaint, with which the complainant addressed the Public Defender of Rights, related to watching the TV ROMANA channel in the Institute for the Execution of Prison Sentences. Another complaint concerned the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms while serving a

¹⁸ Act No. 564/2001 Coll. on the Public Defender of Rights, as amended.

prison sentence, in which the applicant complained that they had not been provided with an interpreter during the hearing of a disciplinary offence at the Institute for the Execution of Prison Sentences and the Institute for the Execution of Detention.

SNCHR is an independent institution with two mandates, namely the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and the National Anti-Discrimination Body (Equality Body). The emergence of Equality Bodies in the Member States is officially attributed to three EU Council Directives: 2000/43/EC on racial equality (Race Directive), 2002/73/EC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions, and 2004/113/EC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services. SNCHR was established by Act No. 308/1993 Coll. on the establishment of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, as amended. As a result of the change in its remit by the transposition of the anti-discrimination directives, the Centre became the implementing agency for the Anti-discrimination Act. National Human Rights Institutions are independent institutions established by agreement between the United Nations and sovereign governments to monitor and investigate human rights, report on human rights violations and raise awareness of the role of human rights in a democratic society. The scope of this mandate is regulated by law. One of the main tasks of the SNCHR is therefore to ensure that our international human rights obligations are appropriately reflected in the Slovak legal order. The main task of anti-discrimination bodies, as independent organisations, is to protect the rights of victims of discrimination, on the basis of which the SNCHR monitors compliance with anti-discrimination legislation, provides legal assistance to victims of discrimination, represents them in anti-discrimination disputes, issues expert opinions on what discrimination is and is not, educates and raises social awareness of the negative consequences of unequal treatment.

In connection with the application of the principle of equal treatment pursuant to Act No.365/2004 Coll. on equal treatment in certain areas and on protection against discrimination and on amendment and supplementation of certain acts (the Anti-Discrimination Act), during the reference period, in one case, the SNCHR came to a reasonable conclusion of a violation of the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds that several of the persons concerned belonged to the Roma ethnic group. Specifically, it was a violation of the prohibition of discrimination in the provision of cultural services, in the form of direct discrimination. In 17 cases, the SNCHR provided guidance to refugees from Ukraine in relation to the stay and movement of refugees following the war in Ukraine, or other guidance that was not of a legal nature.

1.4 2021 Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings and its implications for the use of languages of national minorities

The 2021 Census of Population, Housing Dwellings brought with it two new phenomena: a) for the first time ever, the possibility of reporting two nationalities was introduced, b) the Census was conducted exclusively electronically.

It is the possibility of claiming more than one nationality that, despite various criticisms, has proven to be successful and beneficial for national minorities, based on the results and interpretation of the 2021 CPHD 2021 results.

The exercise of the right to use the language of a national minority in the Slovak Republic is linked to the results of the Census. Pursuant to Sec. 2(1) of Act No.184/1999 Coll., if citizens of the Slovak Republic who are persons belonging to a national minority and who have

permanent residence in a given municipality make up at least 15% of the population in the municipality according to two consecutive censuses, they have the right to use the language of the minority in official communication in that municipality. Under Sec. 7c, two consecutive censuses are defined as censuses whose results were announced after 1 July 2011.

In January 2022, the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities set up a working group to develop interpretive frameworks from the 2021 Census of Population, Housing Dwellings on the nationality, other ethnicity and mother tongue of the population. The members of the working group were experts in the development of interpretation frameworks from the 2021 Census of Population, Housing Dwellings related to nationality, other nationality and mother tongue for the following departments and entities: Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, nominated representatives of the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups.

On the basis of the representative opinion of the working group and subsequently on the basis of the resolution of the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, the Plenipotentiary, through the Head of the Office of the Government, proposed to interpret the results of the 2021 CPHD on nationality and other nationality as the sum of the two nationality categories, which are equivalent. At its meeting on 22 June 2022, the Government, by Resolution No. 412, adopted this draft interpretation of the results of the 2021 CPHD and instructed the Head of the Office of the Government and the Plenipotentiary to prepare and submit to the Government of the Slovak Republic an amendment to Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll.

The interpretation of the Census will also serve as a basis for expanding the list of municipalities in which members of a national minority have the right to use a minority language in official communication.

Based on the results of the 2021 CPHD and their interpretation by nationality and another nationality, the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 15% of the population would increase by 125 municipalities, and in 4 of these municipalities two national minorities would reach at least 15%. In 28 municipalities that are already on the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 15% of the population, 1 more national minority will be added. That is to say:

- 5 municipalities will add a Hungarian national minority;
 - 87 municipalities will add a Ruthenian national minority;
 - 64 municipalities will add a Roma national minority; and
 - 1 municipality will add a German national minority;
- with a share of 15% or more.

1.5 Implementation of the Resolution on the Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the Period 2019 - 2020

The previous Report on the State of Use of National Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic for the Period 2019-2020 was adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic on 13 January 2021 by Resolution No. 24/2021. By this resolution, the Government of the Slovak

Republic instructed the Head of the Office of the Government and the Plenipotentiary under points B.1. to B.3. to

- develop and issue Methodological Guidelines of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic on the details of the use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic by 1 March 2022;
- develop and issue 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 by 1 December 2021;
- develop and issue the Methodological Guidance on ensuring the fulfilment of tasks arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in the conditions of higher territorial units by 30 June 2021;

At the same time, in point B.4., the Government of the Slovak Republic instructed the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Justice to extend the existing competency-based training aimed at improving the level of proficiency in the language of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a special regulation and to ensure its availability in public administration bodies within their competence by 1 December 2021 and on an ongoing basis. In point B.5, the Government instructed the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investment, Regional Development and Informatisation, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Defence to take measures to eliminate the shortcomings listed in Annex No. 10 of the Report and to continuously evaluate their implementation within their respective spheres of competence by 31 December 2022.

In accordance with task B.1 to prepare and issue the Methodological Guideline of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic on the details of the use of the languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic, the Plenipotentiary requested the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic to postpone the implementation of this task, due to the fact that the task in question is directly related to the forthcoming act on the status of members of national minorities, which implements the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the period 2020 – 2024, in the section National Minorities, with the aim of regulating the status of national minorities and consistently applying and specifying their rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and in accordance with the approved Plan of Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2022. Issuing the Methodological Guideline at this point would be premature and would lead to its later amendment.

In accordance with the task B.2. *to develop and issue 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*, the Plenipotentiary established a working group to develop the Methodological Guideline of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic of funds for the fulfilment of tasks arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. by public administration bodies. The working group was composed of representatives of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities, the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, the Financial Administration, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the Office of Public Health of the Slovak Republic, the Union of Towns of

Slovakia, and the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia. The Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities has drafted the Methodological Guideline entitled Methodological Guideline of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities on Funds, together with the Annex entitled Funds for the Fulfilment of Legal Obligations and Opportunities¹⁹, which, after an internal comment procedure in the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities, was published on the websites of the OG SR a OPNM in late December 2021, and sent to the Secretaries General of the Service Offices of the respective Ministries. The purpose of the Methodological Guideline is to provide summary information and methodological recommendations related to the method of funds for the tasks arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. for a) District Offices, b) Labour, Social Affairs and Family Offices, c) Tax Offices, d) Customs Offices, e) State Archives, f) Regional Veterinary and Food Administrations, g) Regional Public Health Authorities, h) organisational units of the Fire and Rescue Corps, i) organisational units of the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps, j) organisational units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, k) municipalities and towns, l) legal entities established by a unit of territorial local authority. The Methodological Guideline regulates the use of languages of national minorities, in particular in the following areas: visual bilingualism, compulsory publication of information in accordance with Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information and on amendments and supplements to certain act, as amended (hereinafter the "Freedom of Information Act") also in the languages of national minorities, official activities/bilingual forms, public documents and official documents, oral official communication. Taking into account the fact that public authority bodies may also provide some tasks through their minority language employees or that some tasks are of a one-off nature (e.g. visual bilingualism), the guidance recommends employing an appropriate number of minority language employees or organising language competence training for employees. At the same time, it also recommends the establishment of a Fund to support the application of language rights or to provide a mechanism for the normative compensation of increased expenses of local authority in connection with the implementation of the Act on Minority Languages.

In accordance with task B.3., the Plenipotentiary developed and issued the Methodological Guideline on ensuring the fulfilment of tasks arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in the conditions of higher territorial units²⁰, which after the internal comment procedure in the OG SR was published on the web site of the OG SR and the OPNM and sent to the chairpersons of the HTUs. The purpose of the Guideline is to provide summary information and methodological recommendations related to the use of languages of national minorities for: a) self-governing regions, b) legal entities established by a self-governing region.

Other tasks are being carried out on an ongoing basis. Task B.4 to extend the existing competency-based training aimed at improving the level of proficiency in the language of national minorities for the group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a special regulation and to ensure its availability in public administration bodies within their jurisdiction was assigned to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and the Minister of

¹⁹ 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/legislativa-metodicka-a-odborna-help/metodicka-a-odborna-pomoc/>

²⁰ 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

Health. In connection with the implementation of this task, the Office of the Plenipotentiary contacted the relevant ministries with a request to send information on the implementation of the task in question and to nominate a contact person for its further processing. Subsequently, there was communication with the nominated contact persons, who mostly announced the implementation of language competence training during the reference period. In the case of negative answers, the responsible subjects justified the absence of the need for the implementation of language competence training due to the sufficient number of employees who speak the language of a national minority.

In connection with the implementation of task B.5, the Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, addressed a letter to the bodies of territorial local authority and the responsible ministries with an appeal to eliminate 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. The statements of the individual departments show that some of the shortcomings identified by the questionnaire survey have been eliminated, which is finally reflected to some extent in the results of the current questionnaire survey, while the elimination of other shortcomings is in the process of being addressed, but the elimination of some of them will require coordination at a higher level, which the individual authorities require from their superior institutions. The remediation process is currently very individual. The implementation of one of the activities of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups 2021 – 2025, namely the publication of an electronic database of translations of forms, applications, decision forms, other official documents and information materials, is expected to be of great assistance in this area. In the reports, they indicated that they had remedied or were working to remedy the identified shortcomings.

2. International Legal Framework for the Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic

In the field of rights and the state of national minorities, including language rights, the Slovak Republic is a party to several international conventions, which, in accordance with Art. 7(5) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, take precedence over acts. With regard to the linguistic rights of persons belonging to national minorities, these include in particular the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter the "Charter") and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter the "Framework Convention"). The Slovak Republic participates in various monitoring mechanisms. These include monitoring the level of implementation of the Charter and the Framework Convention, as well as the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council. The Slovak Republic is also fulfilling bilateral treaty obligations with Hungary and Ukraine on the subject.

2.1 European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages²¹

The Charter is a framework multilateral international treaty of a cultural nature. It entered into force for the Slovak Republic on 1 January 2002. The Slovak Republic, as a party to the Charter, has undertaken to create conditions for the preservation and development of regional or minority languages. The sponsor of the activities related to the process of monitoring the level of implementation of the Charter is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. The permanent expert body of the Council of Government for the implementation of the 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.

At its 68th session, on 22 March 2021, the Committee of Experts adopted the Committee of Experts' evaluation of the Charter's implementation of the recommendations for immediate action contained in the Committee's Fifth Evaluation Report to the Slovak Republic MIN-LANG (2021)1 (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 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 the

²¹ The Charter applies to the following languages in the Slovak Republic: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, Ukrainian (Part II and Part III), Russian, Serbian (Part II). Part II of the Charter of Languages sets out the objectives and principles in relation to regional or minority languages on which the Parties shall establish their policies, legislation and practices. Each Party undertakes to comply with the provisions in Part II in respect of all regional or minority languages spoken in its territory which meet the definition of regional or minority languages. Russian and Serbian have been recognised as minority languages in the Slovak Republic under Part II of the Charter of Languages. Part III of the Charter of Languages sets out the various measures to promote the use of regional or minority languages in public life (education; the judiciary; administrative authorities and public services; the media; cultural activities and facilities; economic and social life; and cross-border cooperation). The Part covers nine languages: Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian. These languages are divided into three groups in terms of the selected provisions: 1) Hungarian, 2) Ruthenian and Ukrainian, 3) other languages: the Bulgarian language, the Czech language, the Croatian language, the German language, the Polish language and the Roma language.

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

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, at its 1407th session held on 16 June 2021, took note of the evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Charter of Languages of the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action. The Slovak Republic will submit its next periodic report by 1 January 2024.

The Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities of the Slovak Republic 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, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian speaking citizens during the reference period. 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. The language guides were created primarily for the users of minority languages and are a kind of guide to the provisions of the Charter, which the Slovak Republic is obliged to observe in relation to the individual minority languages. These language guides have been published on the Plenipotentiary's website as well as on the Council of Europe's website.²² They were also sent to minority organisations, members of the Committee, relevant local authorities as well as some central public authority bodies.

2.2 Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The Slovak Republic is also a party to the Framework Convention, which entered into force for Slovakia on 1 February 1998. The Framework Convention is a generally legally binding multilateral document dedicated to the protection of national minorities, the purpose of which is to specify the legal principles that states have undertaken to respect in order to ensure the protection of national minorities. The sponsor of activities related to the monitoring process of the Framework Convention in the Slovak Republic is also the MFEA SR. The Committee shall act as a permanent expert body of the Council of Government on the implementation of the Framework Convention within the meaning of Article 15 of the Framework Convention. The Slovak Republic, as a Party to the Convention, shall report at regular intervals of five years on the measures taken to fulfil the obligations set out in the Framework 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. On September 8, the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities also met with the experts of the Advisory Committee.

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. 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

²² <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/ramcovy-dohovor-a-europska-charta/>; [Language Guides \(coe.int\)](https://www.coe.int/)

formal conclusion of the monitoring exercise, it is customary to hold a follow-up workshop at the national level as a form of continued dialogue with the Advisory Committee.

On 2 February 2022, at its 74th Plenary Session, the Advisory Committee to the Framework Convention adopted the Fifth Assessment on the Slovak Republic. In accordance with Article 28 of Resolution CM/Res(2019), the Slovak Republic was entitled to submit to the Advisory Committee by 3 June 2022 its opinion on the Fifth Assessment Report, which will be published together with it on the Council of Europe's website. Its contents remain confidential until officially published by the Council of Europe. The format and mode of preparation of the Opinion of the Slovak Republic on the Fifth Assessment on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic, which could only be made partially available, also corresponded to this format. The Government of the Slovak Republic approved the material in question by Government Resolution No. 361 of 26 May 2022 and at the same time instructed the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs to submit an opinion to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe by the deadline of 3 June 2022. The Opinion of the Slovak Republic was submitted to the Council of Europe and published on 15 June 2022 on the special website of the Council of Europe in the section dedicated to minorities.²³

With the adoption of the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CM/ResCMN(2022)8) on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Slovak Republic on 3 November 2022, the fifth monitoring cycle in relation to Slovakia has been completed. In its resolution, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe called on the Slovak authorities to take into account the observations and recommendations contained in the Fifth Assessment of the Advisory Committee and to take immediate and further measures to further improve the implementation of the Framework Convention. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic will submit the Report on the course and results of the fifth round of monitoring of the level of implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic to the Government of the Slovak Republic.

2.3 High Commissioner of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for National Minorities

The OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities (hereinafter the "OSCE High Commissioner") is one of the independent autonomous institutions of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which, among other things, deals with the issue of linguistic rights of national minorities. As part of their mandate, the OSCE High Commissioner identifies and seeks early solutions to ethnic tensions that may threaten peace, stability or friendly relations between OSCE participating States. The OSCE High Commissioner has developed nine thematic recommendations or guidelines in relation to national minorities and individual participating States, the use of which depends on individual OSCE participating States. These recommendations are addressed not only to governments, but also to national minorities themselves.

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,

²³ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/minorities/slovak-republic>

Lamberto Zannier, came to an end. Kairat Abdrakhmanov of Kazakhstan took office on 4 December 2020.

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

The Universal Periodic Review ("UPR") is a unique tool for a comprehensive and universal assessment of the human rights situation in the UN Member States. Its creation is closely linked to the creation of the UN Human Rights Council (the "Council") in 2006. The creation of the Council has institutionalized the importance of global advocacy for the protection of human rights. The State concerned is evaluated by other UN Member States in this universal process. The aim of the assessment is to provide a comprehensive and objective picture of the human rights situation in all UN Member States. In terms of the human rights agenda at the national level, the UPR represents a key event.

The Slovak Republic was the subject of the third round of the UPR on 28 January 2019. The evaluation made 195 recommendations to the Slovak Republic. Of the 195 recommendations, 5 were directly related to national minorities, the quality of their assertion in public life and the preservation of their identity and the creation of a relevant legislative framework, and 2 were related to the prevention of racism and intolerance. One of the most important recommendations of this kind is the recommendation to ensure the use of minority languages in accordance with the obligations of the Charter of Languages and the Framework Convention and the implementation of the obligations related to national minorities under the Treaty on Good Neighbourly Relations and Friendly Cooperation between Hungary and the Slovak Republic (UPR 160/2019). On 3 November 2021, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved by Resolution No. 636 the Interim Status of Implementation of Recommendations Addressed to the Slovak Republic under the 3rd Round of the Universal Periodic Review in the Mid-term Review Cycle. The Government of the Slovak Republic, by the resolution in question, also obliged the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic to submit the interim status of the implementation of the recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council by 31 December 2021. The Slovak Republic will be the subject of the fourth UPR on human rights in 2024.

2.5 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 (the "Basic Treaty") signed in Paris on 19 March 1995. The Basic Treaty created the legal basis for the establishment of 12 Mixed Commissions, which facilitate the implementation of the Basic Treaty through consultation and cooperation.

The meetings of the Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Minority Affairs (the "Mixed Commission") are held alternately in Bratislava and Budapest. Recommendations are adopted within the framework of the meetings 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 generally adopt new recommendations. According to the Basic Treaty, the Mixed Commission has the right to make recommendations to the government.

The last, 14th Session of the Mixed Commission took place on 20 February 2019. The recommendations of the 14th Session were noted 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 National Institute of Education and Youth - Komárno Branch 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.

The first round of the 15th Plenary Session was held in Budapest on 13 September 2022 to discuss the implementation of the 14th Session's recommendations and the drafting of new recommendations. The session was not concluded with the signing of the minutes, as the Hungarian side decided to continue with the 2nd part of the plenary session, which took place on 3.11.2022.

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

Bilateral cooperation with Ukraine is implemented on the basis of the Treaty between Slovakia and Ukraine on Good Neighbourliness, Friendly Relations and Cooperation signed on 29 June 1993 in Kiev through the Intergovernmental Slovak-Ukrainian Commission for National Minorities, Education and Culture.

The last 14th meeting of the Commission took place on 23 March 2017 in Bratislava. The Ukrainian side has not yet convened the 15th session of the Intergovernmental Commission due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and the ongoing war conflict in Ukraine in 2022.

3. The State of Use of Languages of National Minorities by Public Administration Bodies – Questionnaire Survey Results

3.1 Territorial Local Authority (Municipalities)

Return rate of questionnaires

In accordance with Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll., a total of 656 municipalities are registered in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 20% of the population. There are also 18 municipalities in this group with a population belonging to two national minorities, which appear twice in the list (11 municipalities with a Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minority, 5 municipalities with a Hungarian and Roma national minority, 1 municipality with a Ukrainian and Roma national minority and 1 municipality with a Ruthenian and Roma national minority). It follows from the above that the actual number of municipalities listed in Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. is 638.

The Office of the Plenipotentiary received a total of 641 completed questionnaires from 625 municipalities (including 16 municipalities for two languages) in a questionnaire survey conducted in August-September this year, representing a 98% return rate. Compared to previous surveys, the return rate was again high (only in 2018 the Office of the Plenipotentiary had received 2 more questionnaires than this year, for a total of 643). The return rate for municipalities with Ukrainian (from 16 to 14) and Roma (from 54 to 52) national minorities decreased slightly, while the return rate for municipalities with Hungarian (from 503 to 509) and Ruthenian (from 64 to 65) national minorities was higher. The total is completed by one municipality with a German minority, which also sent in a questionnaire this year. The absolute numbers and percentages are shown in Table 1. The data is broken down by national minority, with municipalities with populations belonging to two national minorities counted twice. The above table shows that 641 questionnaires were processed in the framework of this survey – which in the following tables for each area of use of languages of national minorities represents 100%.

Table 1: Comparison of return rates of questionnaires sent to municipalities in surveys conducted in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022

	2012		2014		2016		2018		2020		2022	
Hungarian	470	92%	450	88%	486	95 %	506	99 %	503	98 %	509	99 %
Ruthenian	53	78 %	49	72 %	64	94 %	67	99 %	64	94 %	65	96 %
Roma	47	82 %	44	77 %	45	79 %	52	91 %	54	95 %	52	91 %
Ukrainian	14	78 %	16	89 %	8	44 %	17	94 %	16	89 %	14	78 %
German	1	100 %	1	100 %	1	100 %	1	100 %	1	100 %	1	100 %
TOTAL	585	89 %	560	85 %	604	92 %	643	98 %	638	97%	641	98 %

15 questionnaires were not processed because they were not received or were insufficiently completed (2 municipalities with a Ruthenian and a Ukrainian minority completed the questionnaire only for the Ruthenian national minority). In this context, it should be noted that in accordance with Sec. 7b(1)(h) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of National Minority Languages, an administrative offence in the field of the use of minority languages is committed by a public authority, in this case a municipality, which is listed in Government Regulation No.

221/1999 Coll. and which fails to provide written documentation pursuant to Sec. 7a(3), according to which the Office of the Government is entitled to request information and written documentation from public authority bodies on the use of minority languages in the area of their competence.

The questionnaire was used to collect data concerning the use of languages of national minorities in the scope of local authority bodies as they result from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. The basic criterion in the development of the questionnaire, which is based on the wording of the questionnaire used in 2020, was to maintain the greatest possible degree of comparability of data, which makes it possible to assess the development trends in this area.

The municipalities were asked a total of 82 questions under 6 headings in the following order: designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 13), official communication (questions 14 – 34), bilingual documents (questions 35-57), meetings of local authority bodies (questions 58 – 62), public information (questions 63 – 76), and final questions (questions 77 – 82). The text of the questionnaire for municipalities is attached as Annex No. 1.

3.1.1 Designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 13)

Pursuant to Act No. 184/1999 Coll., all municipalities listed in Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. are obliged to designate the municipality in the language of a national minority indicated on the road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality, with the exception of those municipalities whose designation in the language of a national minority coincides with the name in the national language. In such a case, the relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll. shall not apply. The designations of 9 municipalities with Hungarian national minority (Baka, Virt, Bajka, Zalaba, Nána, Pozba, Bátka, Rad and Kalonda) and all municipalities with Roma national minority are identical with the name of the municipality in the national language according to the Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll.

Eight of the listed Hungarian municipalities and 12 (6 in the previous survey) municipalities with a Roma national minority stated that they have a municipality designation in the language of the national minority on the road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality. Three municipalities with a Hungarian national minority and 39 (42 in the previous survey) municipalities with a Roma national minority said that the name of the municipality in the language of a national minority coincides with the name in the national language. One municipality with a Hungarian national minority (3 in the last survey) and one municipality with a Ukrainian national minority stated that the name of the municipality in the language of a national minority coincides with the name in the national language, despite the fact that it does not, according to Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll.

The total number of municipalities that indicated the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority on the road sign increased (from 569 to 579), while the number of such municipalities remained unchanged for the Ruthenian (62) and German (1) minorities. The number of municipalities with a Ukrainian national minority has decreased (from 14 to 12). This is related to the lower return rate of questionnaires. The number of municipalities that have also indicated their designation in the language of a minority has increased not only in the case of municipalities with a Hungarian minority (from 487 to 492), but also in the case of a Roma minority (from 6 to 12), although it should also be noted that, in accordance with the above, this is not an obligation in the case of a Roma national minority.

In the above-mentioned area, in accordance with Sec. 7b(1)(e) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offence could have been committed by failing to ensure that the municipality's traffic sign at the beginning and end of the municipality was in the language of a minority in another 15 cases (11 in the previous survey). There are 5 municipalities with a Hungarian (3 in the last survey) and 1 municipality with a Ukrainian national minority (the same as in the last survey) that have not fulfilled the legal obligation and 7 municipalities with a Hungarian (5 in the last survey) and 2 municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority (the same as in the last survey) that have only partially fulfilled the legal obligation.

This shows that there has been a slight improvement in this area.

Table 2: The designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority on the road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality (Sec. 4(1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	does not apply to our municipality	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	492	97 %	7	1 %	5	1 %	4	1 %	1	0 %	509
Ruthenian	62	95 %	2	3 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	12	23 %	0	0 %	1	2 %	39	75 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	12	86 %	0	0 %	1	7 %	1	7 %	0	0 %	14
German	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	579	90 %	9	1 %	7	1 %	44	7 %	2	0 %	641

For the first time, the questionnaire survey also included the indication of the designation of the parts of the municipality in the language of a national minority on the road sign marking the beginning and end of the municipality. Although this is a new obligation (with effect from 1. 1. 2022), 154 municipalities with Hungarian, 22 with Ruthenian, 4 with Roma and 2 municipalities with Ukrainian national minorities stated that they already had had such designations and in 9 municipalities with Hungarian, 1 with Ruthenian and 1 with Ukrainian national minorities this obligation is partially fulfilled. 37 municipalities with a Hungarian, 7 with a Ruthenian and 8 with a Roma national minority do not have a designation of a part of the municipality in the language of a national minority, while one municipality with a Hungarian national minority stated that it is an obligation of the regional road administration. Another 4 municipalities (3 with a Hungarian and 1 with a Roma minority) stated that the designations of the parts of the municipality in the language of a national minority are the same as the name in the national language, and 301 municipalities with a Hungarian, 35 with a Ruthenian, 39 with a Roma, 11 with a Ukrainian and 1 with a German national minority declared that they are not subject to this obligation because they do not have parts of the municipality.

Table 3: The designation of parts of the municipality in the language of a national minority on the road sign at the beginning and at the end of parts of the municipality (Sec. 4(1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	coincides	share in %	apply to our municipality (we do not have parts of the	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	154	30 %	9	2 %	37	7 %	3	1 %	301	59 %	5	1 %	509
Ruthenian	22	34 %	1	2 %	7	11 %	0	0 %	35	54 %	1	2 %	65

Roma	4	8 %	0	0 %	8	15 %	1	2 %	39	75 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	2	14 %	1	7 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	11	79 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	182	28 %	11	2 %	52	8 %	4	1 %	387	60 %	6	1 %	641

The results of the survey showed that the number of municipalities (from 110 to 104) that provide information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens also in the language of a national minority on additional text plates to traffic signs in accordance with the Decree of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 30/2020 Coll. on traffic signs has slightly decreased. Although the number of municipalities with a Roma national minority reporting this information has increased (from 1 to 2), the situation has not changed for municipalities with a Ukrainian minority (1 municipality) and the number of municipalities with a Hungarian (from 99 to 94) and a Ruthenian (from 9 to 7) national minority has decreased compared to the previous period. The number of municipalities with Hungarian (from 64 to 44) and Ruthenian (from 3 to 0) national minorities that partially report this information has also decreased. There has been a large increase in the number of municipalities indicating that does not apply to them.

Table 4: Information on threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens also in the language of a national minority on additional text plates to traffic signs (Sec. 4(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	does not apply to our municipality	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	94	18 %	44	9 %	47	9 %	320	63 %	4	1 %	509
Ruthenian	7	11 %	0	0 %	15	23 %	43	66 %	0	0 %	65
Roma	2	4 %	0	0 %	20	38 %	29	56 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	1	7 %	0	0 %	1	7 %	12	86 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	104	16 %	44	7 %	83	13 %	405	63 %	5	1 %	641

The designation of the municipality in the language of a minority is indicated at the railway station in 106 municipalities (in 103 with a Hungarian and 3 with a Ruthenian minority as in the last survey), partially in 2 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority. At the bus station, the language of a national minority is also mentioned in 181 municipalities, namely in 176 with a Hungarian, 4 with a Ruthenian and one with a Roma national minority (in the last survey in 156 with a Hungarian, 5 with a Ruthenian and one with a Roma national minority), partially in 5 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority (15 in the last survey). The railway station and the bus station are bilingually marked in 52 municipalities, 51 of them with a Hungarian minority (including the municipalities of Kalonda, Pozba and Zalaba, whose name in the language of a national minority is identical to the name in the national language) and one with a Ruthenian minority (50 in the last survey, 49 with a Hungarian minority and one with a Ruthenian minority).

One municipality with a Hungarian national minority has a bilingually designated port. Some answers were assessed as erroneous, as some municipalities indicated that they also have a bilingual airport or port, even though there are none in such municipalities.

279 (281 in the previous survey) municipalities stated that the designation of railway and bus stations, airports and ports does not apply to them (including the municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, Nána and Bátka, whose name in the language of a national minority is identical to the name in the national language, and 29 such municipalities with a Roma national minority). Municipalities with Ukrainian and German national minorities do not have such designations.

Table 5: The designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority listed under the designation in the national language when designating the railway station (Sec. 4(1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partial ly	share in %	no	share in %	does not apply to our municipal ity	share in %	not answe red	share in %	total
Hungarian	103	20 %	2	0 %	24	5 %	311	65 %	70	10 %	509
Ruthenian	3	5 %	0	0 %	0	3 %	62	89 %	59	3 %	65
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	19	24 %	32	72 %	1	4 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	6 %	12	88%	13	6 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	100 %	1	0 %	1
T O T A L	106	16 %	1	1 %	39	6 %	439	69 %	53	8 %	641

Table 6: The designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority listed under the designation in the national language when designating the bus station (Sec. 4(4) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partial ly	share in %	no	share in %	does not apply to our municipal ity	share in %	not answe red	share in %	total
Hungarian	176	35 %	5	1 %	91	18 %	211	41 %	27	5 %	509
Ruthenian	4	6 %	0	0 %	9	14 %	52	80 %	63	97 %	65
Roma	1	2 %	0	0 %	23	44 %	27	52 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	2	14 %	11	79 %	14	100 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	181	28 %	5	1 %	129	20 %	301	47 %	105	16 %	641

The above-mentioned designations were in the same size font for the designations of railway stations in 100 municipalities, namely in 97 with Hungarian and 3 with Ruthenian national minorities (in the previous survey in 102 municipalities, 99 with Hungarian and 3 with Ruthenian national minorities) and for the designation of bus stations in 162 municipalities with Hungarian national minorities (in the previous survey in 160 municipalities, 156 with Hungarian, 3 with Ruthenian and 1 with Roma national minorities). In smaller font, 6 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority (2 in the last survey) and 14 municipalities with a Hungarian minority (13 with a Hungarian minority and one with a Ruthenian minority (the same as in the last survey) indicate the minority language in the designation of railway stations and 14 municipalities with a Ruthenian minority (the same as in the last survey) indicate the minority language in the designation of bus stations.

Table 7: Method of designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority listed under the designation in the national language when designating the bus and railway station (Sec. 4(4) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	designation of the railway station		designation of the bus station	
	in the same font size	in smaller font size	in the same font size	in smaller font size
Hungarian	97	6	162	13
Ruthenian	3	0	0	1
Roma	0	0	1	0
Ukrainian	0	0	0	0
German	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	100	6	162	14

Obligation to indicate the designation of the public authority²⁴ placed on buildings in the national language and in the language of a national minority was complied with by 586 municipalities (571 in the previous survey). The number of municipalities in which this obligation is fulfilled has increased for Hungarian (from 490 to 498), Roma (from 8 to 13) and Ruthenian national minorities (from 62 to 64), while the number has remained the same for German and Ukrainian national minorities. In this area, in accordance with Sec. 7b(1)(c) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offence could have been committed by failing to ensure the designation in 55 municipalities (11 with a Hungarian national minority, 2 with a Ruthenian minority, 38 with a Roma minority, and 4 with a Ukrainian minority), compared to 60 municipalities (11 with a Hungarian national minority, 1 with a Ruthenian minority, 44 with a Roma minority, and 4 with a Ukrainian minority) in the previous survey.

Table 8: The designations of the public administration authority placed on buildings in the language of a national minority (Sec. 4(1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	in the national language only	share in %	in the national language and in the language of a national minority	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	11	2 %	498	98 %	0	0 %	509
Ruthenian	2	3 %	64	98 %	0	0 %	65
Roma	38	73 %	13	25 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	4	29 %	10	71 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	55	9 %	586	91 %	0	0 %	641

The obligation to provide the municipality's designation in the language of a national minority alongside the name of the municipality in the national language on the buildings of public administration bodies does not apply to municipalities whose designation in the language of a national minority coincides with the name in the national language. Of the 9 such municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, all of them provide it, 12 municipalities with a Roma national minority state that they also provide this designation in the Roma language (8 in

²⁴ Sec. 2(6) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. provides that “The designation of the public authority located on buildings shall also be provided in the language of a minority in the municipality pursuant to paragraph 1.” However, the Act does not further define to which public administration bodies the quoted provision applies. Pursuant to Sec. 10(1) of Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipal Establishment, as amended, the municipal authorities are the municipal council and a Mayor of the municipality, but the Act does not regulate whether the municipal authority is considered a municipal local authority body. However, given that, according to Sec. 16(1) of the Act, the municipal authority provides for the organisational and administrative affairs of the municipal council, a Mayor and the bodies established by the municipal council, and also that most municipal local authority bodies (a Mayor, municipal/city council, optional bodies, etc.) do not usually have their own building and use the building of the municipal/city office, the provision of the Act is in practice applied to the building of the municipal/city office.

the previous survey) and one municipality with a Roma national minority states that it is only partially provided. A comparison with the results of the previous survey shows that the number of municipalities fulfilling this obligation has increased overall (from 547 to 560). Hungarian (from 468 to 477) and Ruthenian (from 60 to 62) national minorities have improved in fulfilling this obligation, while the situation has not changed for Ukrainian and German national minorities. 9 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority partially fulfilled their obligation (14 in the last survey). In this area, in accordance with Sec. 7b(1)(e) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offence could have been committed by failing to ensure the designation of the municipality in the language of a minority in 11 municipalities with Hungarian, 2 with Ruthenian and 3 with Ukrainian national minorities (in the previous survey in 16 municipalities with Hungarian, 2 with Ruthenian and 4 with Ukrainian national minorities).

Table 9: The designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority alongside the name of the municipality in the national language on the buildings of public administration bodies (Sec. 4(1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	477	94 %	9	2 %	11	2 %	12	2 %	509
Ruthenian	62	95 %	0	0 %	2	3 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	12	23 %	1	2 %	39	75 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	10	71 %	0	0 %	3	21 %	1	7 %	14
German	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	562	88%	10	2 %	55	9 %	14	2 %	641

These designations were listed in the same font in 545 municipalities (523 in the last survey) and in smaller font in 41 municipalities (46 in the last survey). The municipality with a German minority gave the name of the public authority in the language of a national minority in a different font, which was categorised as smaller font in the evaluation.

Table 10: Method of designation of the public authority in the language of a national minority is displayed on buildings alongside the equivalent in the national language

	in the same font size	share in %	in smaller font size	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	470	92 %	25	5 %	14	3 %	509
Ruthenian	55	85 %	9	14 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	12	23 %	4	8 %	36	69 %	52
Ukrainian	8	57 %	2	14 %	4	29 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	545	85 %	41	6 %	55	9 %	641

In accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the municipalities listed in Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. may also mark streets and other local geographical markers on their territory in the language of a national minority. The results of the survey showed that the situation has not changed substantially. Bilingual street designation is used by

119 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority and one with a Ruthenian minority (in the previous survey 114 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority). Bilingual local geographic designation is used by 58 municipalities (62 in the last survey). The number in the Hungarian minority has decreased (from 61 to 56), the number in the Roma has increased (from 0 to 1), and the number in the Ruthenian minority remained unchanged. Municipalities with Ukrainian and German national minorities have neither bilingual streets nor local geographical designations, and municipalities with Roma ethnic minorities do not have bilingual street designations. 475 municipalities said that there are no designated street names in the municipality (470 in the last survey) and 514 municipalities said that there are no designated local geographic markers in the municipality (499 in the last survey).

Table 11: The designations of streets in the language of a national minority (Sec. 4(5) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	in the national language only	share in %	in the national language and in the language of a national minority	share in %	does not apply to our municipality	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	27	5 %	119	23 %	358	70 %	5	1 %	509
Ruthenian	0	0 %	1	2 %	62	95 %	2	3 %	65
Roma	11	20 %	0	0 %	40	77 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	14	100 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	38	6 %	120	19 %	475	74 %	8	1 %	641

Table 12: The geographical markings in the language of a national minority (Sec. 4(5) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	in the national language only	share in %	in the national language and in the language of a national minority	share in %	does not apply to our municipality	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	32	6 %	56	11 %	413	81 %	8	2 %	509
Ruthenian	8	12 %	1	2 %	55	85 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	17	33 %	1	2 %	33	63 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	2	14 %	0	0 %	12	86 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	59	9 %	58	9 %	514	80 %	10	2 %	641

3.1.2 Official communication (questions 14 – 29)

The questionnaire survey again collected data in the area of municipalities' fulfilment of their obligations regarding the use of languages of national minorities in official communication, which covers several sub-areas. The number of municipalities with an employee who speaks the language of a national minority in spoken and written form has not changed significantly (in 512 municipalities, of which 474 have a Hungarian national minority, 19 have a Ruthenian minority, 14 have a Roma minority and 5 have a Ukrainian national minority – in the previous survey in 513 municipalities, of which 469 have a Hungarian national minority, 21 have a Ruthenian minority, 20 have a Roma minority and 4 have a Ukrainian national minority). The number of municipalities with employees who speak the language of a national minority only in spoken form has slightly increased (in 87 municipalities, of which 24 with a Hungarian, 39 with a

Ruthenian, 16 with a Roma, 7 with a Ukrainian and one with a German national minority – in the previous survey in 82 municipalities, of which 24 with a Hungarian, 36 with a Ruthenian, 14 with a Roma and 8 with a Ukrainian national minority). However, there was a more significant increase in the number of municipalities where there is no employee who has a command of the language of a national minority at least in spoken form (33 municipalities, 5 of which have a Hungarian, 4 with a Ruthenian, 22 with a Roma, 2 with a Ukrainian national minority – in the previous survey there had been 21 municipalities, 4 with a Ruthenian, 15 with a Roma, one with a Ukrainian and one with a German national minority). Two municipalities with a Hungarian national minority do not monitor a command of the language of a national minority.

Out of a total of 6,585 municipal employees (6,439 in the last survey), 5,506 employees (5,099 in the last survey) have a command of the language of the respective national minority in spoken form at least, thus the ratio has increased (from 79.2% to 83.6%), especially for those employees who have a command of the language of a national minority (from 59.4% to 64%) in spoken and written form. There has been no significant change in the share of employees who have only a command of the language of a national minority (19.6% - 19.8% in the previous survey) in spoken form.

The share of employees who have a command of the language of a national minority have decreased only in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority from 89.4% (of which 70.4% in spoken and written form and 19% in spoken form) to 88.6% (of which 71.4% in spoken and written form and 17.1% in spoken form), while for other national minorities the share have increased: in municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority from 74.8% (of which 20.5% in spoken and written form and 66.1% in spoken form) to 86.6% (of which 15.2% in spoken and written form and 59.6% in spoken form), in municipalities with a Roma national minority from 32.4% (of which 16.3% in spoken and written form and 16.1% in spoken form) to 43.8% (of which 17.6% in spoken and written form and 26.2% in spoken form), in municipalities with a Ukrainian national minority from 34.7% (of which 12.2% in spoken and written form and 22.5% in spoken form) to 84.2% (of which 31.6% in spoken and written form and 52.6% in spoken form), and in one municipality with a German national minority to 100% (of which 100% in spoken form). However, it should be noted that the total number of employees in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority has increased, while in municipalities with other national minorities it has decreased, and in municipalities with a Roma national minority the number of employees who have a command of the Roma language in both written and spoken form has even decreased.²⁵

Table 13: Number and share of employees who have a command of the language of a national minority

	total number	in word and in	share in %	in word	share in %	total	share in %
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²⁵ In this context, it should be noted that for a large part of respondents, both in the previous and in the current survey, the question concerning the command of the language of a national minority by municipal employees was not clearly understood, as evidenced by the number of requests for methodological assistance in completing this question.

Hungarian	5,655	4039	71 %	965	17 %	5,004	89 %
Ruthenian	185	38	21 %	122	66 %	160	87 %
Roma	706	124	18 %	185	26 %	309	44 %
Ukrainian	38	12	32 %	20	53 %	32	84 %
German	1	0	0 %	1	100 %	1	100 %
TOTAL	6,585	4213	64 %	1298	20 %	5506	84 %

In accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the municipalities listed in Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. are obliged to create conditions for the use of the language of a national minority, and it is up to them to decide how they will provide them. Currently 587 municipalities (as in the last survey) create conditions for exercising the right to communicate in oral and written communication in the language of a national minority through their own municipal employees (the number decreased only in municipalities with a Roma national minority from 29 to 25), 18 municipalities (31 in the last survey) through interpreting or translation services (the number decreased mainly in municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority from 14 to 2). 30 municipalities (24 in the last survey) have provided this possibility in other ways: in one municipality with a Hungarian national minority by a partial commitment of an employee of another entity, 4 municipalities did not specify how, the other municipalities provided comments. 4 municipalities (2 with a Hungarian and 2 with a Ruthenian national minority) stated that every citizen speaks the language of a national minority, according to 3 municipalities (1 with a Hungarian national minority, 1 with a Ruthenian and 1 with a Ukrainian) there is no problem in communication with citizens.

In accordance with Sec. 7b(1)(a) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offence may have been committed in 17 municipalities (13 municipalities in the previous survey) that do not ensure the conditions for the use of the language of a national minority. According to 3 municipalities, the above is not necessary, as the citizens use the national language in their official communication (2 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority and 1 with a Roma national minority), 7 municipalities stated that no requests had been addressed to them in order to ensure such conditions (1 with a Hungarian national minority, 3 with a Ruthenian and 3 with a Roma national minority), according to 2 municipalities with a Roma national minority, no members of the Roma minority in the municipality speak the Roma language and 5 municipalities (1 with a Ruthenian national minority and 4 with a Roma nationality) only stated that they do not ensure the use of the language of a national minority in any way whatsoever. One Roma municipality reported that there are Hungarian-speaking Roma in the municipality and, according to one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, the current generation does not have a command of Cyrillic. This community also stated that the Ruthenian language should still use the Latin alphabet in its written form.

Table 14: The method of using the language of a national minority in official communication

	through the municipality's employees	share in %	through interpreting or translation services	share in %	in any other way (please specify):	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	495	97 %	13	3 %	9	2 %	4	1 %	509
Ruthenian	56	86 %	2	3 %	7	11 %	2	3 %	65
Roma	25	48 %	2	4 %	11	21 %	14	27 %	52
Ukrainian	11	79 %	0	0 %	3	21 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	587	92 %	18	3 %	30	5 %	20	3 %	641

In accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the municipality may determine the time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority. The results of the survey showed that the number of municipalities that have defined such a time slot has increased (from 40 to 42), especially in the case of municipalities with a Hungarian (from 27 to 34) and Roma national minority (from 0 to 2). The number of municipalities with Ruthenian (from 11 to 6) and Ukrainian national minorities (from 2 to 0) have decreased. Municipalities with a German national minority continued not to set a time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority. In this context, it should be noted that municipalities whose employees have a command of the language of a national minority do not need to set a time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority, as they provide communication in the language of a national minority whenever requested.

Table 15: Time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority (Sec. 2(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	34	7 %	472	93 %	3	1 %	509
Ruthenian	6	9 %	58	89 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	2	4 %	50	96 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	14	100 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	42	7 %	595	93 %	4	1 %	641

Pursuant to Sec. 2(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., a public authority is obliged to publish information on the possibility of using the language of a national minority concerned in spoken and written official communication in a visible place at the seat of the public authority. It follows from the provisions of Sec. 2(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. that every public authority in municipalities under Sec. 2(2) of the Act is obliged to create conditions for the exercise of the right to use the language of a minority in official communication, namely that of a minority or several minorities which meet the conditions under Sec. 2(1) of the Act in a given municipality.

A comparison with the results of the previous survey shows that the fulfilment of this obligation has improved (from 462 to 493), especially among a Hungarian national minority (from 398 to 430) and a Roma national minority (from 12 to 16). There was a slight decrease in Ruthenian (from 41 to 39) and Ukrainian (from 10 to 8) national minorities. Municipalities with

a German minority did not provide information to the residents in this way, although according to the results of the last survey they had. Based on the comparison of data since 2012, the number of municipalities fulfilling this obligation has been steadily increasing. In this area, in accordance with Sec. 7b(1)(a) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offence may have been committed in 145 municipalities (165 in the previous survey) that failed to provide information on the possibilities of using a minority language in a visible place at the seat of the public authority.

Table 16: Publication of information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in spoken and written form in official communication (Sec. 2(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	430	84 %	77	15 %	2	0 %	509
Ruthenian	39	60 %	25	38 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	16	31 %	36	69 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	8	57 %	6	43 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	493	77 %	145	23 %	3	0 %	641

Act No. 184/1999 Coll. does not specify in which language the information on the possibility of using the language of the relevant national minority in spoken and written form in official communication should be published. The results of the survey showed that this obligation was fulfilled in both languages (the national language and the language of a national minority) in 296 municipalities (289 in the previous survey), only in the national language in 54 municipalities (48 in the previous survey) and only in the language of a national minority in 146 municipalities (124 in the previous survey). The number of municipalities increased in each category for Hungarian and Roma national minorities, and decreased for Ruthenian, Ukrainian and German national minorities, except for information in the national language in municipalities with a Ukrainian national minority, where the number remained unchanged.

Table 17: Language of publication of information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in spoken and written form in official communication

	national language	share in %	language of a national minority	share in %	both languages	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	299	59 %	393	77 %	264	52 %	81	16 %	509
Ruthenian	29	45 %	34	52 %	22	34 %	24	37 %	65
Roma	13	25 %	12	23 %	8	15 %	34	65 %	52
Ukrainian	9	64 %	3	21 %	2	14 %	4	29 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
TOTAL	350	55 %	442	69 %	296	46 %	144	22 %	641

Act No. 184/1999 Coll. also does not specify where the information is to be published, it only mentions a visible place. For the first time, the questionnaire provided possible answers based on experience from previous surveys, with the possibility for municipalities to provide additional answers. Among those municipalities that complied with the obligation, 312 municipalities published the information mainly on the official information board (309 in the last survey), 221 municipalities published the information on the internet (184 in the last survey),

218 municipalities published the information on the information board (172 in the last survey), 25 municipalities published the information on the front door (47 in the last survey), 19 municipalities published the information on the office door or in the office (14 in the last survey), one municipality published the information on the Facebook page, and one municipality did not specify the location. 4 municipalities considered the public radio system to be a visible place (as in the last survey) and two municipalities stated that everyone communicates in the language of a national minority.

An important aspect of the monitored area is the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication. During the monitoring period, written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority were registered in 102 municipalities (110 in the previous survey). Written submissions were registered mainly in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority. In 96 municipalities where they reported the number of submissions, they registered 872 submissions in the language of a national minority, which represents a slight decrease (the number of submissions was 980 in the last survey, 1,186 in the 2018 survey and 1,274 in the 2016 survey). In addition to municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, submissions were registered in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. The municipalities with Roma, Ukrainian and German national minorities did not register written submissions in the language of a national minority.

In identifying the relevant areas, possible answers were given for the first time, based on the experience of previous surveys, and municipalities were also given the opportunity to provide additional answers. Based on the responses, the main issues were various requests and complaints, mainly related to subsidies, housing, purchase and lease of municipal property, local taxes and fees, population registration, environment, personnel, neighbourhood disputes and construction.

Table 18: Receiving written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	101	20 %	407	80 %	1	0 %	509
Ruthenian	1	2 %	62	95 %	2	3 %	65
Roma	0	0 %	52	100 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	14	100 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	102	16 %	536	84 %	3	0 %	641

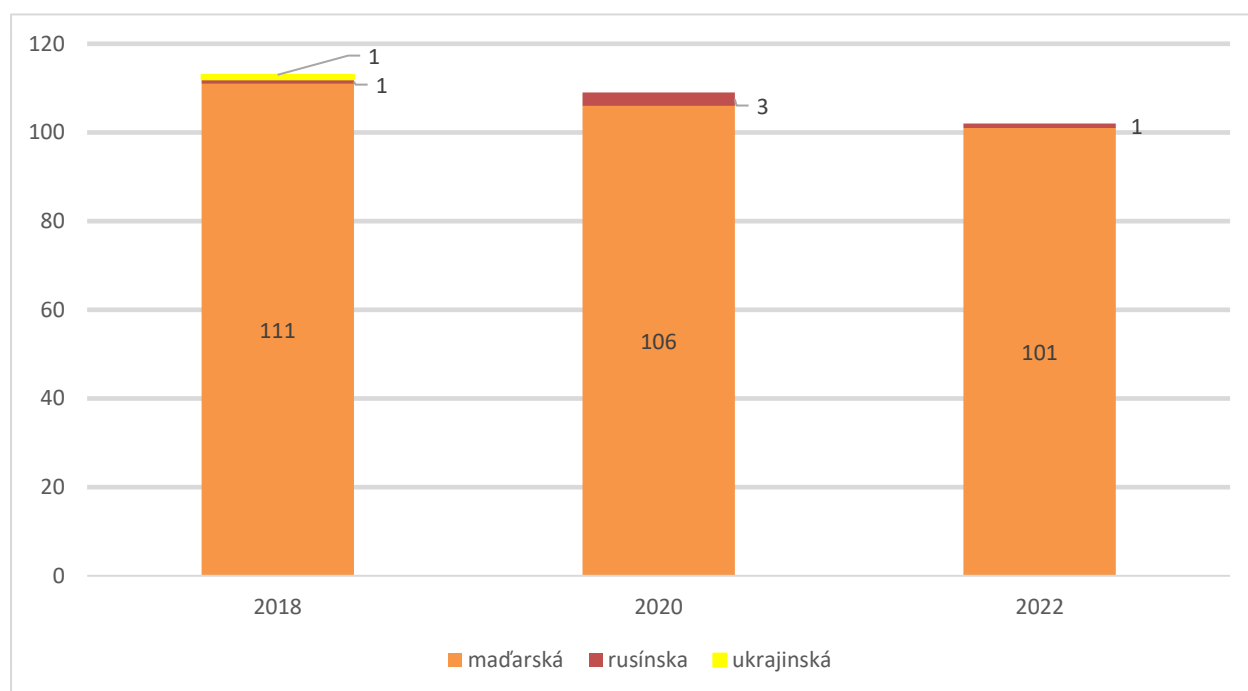
Chart 2: Comparison of data on the receipt of written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority with the results of previous surveys (2018-2022)

The municipality is obliged respond to a submission written in the language of a national minority both in the national language and in the language of a national minority. Although the number of municipalities that registered submissions in the language of a national minority decreased slightly during the reference period, the number of municipalities that provided a response in that language increased (from 71 to 75) in a total of 901 cases. It is gratifying that some municipalities are voluntarily issuing written responses in a minority language. This obligation was only partially fulfilled in 14 municipalities (25 in the last survey), and in 9 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, citizens did not receive a Hungarian-language response to their Hungarian-language submissions (14 in the last survey).

Table 19: Provision of written responses to written submissions in the language of a national minority (Sec. 2(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	partially	no
Hungarian	74	14	9
Ruthenian	1	0	0
Roma	0	0	0
Ukrainian	0	0	0
German	0	0	0
TOTAL	75	14	9

Chart 3: Comparison of data on the provision of written responses to written submissions in the



language of a national minority with the results of previous surveys (2018-2022)

Act No. 184/1999 Coll. allows for the use of the language of a national minority in the official agenda (in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information for the public and the agenda of churches and religious societies for the public, with the exception of the Registry Office). Comparison with the results of the previous survey shows that the number of municipalities using the language of a national minority in this area has increased

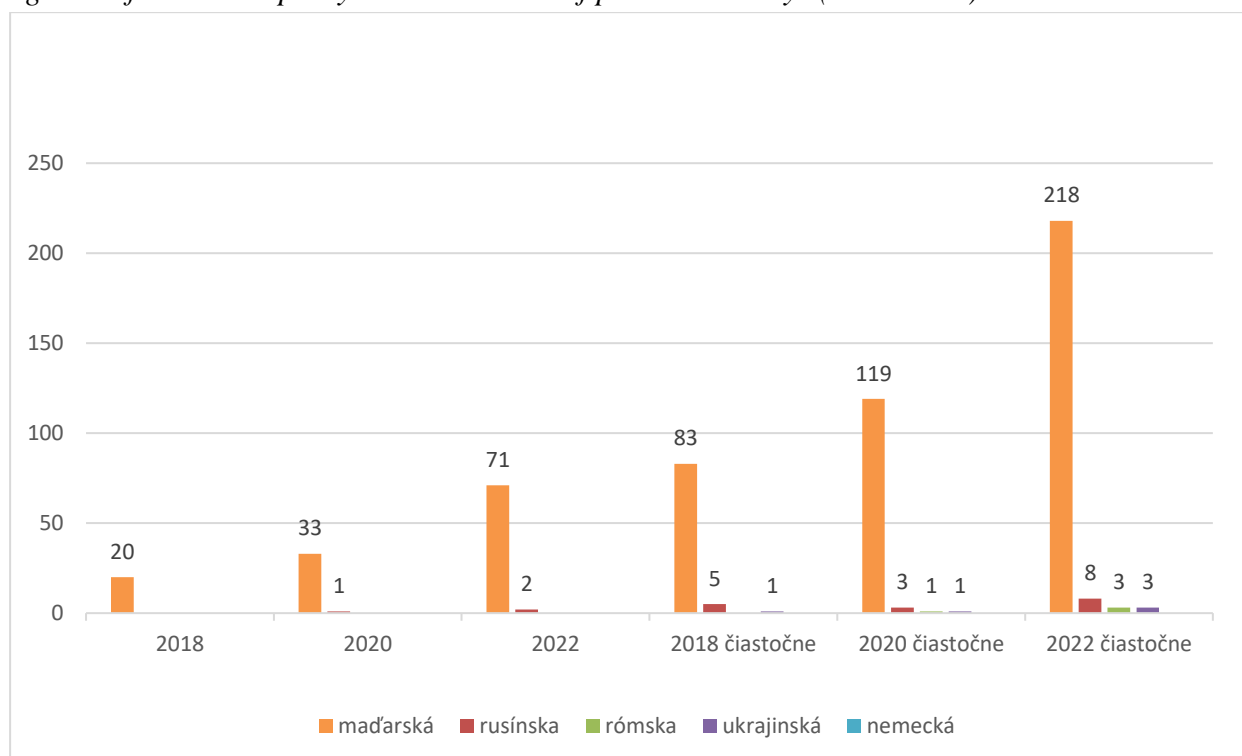
significantly (from 34 to 73), and not only for the Hungarian (from 33 to 71), but also for the Ruthenian (from 1 to 2). The number of municipalities that use this option only partially has also increased (from 124 to 232) for all national minorities (the Hungarian from 119 to 218, Ruthenian from 3 to 8, Roma and Ukrainian from 1 to 3). The municipalities with a German national minority do not use the language of the national minority at all in their official agenda.

In identifying the relevant areas, possible answers were given for the first time, based on the experience of previous surveys, and municipalities were also given the opportunity to provide additional answers. According to the information provided in the questionnaires, these municipalities use the language of a national minority mainly in public information, invitations, announcements, also in the functioning of the municipal council (resolutions, minutes and invitations), population registration, minutes, resolutions and statistics.

Table 20: Use of the language of a national minority in the official agenda of a municipal authority (Sec. 3(4) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	total
Hungarian	71	14 %	218	43 %	220	43 %	509
Ruthenian	2	3 %	8	12 %	55	85 %	65
Roma	0	0 %	3	6 %	49	94 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	3	21 %	11	79 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
TOTAL	73	11 %	232	36 %	336	52 %	641

Chart 4: Comparison of data on the use of the language of a national minority in the official agenda of the municipality with the results of previous surveys (2018-2022)



In accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll., municipalities may also keep chronicles in the language of a national minority. Compared to the last survey, this option is more widely used. Chronicles are kept in the language of a national minority in full by 181 municipalities (168 in the last survey), and in part by 52 (63 in the last survey). For the Ruthenian national

minority, the number of municipalities has increased (fully from 1 to 2 and partially from 5 to 8), but two municipalities with a Ukrainian national minority, which previously did not keep chronicles in the language of the national minority, are now also partially keeping chronicles. In the case of municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, the number of municipalities that keep the chronicle in the Hungarian language in its entirety has increased (from 166 to 179), and the number of those that keep it only partially in the minority language has decreased (from 57 to 42). The Roma language is not used in the chronicles, nor is the German language, which has not been used in this area until now. 226 municipalities (201 in the last survey) with a national minority do not keep a chronicle at all.

Table 21: Chronicle of the municipality kept in the language of a national minority (Sec. 3(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	does not apply to our municipality	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	179	35 %	42	8 %	102	20 %	182	36 %	4	1 %	509
Ruthenian	2	3 %	8	12 %	26	40 %	29	45 %	0	0 %	65
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	42	81 %	10	19 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	2	14 %	8	57 %	4	29 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	181	28 %	52	8 %	178	28 %	226	35 %	4	1 %	641

3.1.3 Municipal police (questions 30 – 34)

If those present agree, the language of a national minority may be used in official communication with the municipal police in addition to the national language. The municipal police operated in one municipality with a Ruthenian minority, in 4 municipalities with a Roma minority and in 46 municipalities with a Hungarian minority, as in the last survey.

The share of municipal police officers who have at least a spoken command of the language of a national minority has increased (from 78.1% to 79.2%) and has also increased for both the Hungarian (from 77.9% to 78.9%) and Roma (from 76.2% to 79.2%) national minorities. There has been no change in a Ruthenian national minority – every member of the municipal police has a verbal command of the Ruthenian language. Among the Hungarian national minority, the number and share of municipal police officers who have a command of the Hungarian language in both written and spoken form (from 49% to 59.8%) has increased at the expense of those who have a command of it only in spoken form (from 28.9% to 19.1%). For the Roma national minority it is just the opposite: the number and share of municipal police officers who have a command of the Roma language only in spoken form (from 57% to 66.7%) has increased at the expense of those who have a command of it in both spoken and written form (from 19% to 12.5%). There are no municipal police in municipalities with Ukrainian and German minorities. In one municipality with a Hungarian national minority, the command of the language of national minority is not monitored. In one municipality with a Hungarian minority and in one municipality with a Roma minority, there is not a single municipal police officer who has a command of a minority language.

Table 22: Number and share of municipal police officers having a command of the language of a national minority

	total number	in word and in	share in %	in	share in %	total	share in %
Hungarian	351	210	59.83 %	67	19.09 %	277	78.92 %
Ruthenian	5	0	0 %	5	100 %	5	100 %
Roma	24	3	12.50 %	16	66.67 %	19	79.17 %
Ukrainian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
German	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	380	213	56.05 %	88	23.16 %	301	79.21 %

The municipal police in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority use the Hungarian language in the performance of their duties in 36 municipalities (35 in the last survey), in 7 municipalities partially (10 in the last survey) and do not use it in 3 municipalities (1 in the last survey). In 3 municipalities with a Roma national minority, the Roma language is used in this area (in 4 in the last survey) and in one municipality it is not used (as in the last survey). In a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, the situation has not changed; the municipal police still use it in the performance of their duties.

Table 23: Use of the language of a national minority in the performance of official duties of the municipal police (Sec. 7(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	partially	no
Hungarian	36	7	3
Ruthenian	1	0	0
Roma	3	0	1
Ukrainian	0	0	0
German	0	0	0
TOTAL	40	7	4

In 19 municipalities, the municipal police expressed the consent of those present to the use of the language of a national minority in their official communication (20 in the last survey) and in 8 municipalities in some cases (10 in the last survey). In 21 municipalities this situation did not occur during the reference period (16 in the last survey) and in 3 municipalities (1 with a Hungarian and 2 with a Roma national minority) those present did not express their consent to the use of the language of a national minority (6 in the last survey).

Table 24: Expression of consent of those present to the use of the language of a national minority in the official communication of the municipal police (Sec.7(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	no	in some cases	no such situation has arisen
Hungarian	17	1	8	20
Ruthenian	1	0	0	0
Roma	1	2	0	1
Ukrainian	0	0	0	0
German	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	19	3	8	21

In 43 municipalities (42 in the last survey), municipal police officers use the language of a national minority when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority, and in 5 municipalities they use it partially (7 in the last survey). In 3 municipalities (the same as in the last survey) the language of a national minority is not used in

communication between municipal police officers and citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority, namely in 2 municipalities with a Roma national minority and in one municipality with a Hungarian national minority.

Table 25: Use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal police who have a command of the language of a national minority when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority (Sec. 7(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	partially	no
Hungarian	40	4	2
Ruthenian	1	0	0
Roma	2	1	1
Ukrainian	0	0	0
German	0	0	0
TOTAL	43	5	3

3.1.4 Bilingual documents (questions 35 – 57)

Pursuant to Act No. 184/1999 Coll., all municipalities listed in Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. are obliged to provide citizens with official forms issued within the scope of their jurisdiction upon request in bilingual form. Municipalities are able to fulfil this obligation when such forms are available to them. The results of the current survey show that for each national minority, the number of municipalities that have provided the forms in full (from 191 to 257) or at least partially (from 186 to 213) has increased.

The most significant increase was in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, where bilingual forms were provided in 237 municipalities (179 municipalities in the last survey) and in 187 municipalities (169 municipalities in the last survey) partially, but the tendencies are similar for a Ruthenian (fully from 9 to 12, partially from 10 to 17), for a Roma (fully from 3 to 5, partially from 4 to 6) and also for a Ukrainian national minority (fully from 0 to 2, partially from 2 to 3). The municipality with a German minority stated that it had bilingual forms available in full.

In identifying the relevant areas, for the first time the questionnaire provided possible answers based on the experience of previous surveys, with the possibility for municipalities to provide additional answers. The largest part of municipalities provided bilingual forms for elections, other bilingual forms are provided mainly in the field of population registration, civil registry, construction, local taxes and fees, education, social affairs, environment and housing.

Table 26: Provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of the municipality (Sec. 2(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	237	47 %	187	37 %	82	16 %	3	1 %	509
Ruthenian	12	18 %	17	26 %	35	54 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	5	10 %	6	12 %	40	77 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	2	14 %	3	21 %	8	57 %	1	7 %	14
German	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	257	40 %	213	33 %	165	26 %	6	1 %	641

Requests for the issue of official forms bilingually were received in 55 municipalities (39 in the last survey), namely in municipalities with a Hungarian (50, 38 in the last survey) and a

Ruthenian national minority (2, 1 in the last survey). Of that number, 50 municipalities received 703 requests for such forms (compared to 31 municipalities receiving 1,016 in the last survey). For other national minorities, no such request was registered either now or in the last survey.

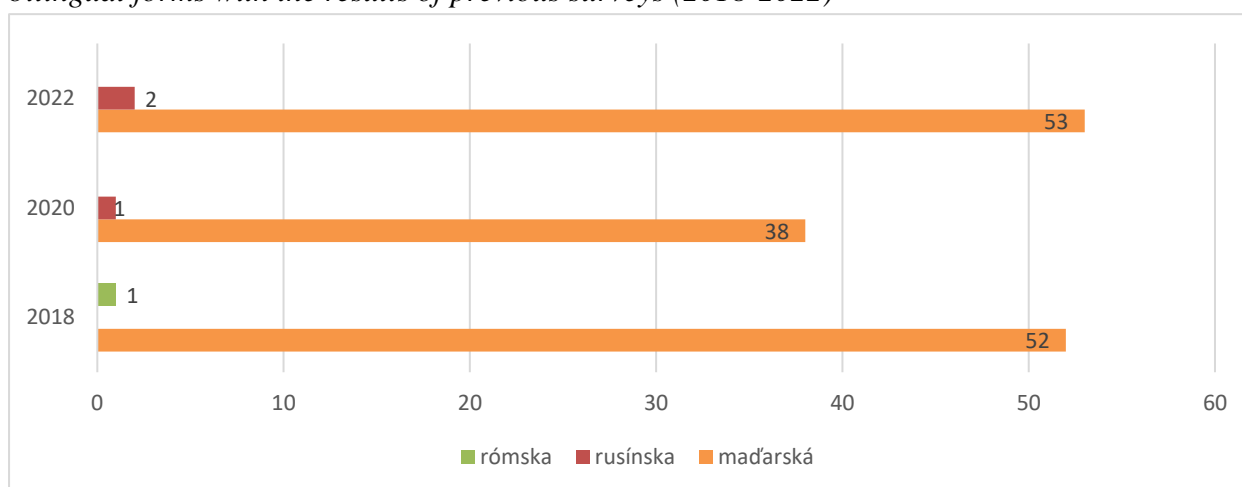
47 municipalities with a Hungarian and 2 municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority fulfilled the obligation to issue such forms on request (in the previous survey 32 municipalities with a Hungarian and one with a Ruthenian national minority). According to the results of the survey, 16 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority (28 in the last survey) and one municipality with a Roma national minority (the same as in the last survey) stated that they issued bilingual forms, although they had not registered a request for issuance during the reference period. In total, according to the survey, bilingual forms were issued in 66 municipalities in 648 cases (1,219 in 44 municipalities in the last survey).

In accordance with Sec. 7b(1)(d) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offence may have been committed in this area by failing to provide an official form issued within the scope of the municipality's competence also in the language of a minority on request in 11 cases in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority: 6 municipalities did not issue any form upon request (5 in the last survey) and 5 municipalities (1 in the last survey) issued a bilingual form only for some of such requests. One Hungarian municipality did not indicate whether it had issued the forms requested.

Table 27: Requests received for the issue of official forms bilingually, in the national language and in the language of a national minority

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	53	10 %	444	87 %	12	2 %	509
Ruthenian	2	3 %	62	95 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	0	0 %	50	96 %	2	4 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	14	100 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	55	9 %	571	89 %	15	2 %	641

Chart 5: Comparison of data on the number of requests received for the issuance of official bilingual forms with the results of previous surveys (2018-2022)



Requests for bilingual official documents (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) were received by 55 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority (51 in the previous survey, including one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority). Of that number, 458 requests were submitted in 53 municipalities. This number has not changed

significantly (455 in the last survey). In the reference period, 400 requests for various documents (404 in the last survey), 25 requests for declarations (13 in the last survey), 21 requests for authorisations (2 in the last survey), 8 requests for permits (25 in the last survey) and 4 requests for statements (8 in the last survey) were submitted.

Bilingual public documents on request were issued by 50 municipalities during the reference period (48 municipalities in the previous survey), one municipality issued more public documents than requested, but one municipality did not issue all requested public documents. 5 municipalities did not fulfil their legal obligation at all. The municipalities issued a total of 458 public documents in minority languages (475 in the last survey) based on such requests, including 400 certificates (427 in the last survey), 25 declarations (13 in the last survey), 21 authorizations (2 in the last survey), 8 permits (25 in the last survey), and 4 statements (8 in the last survey).

In the municipalities with Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Roma and German national minorities, no requests for the issuance of official documents in the language of a national minority were submitted and therefore these municipalities did not issue them.

Table 28: Delivery of requests for bilingual official documents (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) (Sec. 2(5) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	55	11 %	440	86 %	14	3 %	509
Ruthenian	0	0 %	64	98 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	0	0 %	52	100 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	14	100 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	55	9 %	571	89 %	15	2 %	641

Requests for the issuance of civil registry certificates were received by 126 municipalities (124 municipalities in the last survey), of which 124 municipalities with a Hungarian minority (122 in the last survey) and 2 municipalities with a Ruthenian minority (the same as in the last survey), with 1,511 requests for the issuance of birth certificates, 566 requests for the issuance of marriage certificates and 372 requests for the issuance of death certificates.

Bilingual civil registry certificates were issued in 126 municipalities (127 in the previous survey), of which 2 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority issued them, although they did not register any requests for their issuance during the reference period.

In accordance with Sec. 7b(1)(e) of Act No.184/1999 Coll., an administrative offence may have been committed in this area by not issuing a birth, marriage or death certificate in the language of a minority upon request by a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority in one municipality with a Hungarian national minority.

In the reference period, municipalities issued a total of 1,513 bilingual birth certificates (1,387 in the previous survey), 570 marriage certificates (616 in the previous survey) and 370 death certificates (560 in the previous survey). In municipalities with Roma, Ukrainian and German national minorities, no requests for bilingual civil registry certificates had been registered and therefore none were issued.

Table 29: Delivery of requests for the issue of bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates (5 Sec. 2(5) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	does not apply to our municipality	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	124	24 %	83	16 %	251	49 %	51	10 %	509
Ruthenian	2	3 %	10	15 %	40	62 %	13	20 %	65
Roma	0	0 %	16	31 %	35	67 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	2	14 %	9	64 %	3	21 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	126	20 %	111	17 %	336	52 %	68	11 %	641

Pursuant to Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the decision of a public authority in administrative proceedings is issued in the municipality in addition to the national language in a straight copy in the language of a national minority if the proceedings were initiated in the language of a national minority or upon request. In the reference period, 6 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority received such submissions (5 in the previous survey), while 4 municipalities reported receiving a total of 13 such submissions (8 in 3 municipalities in the previous survey). In municipalities with Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Roma and German national minorities, no submissions in the language of a national minority were registered to initiate administrative proceedings.

Out of these 6 municipalities, 2 stated that no bilingual decisions were issued on their side, despite the fact that the proceeding had been initiated by a submission in Hungarian. In 9 municipalities, no submissions initiating administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority or requests for bilingual decisions had been received during the reference period, but bilingual decisions were issued. It can be assumed that the municipalities also listed those decisions that they issued without an administrative proceedings.

In 13 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, decisions in administrative proceedings were issued in both the national language and the language of a national minority (4 on the basis of the initiation of proceedings in the language of a minority and 9 on their own initiative). The number of decisions issued in the language of a minority has decreased to 9,767 (15,403 decisions in the last survey), while the number of municipalities issuing these decisions has not changed significantly. One municipality stated that it had registered a submission in the language of a national minority, but did not indicate whether it had issued a bilingual decision.

Table 30: Delivery of submissions initiating administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority (Sec. 2(4) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	6	1 %	499	98 %	4	1 %	509
Ruthenian	0	0 %	65	100 %	0	0 %	65
Roma	0	0 %	51	98 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	14	100 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	6	1 %	630	98 %	5	1 %	641

Table 31: Issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings in a straight copy in the language of a national minority on the basis of a submission in a straight copy also in the language of a national minority (Sec. 2(4) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
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Hungarian	13	3 %	425	83 %	71	14 %	509
Ruthenian	0	0 %	56	86 %	9	14 %	65
Roma	0	0 %	47	90 %	5	10 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	13	93 %	1	7 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	13	2 %	542	85 %	86	13 %	641

In the reference period, 7 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority received requests for bilingual decisions (3 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority and one with a Ruthenian national minority in the previous survey), with 6 municipalities reporting that they had received a total of 309 such requests (6 requests in 3 municipalities in the previous survey). In municipalities with Ukrainian, Roma and German national minorities, no requests for bilingual decisions were registered.

The decisions issued mainly concerned local taxes and fees, but also social issues, neighbourhood disputes or administrative proceedings. Of the 7 municipalities, 5 issued a bilingual decision on local taxes and fees, that is without administrative proceedings.

In accordance with Sec. 7b(1)(b) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offence may have been committed in this area by not issuing a copy of the decision in the language of a minority upon request of a citizen of the Slovak Republic who is a person belonging to a national minority in 2 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority. These municipalities stated that the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority, which appears alongside the name of the municipality in the national language on decisions issued in the language of a national minority, does not apply to them.

In municipalities with Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Roma and German national minorities, decisions in administrative proceedings were not issued in both the original and the language of a national minority.

Table 32: Delivery of requests for bilingual decisions Sec. 2(4) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	7	1 %	486	95 %	17	3 %	509
Ruthenian	0	0 %	60	92 %	5	8 %	65
Roma	0	0 %	51	98 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	13	93 %	1	7 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	7	1 %	611	95 %	24	4 %	641

Despite the fact that few municipalities issued a decision in administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority (see above), 94 municipalities (81 in the previous survey) declared that they had also indicated the municipality's designation in the language of a national minority on decisions issued in the language of a national minority.

For Hungarian (from 76 to 90) and Roma (from 0 to 1) national minorities, the number of municipalities that also indicated their designation in the language of a national minority on decisions issued in the language of a national minority has increased, and for a Ruthenia national minority the number of such municipalities has decreased (from 4 to 3). 14 municipalities gave the answer b) partially (15 in the last survey), 12 with a Hungarian minority (13 in the last survey) and 2 with a Ruthenian minority (the same as in the last survey).

In accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll., in addition to the name of the municipality in the national language, the name of the municipality is also indicated in the language of a national

minority on decisions issued in the language of a national minority. This obligation does not apply to those municipalities whose designation in the language of the national minority coincides with the name in the national language, that is municipalities with a Roma national minority and 9 such municipalities with a Hungarian national minority (4 of them stated that the matter does not concern them, 2 did not indicate such a name, 2 indicated such a name and one municipality did not answer the question). In accordance with Sec. 7b(1)(e) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offence could have been committed in this area by failing to ensure the designation of the municipality in the language of the minority in one municipality with a Hungarian national minority that issued decisions in the Hungarian language, but only partially indicated the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority.

Table 33: The designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority indicated alongside the name of the municipality in the national language on decisions issued in the language of a national minority (Sec. 4(1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	does not apply to our municipality	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	90	18 %	12	2 %	76	15 %	255	50 %	76	15 %	509
Ruthenian	3	5 %	2	3 %	15	23 %	38	58 %	7	11 %	65
Roma	1	2 %	0	0 %	14	27 %	30	58 %	7	13 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	3	21 %	10	71 %	1	7 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	94	15 %	14	2 %	109	17 %	333	52 %	91	14 %	641

3.1.5 Meetings of local authority bodies (questions 58 – 62)

In accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll., a member of the municipal council has the right to use the language of a national minority in proceedings of the municipal council. The current survey results show that for almost every national minority, the number of municipalities where municipal deputies use the language of a national minority in the municipal council meetings has increased: in 329 municipalities with a Hungarian (320 municipalities in the last survey), in 36 municipalities with a Ruthenian (32 municipalities in the last survey) and in 5 municipalities with a Ukrainian (4 municipalities in the last survey) national minority. The situation has not changed in municipalities with Roma and German national minorities.

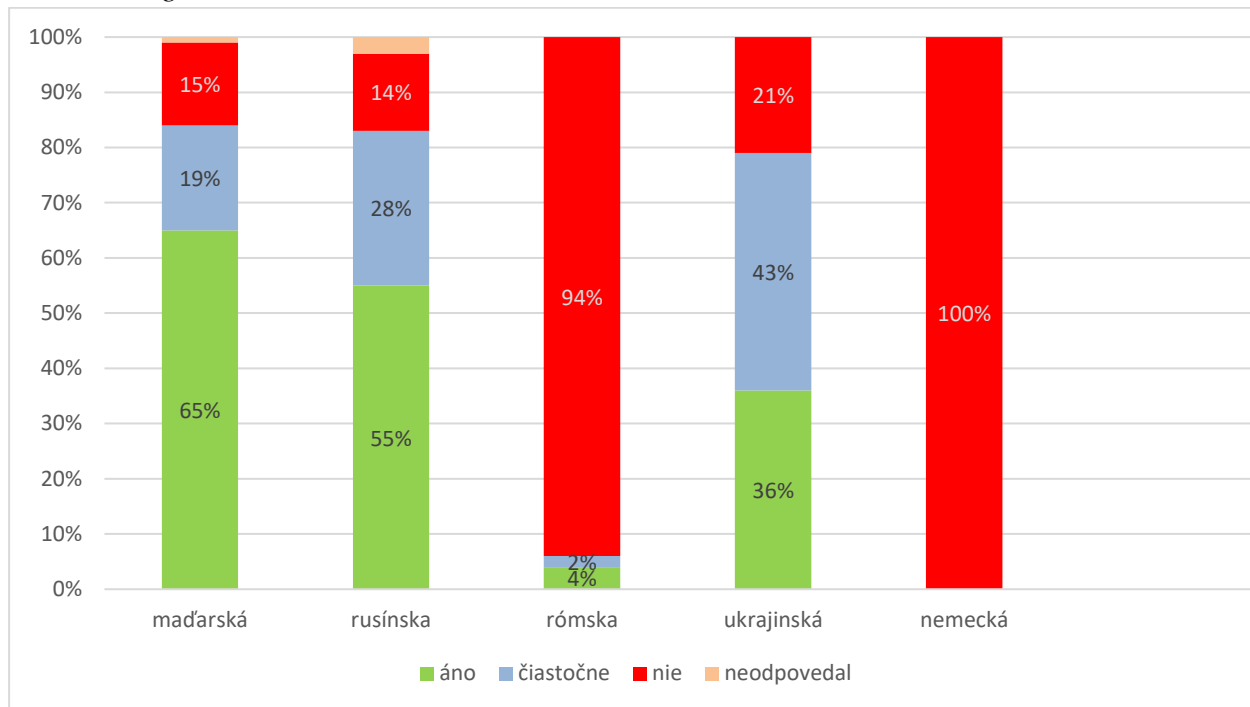
In 124 municipalities, municipal deputies used the national language and partly also the language of a national minority (in the previous survey in 123 municipalities). The number of such municipalities increased for a Hungarian national minority (from 94 to 99), decreased for a Ruthenian (from 19 to 18) and Roma (from 4 to 1), while the situation remained unchanged in the municipalities with a Ukrainian national minority. In the municipality with a German national minority, deputies do not use German in their meetings.

Table 34: Use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal/city council (Sec. 3(2) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	329	65 %	99	19 %	74	15 %	7	1 %	509
Ruthenian	36	55 %	18	28 %	9	14 %	2	3 %	65
Roma	2	4 %	1	2 %	49	94 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	5	36 %	6	43 %	3	21 %	0	0 %	14

German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	372	58 %	124	19 %	136	21 %	9	1 %	641

Chart 6: Use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal/city council at their meetings



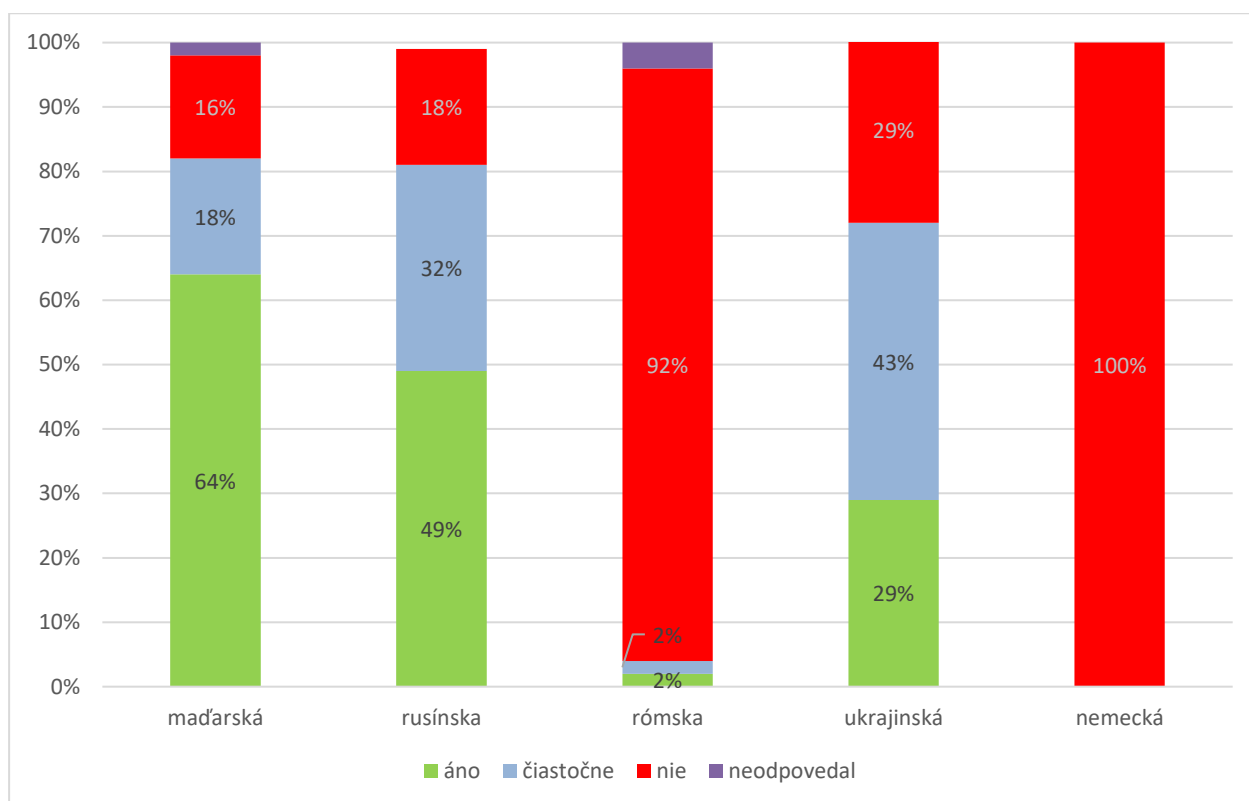
The number of municipalities whose Mayors also used the language of a national minority in municipal council meetings has also increased (from 354 to 362): for a Hungarian (from 317 to 325) and a Ruthenian (from 30 to 32) national minority the number has increased, for a Roma it has decreased (from 3 to 1), and the number of for a Ukrainian national minority has remained the same.

The number of municipalities in which the national language and partly the language of a national minority were used also increased (from 120 to 122). The Hungarian (from 91 to 94), Ruthenian (from 19 to 21) and Ukrainian (from 5 to 6) national minorities also increased; only the Roma national minority (from 5 to 1) decreased. In the municipality with a German national minority, the Mayor does not use German in their meetings.

Table 35: Use of the language of a national minority by the Mayor (Sec. 3(2) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	325	64 %	94	18 %	81	16 %	9	2 %	509
Ruthenian	32	49 %	21	32 %	12	18 %	0	0 %	65
Roma	1	2 %	1	2 %	48	92 %	2	4 %	52
Ukrainian	4	29 %	6	43 %	4	29 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	362	56 %	122	19 %	146	23 %	11	2 %	641

Chart 7: Use of the language of a national minority by the Mayor at the meetings of the municipal/city council



The meetings of municipal councils may also be held in the language of a national minority if all those present agree.

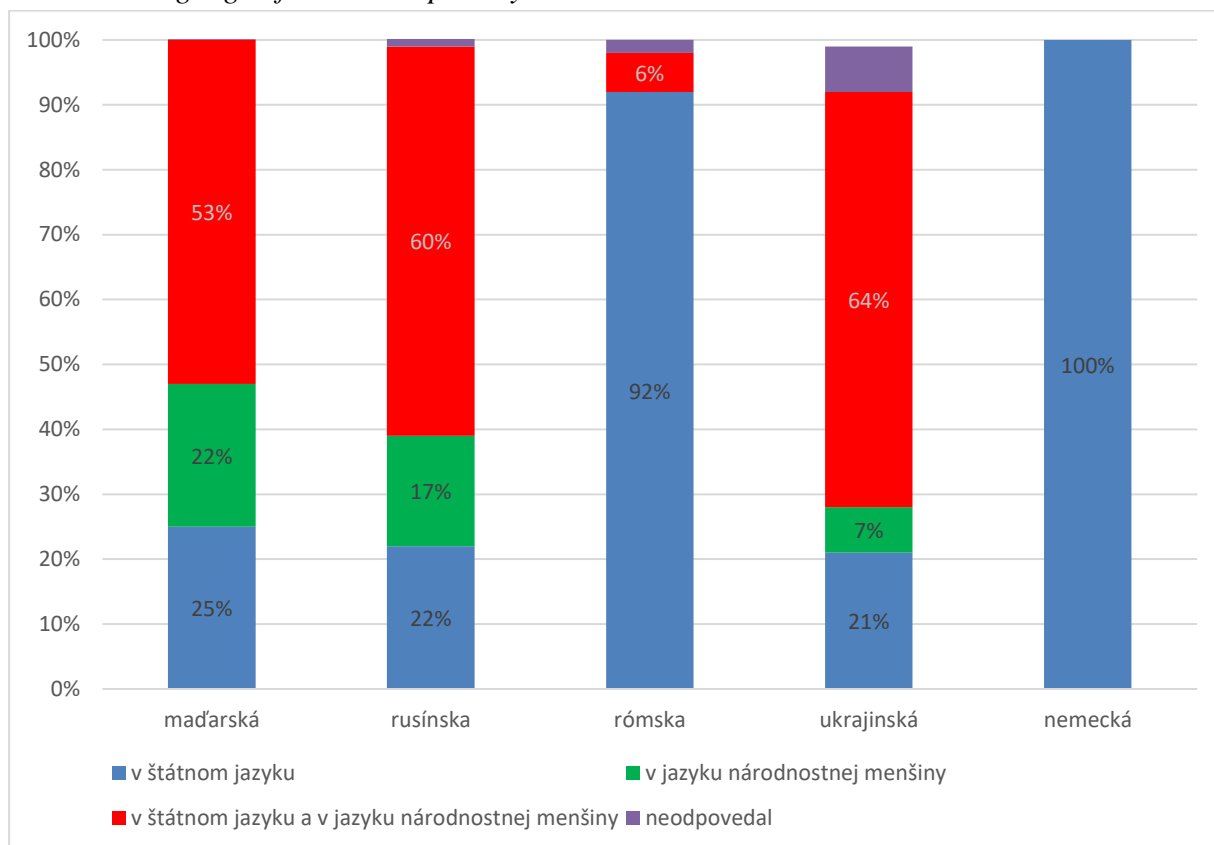
The results of the survey showed that for all national minorities except German, the number of municipalities in which deputies were bilingual increased (from 301 to 319). In 268 municipalities with a Hungarian minority (255 in the last survey), in 39 municipalities with a Ruthenian minority (37 in the last survey), in 9 municipalities with a Ukrainian minority (8 in the last survey) and in 3 municipalities with a Roma minority (1 in the last survey), meetings are held in the national language and in the language of a national minority.

The number of municipalities where meetings were held only in the language of a national minority also increased slightly (from 118 to 122): the number of Hungarian (from 107 to 110) and Ruthenian (from 9 to 11) municipalities has increased, the number of Roma municipalities has decreased (from 1 to 0), and the number of Ukrainian municipalities has remained unchanged (1 municipality has its meetings in the language of a national minority). Municipalities with a German minority do not use the German language in the meetings of the municipal council.

Table 36: The language of the municipal/city council (Sec. 3(1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	in the national language	share in %	in the language of a national minority	share in %	in the national language and in the language of a national minority	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	127	25 %	110	22 %	268	53 %	4	1 %	509
Ruthenian	14	22 %	11	17 %	39	60 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	48	92 %	0	0 %	3	6 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	3	21 %	1	7 %	9	64 %	1	7 %	14
German	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	193	30 %	122	19 %	319	50 %	7	1 %	641

Chart 8: Language of the municipal/city council



Closely related to this area is the language in which the materials for the municipal council are prepared. The number of municipalities where these materials are also prepared in the language of a national minority has increased significantly (from 40 to 74), especially for a Hungarian national minority (from 38 to 71) and slightly for a Roma national minority (from 1 to 2). For the Ruthenian national minority, there is still only one municipality that prepares materials in the Ruthenian language. In 178 municipalities these materials are prepared partly in the language of a national minority (in the last survey in 181 municipalities), of which in 173 municipalities with a Hungarian (in the last survey in 174 municipalities) and in 5 municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority (the same as in the last survey). In the Ukrainian and German languages the materials for the meetings are not prepared (in the last survey there was one Ukrainian municipality in which they had been prepared).

Table 37: Materials for the meeting of the municipal/city council in the language of a national minority (Sec. 3(4) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	71	14 %	173	34 %	257	50 %	8	2 %	509
Ruthenian	1	2 %	5	8 %	59	91 %	0	0 %	65
Roma	2	4 %	0	0 %	49	94 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	14	100 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	74	12 %	178	28 %	380	59 %	9	1 %	641

Pursuant to Act No. 184/1999 Coll., other participants in the proceedings of the municipal council may use the language of a national minority if all the members of the

municipal council present and the Mayor of the municipality agree, with interpretation provided by the municipality.

In the survey on how to ensure the possibility of using the language of a national minority in the municipal council meetings, possible answers were given for the first time in the questionnaire, while municipalities were also given the opportunity to give other answers. According to the results of the survey, 415 municipalities provide interpretation services when needed through the Mayor/member of the council (40 in the last survey), 241 municipalities provide it through municipal employees (39 in the last survey), 15 municipalities provide interpretation services (68 in the last survey), and one municipality provides it through its chief auditor. 4 municipalities did not specify how. 61 municipalities stated that translation is not necessary as the deputies, Mayor and participants have a command of the language of a national minority (228 in the previous survey), 8 municipalities stated that the proceedings are conducted in the language of a national minority and one municipality stated that the proceedings are conducted bilingually. In 90 municipalities, interpretation was not provided at all (8 in the last survey). The differences from the previous survey reflect a change in methodology, and continuity of development will need to be monitored in the coming period.

3.1.6 Public information (questions 63 – 76)

The results of the survey showed that during the reference period, no requests for information on generally binding legal regulations in addition to the national language were received in the language of a national minority in any municipality (in the previous survey there were still 5 municipalities). Thus, such information was not even provided.

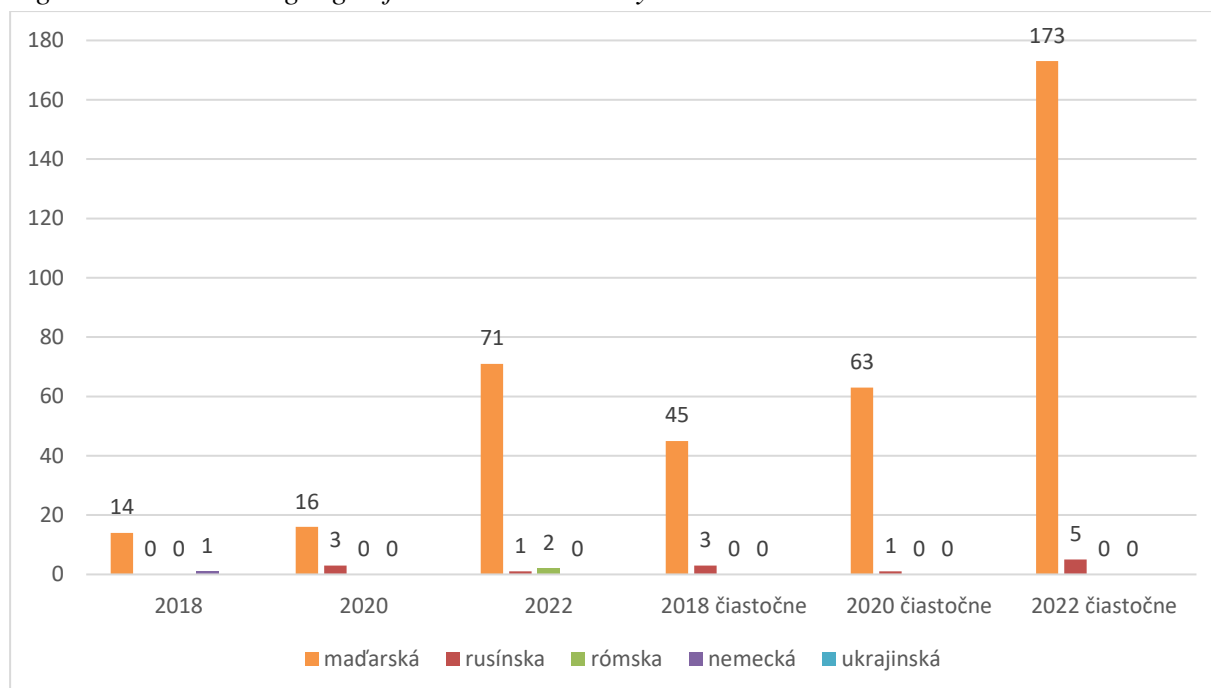
The number of municipalities that issued and published general binding municipal regulations in the national language and in the language of a national minority increased (from 19 to 23), especially municipalities with a Hungarian national minority (from 16 to 21), but there was also the first municipality with a Roma national minority that took advantage of this possibility. However, there has been a decline in the Ruthenian minority (from 3 to 1). In 69 municipalities these regulations were issued in the national language and partly in the language of the national minority (in 64 municipalities in the last survey), namely in 66 municipalities with a Hungarian minority (in 63 in the last survey) and in 3 municipalities with a Ruthenian minority (in 1 municipality in the last survey). In municipalities with a Ukrainian and German national minority, general binding municipal regulations were not issued and published in the language of a national minority.

Table 38: Issue and publication of generally binding regulations of the municipality in the language of the national minority (Sec. 4(9) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	21	4 %	66	13 %	416	82 %	6	1 %	509
Ruthenian	1	2 %	3	5 %	60	92 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	1	2 %	0	0 %	51	98 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	14	100 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1

TOTAL	23	4 %	69	11 %	542	85 %	7	1 %	641
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Chart 9: Comparison of data on the issuance and publication of generally binding municipal regulations in the language of a national minority 2018-2022



In addition to the national language, 355 municipalities (312 in the previous survey), including 321 municipalities with a Hungarian minority (283 in the previous survey), 24 municipalities with a Ruthenian minority (20 in the previous survey), 6 municipalities with a Roma minority (5 in the previous survey) and 4 municipalities with a Ukrainian minority (4 in the previous survey), provided information on threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public that are under the administration of the municipality. It follows from the above that there has been a significant positive shift in the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in this area.

In accordance with Sec. 7b(1)(f) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offence could have been committed in this area by failing to display an inscription or a notice containing information relating to a threat to the life, health, property or safety of Slovak citizens in the language of a minority in 277 cases. 120 municipalities with a Hungarian (126 in the last survey), 8 with a Ruthenian (11 in the last survey), 6 with a Roma (9 in the last survey) and 4 with a Ukrainian (1 in the last survey) national minority provided this information only partially in the language of a minority, and 60 municipalities with a Hungarian (73 in the last survey), 33 with a Ruthenian (31 in the last survey), 40 with a Roma (also 40 in the last survey), 5 with a Ukrainian (10 in the last survey) and one with a German national minority did not fulfil this obligation at all. In 2 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, such information is published via pictograms. Overall, the number of municipalities failing to meet these obligations has decreased.

Table 39: Information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in the language of a national minority in places accessible to the public that are under the administration of the municipality (Sec. 4(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
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Hungarian	321	63 %	120	24 %	60	12 %	8	2 %	509
Ruthenian	24	37 %	8	12 %	33	51 %	0	0 %	65
Roma	6	12 %	6	12 %	40	77 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	4	29 %	4	29 %	5	36 %	1	7 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	355	55 %	138	22 %	139	22 %	9	1 %	641

The municipality, by its active approach, can have a significant positive influence on the level of application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. As an administrative body, it should also contribute by its control activities to the fact that information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in certain areas is used in accordance with the Act. The municipality is in accordance with Act no. 50/1976 Coll. on Territorial Planning and Building Regulations (Building Act) a building authority, and accordingly, it may control the marking of building sites also with regard to the provision of information relating to the threat to life, health, safety or property of the citizens of the Slovak Republic.

The number of municipalities checking the marking of building sites with regard to this information has increased (from 237 to 273), especially in municipalities with a Hungarian (from 201 to 230) and a Ruthenian national minority (from 15 to 25), but also in a municipality with a German national minority. However, the number of Roma national minorities decreased (from 17 to 13), while the number of Ukrainian national minorities remained unchanged. The number of municipalities that only partially exercise this control has also increased (from 141 to 155), but only for a Hungarian national minority (from 117 to 138). The number of municipalities decreased for Ruthenian (from 11 to 8) and Roma (from 10 to 7) national minorities. The situation has not changed for the Ukrainian minority.

Table 40: The municipality also inspects the construction site signage, including with respect to information relating to threats to the life, health, safety or property of the citizens of the SR. (Sec. 4(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	partially	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	230	45 %	122	24 %	138	27 %	19	4 %	509
Ruthenian	25	38 %	32	49 %	8	12 %	0	0 %	65
Roma	13	25 %	31	60 %	7	13 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	4	29 %	8	57 %	2	14 %	0	0 %	14
German	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	273	43 %	193	30 %	155	24 %	20	3 %	641

The municipality, when determining the use of traffic signs on local and special purpose roads, ensures that information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens is also provided in the language of a national minority on the additional text plates to the traffic signs.

For each national minority, the number of municipalities (from 211 to 245 in total) that ensured that such information was also provided in the language of a minority increased: for a Hungarian minority from 189 to 215, for a Ruthenian minority from 3 to 7, and for a Ukrainian minority from 3 to 4. They partially fulfilled their function in 113 municipalities (117 in the last survey), namely in 104 with a Hungarian national minority (109 in the last survey), in 5 with a Ruthenian minority (the same as in the last survey), in 2 with a Roma minority (3 in the last survey), in 1 with a Ukrainian minority (there were no such municipalities in the last survey) and

also in the municipality with a German national minority (this was not the case in the last survey).

Table 41: The municipality ensures that information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens is also provided in the language of a national minority on the additional text signs to the traffic signs (Sec. 4(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	215	42 %	104	20 %	159	31 %	31	6 %	509
Ruthenian	19	29 %	5	8 %	40	62 %	2	3 %	65
Roma	7	13 %	2	4 %	43	83 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	4	29 %	1	7 %	8	57 %	1	7 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	245	38 %	113	18 %	250	39 %	34	5 %	641

For the first time, the use of information road signs to guide road users with the names of designated destinations also in the language of a minority was surveyed. Although this is only a new option, 168 municipalities use such information signs and 82 municipalities use them partially. 3 municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority stated that they do not have such boards. As this obligation applies from 1 January 2022 and the questionnaire survey yielded very high figures, the OPNM believes that most municipalities may not have understood this question correctly. After additional research, the OPNM found that some municipalities had concluded that the question referred to informational signage of destinations in the municipality.

Table 42: The use of information road signs to guide road users with the names of designated destinations also in the language of a minority (Sec. 4(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	150	29 %	77	15 %	243	48 %	39	8 %	509
Ruthenian	11	17 %	3	5 %	50	77 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	3	6 %	1	2 %	47	90 %	1	2 %	52
Ukrainian	4	29 %	1	7 %	9	64 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	168	26 %	82	13 %	350	55 %	41	6 %	641

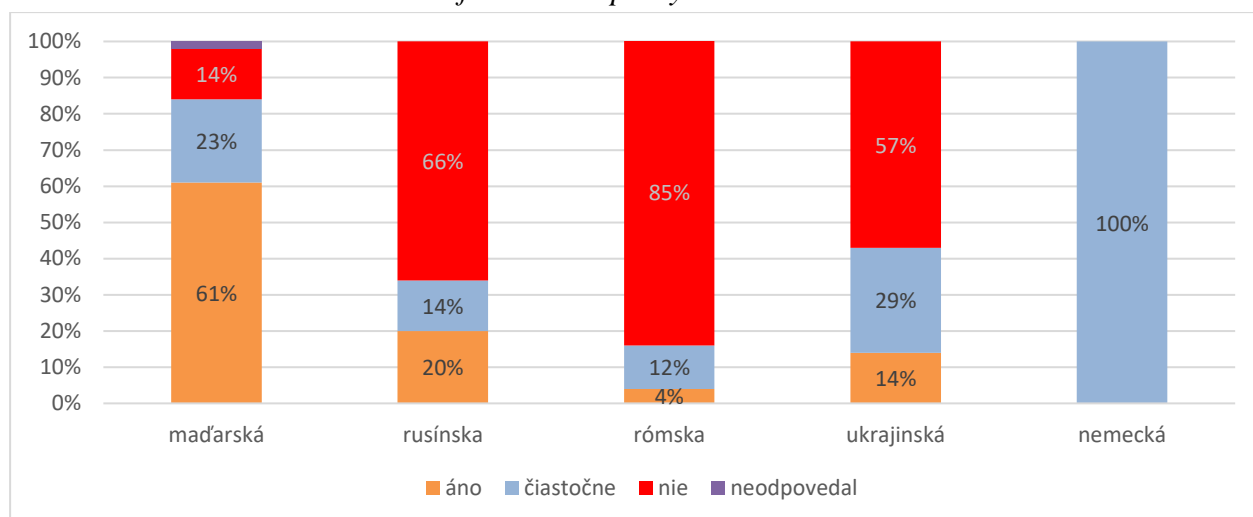
Signs and notices intended to inform the public (in particular in shops, sports grounds, restaurants, on streets, by and over roads, at airports, bus stations and railway stations) which are under the administration of the municipality, were also provided in the language of a national minority in 326 municipalities (283 in the last survey), namely in 309 municipalities with Hungarian (273 in the last survey), in 13 municipalities with Ruthenian (8 in the last survey), in 2 with Roma (the same as in the last survey) and in 2 with Ukrainian (no such municipality in the last survey) national minorities.

In the municipality with a German national minority, such signs and notices have already partially appeared, but overall, as in the case of other national minorities, the number of municipalities in which signs and notices were partially bilingual has decreased (from 164 to 136 overall, from 139 to 116 for a Hungarian, from 13 to 9 for a Ruthenian, from 7 to 6 for a Roma, and from 5 to 4 for a Ukrainian national minority).

Table 43: Signs and notices intended to inform the public, particularly in stores, sports venues, restaurants, on streets, at and over roads, at airports, bus stations and railway stations, are under the administration of the municipality, also in the language of a national minority (Sec. 4(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	309	61 %	116	23 %	71	14 %	13	3 %	509
Ruthenian	13	20 %	9	14 %	43	66 %	0	0 %	65
Roma	2	4 %	6	12 %	44	85 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	2	14 %	4	29 %	8	57 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	326	51 %	136	21 %	166	26 %	13	2 %	641

Chart 10 The signs and notices intended to inform the public, particularly in stores, sports venues, restaurants, on streets, at and over roads, at airports, bus stations and railway stations under the administration of the municipality



For every national minority except for a German national minority, the number of municipalities that used the possibility of informing the public via local radio or other technical devices in the language of a national minority has increased (from 484 to 508 overall, from 455 to 467 for a Hungarian, from 26 to 33 for a Ruthenian, from 1 to 2 for a Roma, and from 2 to 6 for a Ukrainian national minority).

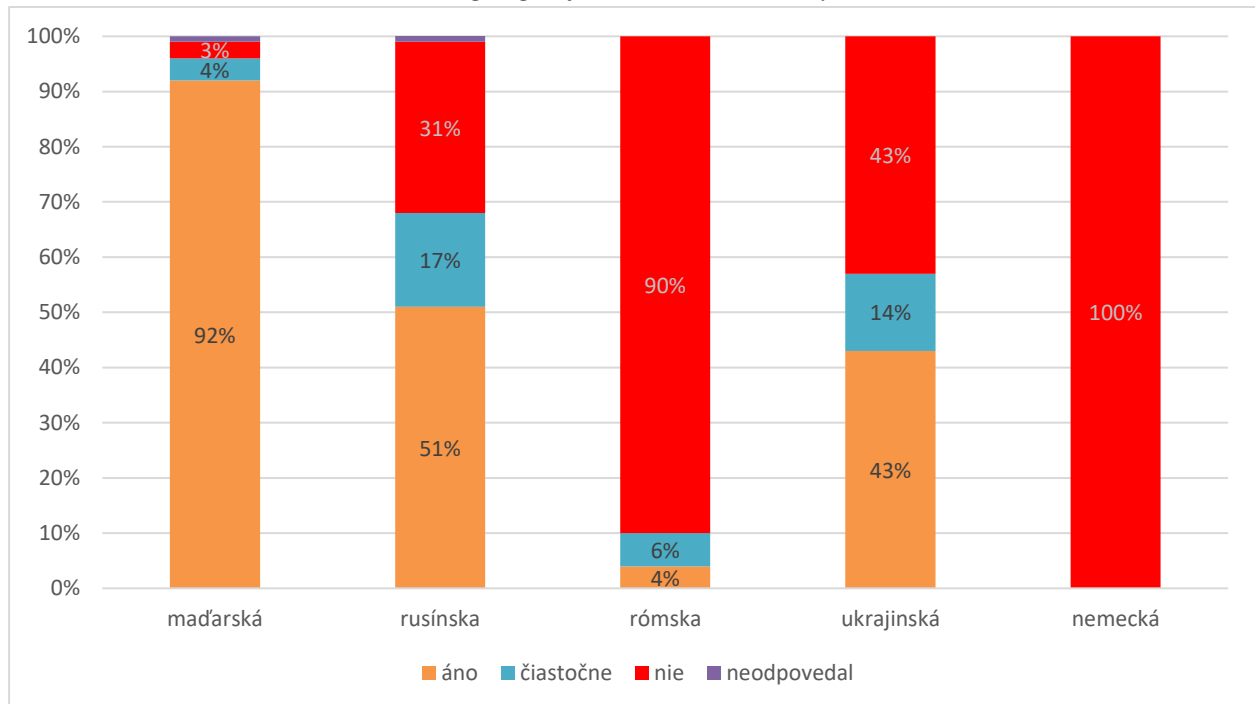
This option was partially used in 38 municipalities (44 in the last survey), namely in 22 municipalities with a Hungarian (18 in the last survey), in 11 municipalities with a Ruthenian (15 in the last survey), in 3 municipalities with a Roma (5 in the last survey) and in 2 municipalities with a Ukrainian (6 in the last survey) national minority. In the municipality with a German national minority in the area, the German language was not used.

Table 44: Announcements intended for informing the public via local radio or other technical devices are also presented in the language of the national minority (Sec. 5a(1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	467	92 %	22	4 %	14	3 %	6	1 %	509
Ruthenian	33	51 %	11	17 %	20	31 %	1	2 %	65
Roma	2	4 %	3	6 %	47	90 %	0	0 %	52

Ukrainian	6	43 %	2	14 %	6	43 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	508	79 %	38	6 %	88	14 %	7	1 %	641

Chart 11: Announcements intended to inform the public by means of local radio or other technical devices are also in the language of a national minority



When asked how municipalities publish public notices in the language of a national minority, possible answers were given for the first time, based on the experience of previous surveys, and municipalities were given the opportunity to give a different answer. 507 municipalities reported a municipal radio (476 in the last survey), 465 municipalities reported an official municipal board (450 in the last survey), 382 municipalities reported a municipal website (335 in the last survey), 89 municipalities reported a periodical press (88 in the last survey), 77 municipalities reported SMS (5 in the last survey), 48 municipalities reported mobile phone apps (5 in the last survey), 45 municipalities social networks (30 in the last survey), 25 municipalities municipal TV (19 in the last survey), 6 municipalities information board (15 in the last survey), 5 municipalities leaflets (5 in the last survey), 2 municipalities invitations and questionnaires and one municipality posters, e-mail, non-periodical press, information board at the bus stop and calendar on the municipality's website. Some municipalities mentioned only the location: in the building of the municipal office, on the entrance door (2 municipalities), in the municipal cultural facility (1 municipality), in the primary school and kindergarten (1 municipality). 5 municipalities stated that they provided information to the public only in the national language (4 in the last survey).

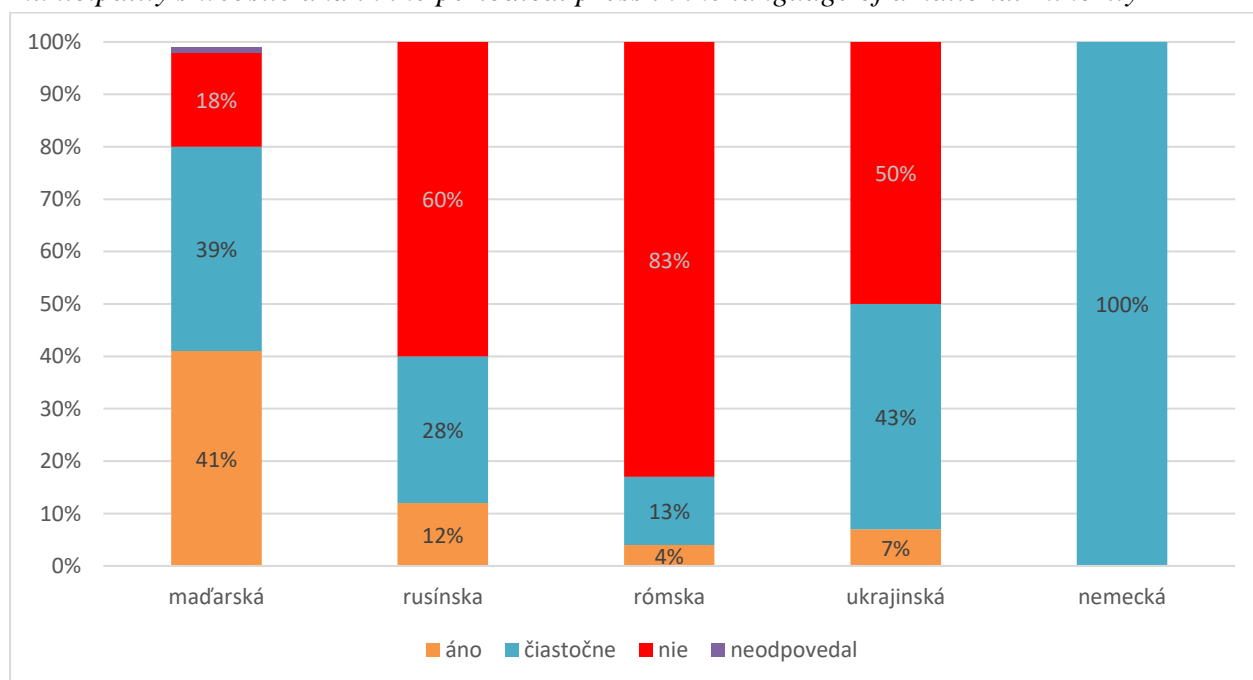
According to Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the municipality publishes important information on the municipality's official information board, on the municipality's website and in the periodical press in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language. The number of municipalities that have fulfilled this obligation has increased significantly (from 155 to 222), especially for a Hungarian minority (from 147 to 211), but also for a Ruthenian minority (from 7 to 8) and a Roma minority (from 0 to 2). For the Ukrainian minority, the situation has not changed (1 municipality).

The municipality with a German national minority have already partially provided this information in the language of a national minority. In addition, 229 municipalities (272 in the last survey) published this information in the national language and partly in the language of a national minority, including 198 municipalities with Hungarian (241 in the last survey), 18 municipalities with a Ruthenian (20 in the last survey), 7 municipalities with a Roma (the same as in the last survey) and 6 municipalities with a Ukrainian national minority (4 in the last survey).

Table 45: Provision of important information on the official municipal information board, on the municipality's website and in the periodical press in the language of a national minority (Sec. 5a(2) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	211	41 %	198	39 %	94	18 %	6	1 %	509
Ruthenian	8	12 %	18	28 %	39	60 %	0	0 %	65
Roma	2	4 %	7	13 %	43	83 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	1	7 %	6	43 %	7	50 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	222	35 %	230	36 %	183	29 %	6	1 %	641

Chart 12: Provision of important information on the official municipal information board, on the municipality's website and in the periodical press in the language of a national minority



The possibility to include inscriptions on monuments, memorials and commemorative plaques owned by the municipality in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language was used in 289 municipalities (296 in the previous survey). In 81 municipalities these signs are in the national language and partly in the language of a national minority (82 in the previous survey). 192 municipalities said that did not apply to them (175 in the last survey).

Table 46: Language of a national minority on monuments, memorials and commemorative plaques (Sec. 4(8) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	does not apply to our municipality	share in %	not answered	share in %	total
Hungarian	270	53 %	73	14 %	25	5 %	137	27 %	4	1 %	509
Ruthenian	16	25 %	6	9 %	18	28 %	25	38 %	0	0 %	65
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	28	54 %	24	46 %	0	0 %	52
Ukrainian	3	21 %	1	7 %	4	29 %	6	43 %	0	0 %	14
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	289	45 %	81	13 %	75	12 %	192	30 %	4	1 %	641

3.1.7 Final questions (questions 77 – 82)

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication was assessed by 365 municipalities as seamless (327 in the previous survey), by 181 municipalities as partially problematic (192 in the previous survey) and by 85 municipalities as problematic (83 in the previous survey). The reasons for the problematic situation were cited by 182 municipalities as insufficient funds (162 municipalities in the last survey), 147 municipalities as insufficient number of qualified employees (142 municipalities in the last survey), 126 municipalities as insufficient professional support (131 municipalities in the last survey), 11 municipalities as lack of time (8 municipalities in the last survey), 3 municipalities as lack of employees (6 municipalities in the last survey), and one municipality as having a large number of tasks in different areas.

One municipality stated that central authority materials to be "published by the usual means" should already include a translation. In one municipality, administrative activities are outsourced. Two municipalities have indicated that they are in receivership. The final questions of the questionnaire were devoted to complaints about violations of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. In 18 municipalities (38 municipalities in the last survey), namely in 15 municipalities with a Hungarian minority (26 in the last survey), in one municipality with a Ruthenian minority (9 in the last survey) and in 2 municipalities with a Roma minority (there was no such municipality in the last survey). In total, there were 23 complaints (53 in the last survey). In the municipalities with Ukrainian (3 municipalities in the last survey) and German national minorities, no such complaints were registered.

From the general responses to questions about the complaints, we conclude that most municipalities cited the Plenipotentiary's letters regarding the shortcomings arising from the previous report as a response. The municipalities registered complaints also in connection with additional signs at vertical traffic signs, markings of the municipality and parts of the municipality, or buildings, information boards, failure to provide information at the local road, on the municipality's website. Citizen input also initiated the IOS terminal designation.

The shortcomings have mostly been remedied or are being remedied on an ongoing basis. 3 municipalities did not indicate at all how they dealt with the complaints. 2 municipalities stated that they refuse to fill in the missing official forms as one municipality did not find suitable models and stated that there is no interest from the minority to issue official forms in their minority language, the other municipality stated that they will not invest funds for bilingual building signage and official forms as no one is asking for them.

Conclusions - comparison of 2020 and 2022 survey results

Compared to the results of the previous survey, the conditions for the use of languages of national minorities individual areas have generally improved, especially in the area of signs in the language of a national minority. The municipalities have also created more favourable circumstances in their official communication, but interest from residents has declined, albeit only slightly, which is reflected in the numbers of submissions and requests received and issued. Alarming, there has been an increase in the number of municipalities in which the conditions for the use of the language of a national minority are not provided or in which there is no employee who has a command of the language of a national minority. A new phenomenon is that no municipality registers a request for information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority.

The general findings are also valid for the Hungarian national minority, with the Hungarian minority continuing to be the most active in promoting linguistic rights, but here too there has been a noticeable decline over the reference period.

For a Ruthenian national minority, the conditions for the use of the languages of national minorities have also improved in individual areas, but minor shortcomings remain, such as the designation of the municipality in the Ruthenian language on bus station signs, the publication of information on the possibility of using the Ruthenian language, or the provision of written responses to written submissions in the Ruthenian language.

In the case of the Roma ethnic minority, municipalities have also made progress, especially in the area of the Roma language signage and public information. They use the Roma language more in their official communication and have more bilingual forms, but the frequency of using the Roma language decreases in the activities of the municipal police, in the meetings of the local authority bodies, and the citizens practically do not use the possibilities of using the Roma language in their contacts with the public administration bodies.

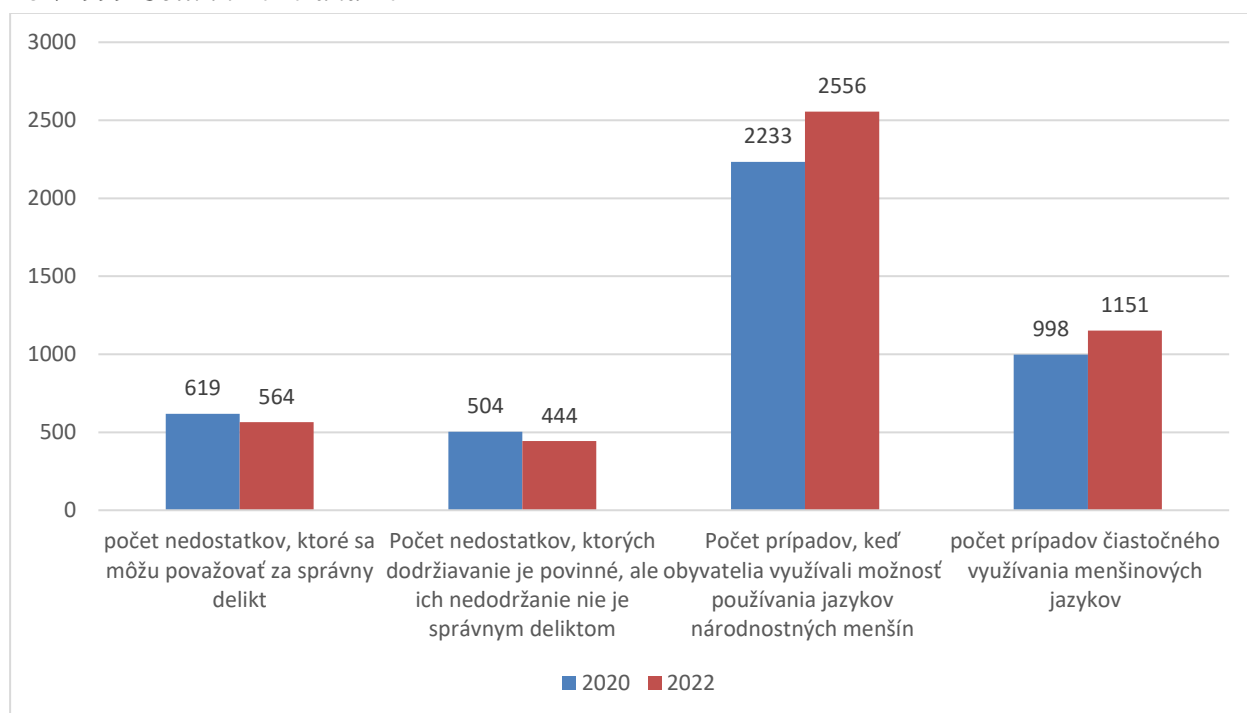
Among the Ukrainian national minority, the share of employees with Ukrainian language skills has increased and the Ukrainian language is used to a greater extent in the official agenda of the municipality. The same is true in relation to the meetings of local authorities. Municipalities have also made progress in public information. There have been no major changes in the area of signage in the Ukrainian language, nor has there been an increase in demand from citizens, which has been at a low level for a long time.

In the only municipality with a German minority during the reference period, they employed a person with at least a spoken command of the German language and have also provided some bilingual forms. They have also made progress in the area of public information, but have not published information on the possibility of using the language of a national minority.

The number of shortcomings (from 619 to 564) that can be considered as an administrative offence has decreased, and the situation has also improved in the area of language rights, compliance with which is mandatory but non-compliance with which is not an administrative offence (the number of shortcomings has decreased from 501 to 444, but it should be noted that this may be due to the modification of the questionnaire in relation to the question concerning the provision of interpretation for participants in the municipal council meeting). Municipalities with national minorities as well as their residents made use of the possibility of using the languages of national minorities in a higher number of cases than in the previous survey (the number of cases increased from 2, 233 to 2,556 and the number of cases of partial use of minority languages increased from 998 to 1,151). The number of cases in which language rights were not enforced at all has also increased, but the increase is mainly related to the new

legal possibility of using information road signs to guide road users with the names of designated destinations also in the language of a minority. This option is not yet used in the municipalities.

Chart 13: Overview of compliance with the obligations and possibilities arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in 2020 and 2022



Areas where there has been a general improvement (for individual national minorities, numbers have mostly increased or remained the same, with at most one national minority showing a decrease):

- return rate of questionnaires;

Designations in the language of a national minority:

- the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority on the road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality;
- the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority listed under the designation in the national language when designating the bus station;
- the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority listed under the designation in the national language when designating the port;
- the public authority designation placed on buildings in the language of a national minority;

- the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority is displayed alongside the designation of the municipality in the national language on public administration buildings;
- the designation of the public authority in the language of a national minority is displayed on buildings alongside the equivalent in the national language in the same font;
- the naming of streets in the language of a national minority;

Official communication:

- the share of employees who have a command of the language of a national minority in both written and spoken form;
- the number of municipalities with employees who have a command of the language of a national minority only in written form
- publication of information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in spoken and written form in official communication;
- publication of information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in spoken and written form in official communication in the language of a national minority;
- providing written responses to written submissions in the language of a national minority;
- the use of the language of a national minority in the official agenda of the municipal office;
- keeping the chronicle of the municipality in the language of a national minority;
- the share of municipal police officers with at least a working knowledge of the language of a national minority;
- the share of municipal police officers who are proficient in the language of the national minority in both spoken and written form;
- delivery of the submissions initiating the administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority
- delivery of requests for bilingual decisions;

Bilingual documents:

- provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of the municipality;
- the number of municipalities that have received requests for the issue of official forms bilingually, namely in the national language and in the language of a national minority;
- the number of municipalities that have issued official forms bilingually, in the national language and in the language of a national minority;
- the number of municipalities that have received requests for bilingual public documents;
- the number of municipalities that have issued bilingual public documents;
- the number of municipalities in which the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority is indicated alongside the name of the municipality in the national language on decisions issued in the language of a national minority;

Meetings of local authorities:

- the use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal/city council at their meetings;
- the language of a national minority as the language of the municipal/city council;
- the language of a national minority and the national language as the languages of the municipal/city council;
- the use of the language of a national minority by the Mayor at their meetings;
- materials for the meeting of the municipal/city council in the language of a national minority;

Public information:

- issuing and publishing generally binding regulations of the municipality in the language of a national minority;
- information in the language of a national minority concerning a threat to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic;
- inspecting the construction site signage, including with respect to information relating to threats to the life, health, safety or property of the citizens of the SR;
- ensuring that information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens is also provided in the language of a national minority on the additional text signs to the traffic signs;
- signs and notices intended to inform the public, particularly in stores, sports venues, restaurants, on streets, at and over roads, at airports, bus stations and railway stations, are under the administration of the municipality, also in the language of a national minority;
- announcements intended to inform the public by means of local radio or other technical devices, also in the language of a national minority;
- providing important information on the official municipal information board, on the municipality's website and in the periodical press in the language of a national minority;
- the number of complaints received due to violations of the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages has decreased.

Areas where the situation has not changed significantly

Designations in the language of a national minority:

- the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority listed under the designation in the national language when designating the railway station;

Official communication:

- the number of municipalities that have a employees member who have spoken and written command of the language of a national minority;
- the share of employees with at least a working knowledge of the language of a national minority;
- the manner in which the language of the national minority is used in official communication by municipal employees;
- the use of the language of a national minority in the performance of official duties of the municipal police;
- the use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal police who are proficient in the language of a national minority when communicating with citizens belonging to a national minority.

Bilingual documents:

- the number of requests for bilingual public documents;
- the number of municipalities in which requests for bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates have been received;
- the number of requests for bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates;
- the number of municipalities in which bilingual birth, marriage and death certificates have been issued and the number of bilingual birth, marriage and death certificates issued.

Areas where the situation has deteriorated (for individual national minorities the numbers have mostly decreased or remained the same, at most for one national minority there has been an increase)

Designations in the language of a national minority:

- geographical markings in the language of a national minority;

Official communication:

- the number of municipalities without a employees who has a command of the language of a national minority has increased;
- the number of municipalities in which conditions for the use of the language of a national minority are not provided has increased;
- the use of the language of the national minority in official communication through interpreting or translation services has declined;
- the number of municipalities that have designated a time slot for dealing with matters in the language of the national minority has increased;
- receiving written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority;
- expressing the consent of those present to the use of the language of a national minority in the official communication of the municipal police;

Bilingual documents:

- the number of requests received for the issue of official forms bilingually, namely in the national language and in the language of a national minority;
- the number of bilingual forms issued;
- the number of bilingual public documents issued;
- the number of municipalities in which decisions in administrative proceedings have been issued in the copy in the language of a national minority;

Public information:

- information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens also in the language of the national minority on additional text plates to traffic signs;
- delivery of requests for information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language;
- provision of information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language;
- the language of a national minority on monuments, memorials and commemorative plaques.

3.2 Legal Entities Established by Local Authorities

Pursuant to Sec. 2(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., a citizen of the Slovak Republic in a municipality referred to in Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. has the right to communicate with a legal entity established by a local authority in oral and written communication in the language of a national minority. In view of the fact that there is no permanent database of legal entities that have their registered office in these municipalities, the Plenipotentiary approached all minority municipalities and self-governing regions in which such municipalities are located in accordance with the Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. (Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov self-governing regions) with a request for their cooperation in collecting the data. Completed questionnaires for legal

entities established by local authority bodies were sent by 29 municipalities and all 6 self-governing regions. Of this number, data was processed for 58 relevant legal entities established by municipalities and 54 legal entities established by self-governing regions operating in the fields of social services, municipal services, property management, technical services, health care, tourism, recreation and sport, housing administration, public utilities and municipal works, telecommunications, vocational education, forestry and culture. While in the previous survey 74 relevant legal entities sent the questionnaire, in the current survey data for a total of 112 entities is processed, which in our opinion is related to the provision of methodological and professional assistance by the Plenipotentiary, thereby increasing legal awareness in the area concerned.

The survey focused on 7 thematic areas of the use of languages of national minorities in the scope of local authority bodies. Respondents were asked a total of 60 questions in the following order: designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 7), official communication (questions 8 – 22), bilingual documents (questions 23 – 40), meetings of the bodies of a legal entity (questions 41 – 44), public information (questions 45 – 51), public relations (questions 52 – 54) and final questions (questions 55 – 60). The text of the questionnaire is attached as Annex No. 2.

3.2.1 Legal entities established by municipalities

For legal entities established by municipalities, 29 municipalities (of which 28 with a Hungarian and one with a Ruthenian national minority) sent a completed questionnaire with information on 58 relevant legal entities (of which 57 in municipalities with a Hungarian and one with a Ruthenian national minority), namely on 10 social service institutions, 3 entities operating in the field of property management, 10 in the field of technical services, one in the field of tourism, 4 in the field of housing management, 5 in the field of public utilities and municipal works, 6 in the field of recreation and sport, 14 in the field of culture, one in the field of forestry, two in the field of media and two in the field of waste management.

Designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 7)

Out of a total of 58 legal entities, 38 (66%) respondents indicated the designation of the legal entity established by the municipality in the language of a national minority.²⁶ 7 (12%), including one located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, gave a designation in the language of a national minority that is identical to the name in the national language. The remaining legal entities did not indicate this designation.

The designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority was given alongside the name of the municipality in the national language on the buildings of the legal entity established by the municipality in 33 (57%) cases, including one legal entity located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. In two cases, the designation of the municipality was partly given in the language of a national minority. The designation of the legal entity established by the municipality placed on buildings was indicated in 40 (69%) cases in the national language and in the language of a national minority, of which 37 entities indicate this designation in addition to the equivalent in the national language in the same font, including the

²⁶ For the sake of the integrity of the text, wherever the term "legal entity established by the municipality" is used in the text of this part of the Report, the legal entity established by the municipality with a Hungarian national minority is referred to separately in the text, unless this information coincides with the information relating to the remaining entities.

legal entity located in the municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. In 16 (28%) cases, including a legal entity located in the municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, the designation of the legal entity was given only in the national language, two legal entities did not comment on the designation.

Official communications (questions 8 – 22)

The language of the national minority is spoken only by 365 (23%) employees of legal entities established by the municipality (out of a total of 1,559), including a legal entity located in the municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, where the language of the minority is spoken by all employees. 1,004 (64%) employees have a working knowledge of the language of the national minority in both written and spoken form. It follows that the minority language can be used by citizens in oral communication with a total of 1,369 (88%) employees of legal entities established by municipalities. 54 (91%) legal entities established by the municipality, including one located in the municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, ensure the use of the language of a national minority in official communication through their employees communicating in the language of a national minority, not a single legal entity indicated the possibility of ensuring communication through external employees. Four respondents gave no answer.

Following the questions on communication in the minority language in official communication, the survey also included a question on the use of the possibility of defining a time slot for dealing with matters in the minority language. Of the respondents, 6 legal entities established by municipalities use this option.

26 (45%) legal entities established by the municipality, including a legal entity established in the municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, visibly display information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority. In 3 (12%) cases the information was given only in the national language, in 6 (23%) cases only in the language of a national minority and in 17 (65%) cases in the national language and in the language of a national minority. Most of the respondents who report this information post it on the information board or on the internet. 29 (50%) respondents did not provide this information, while 3 of the respondents did not answer this question.

In the reference period, 12 (21%) respondents registered written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority, all of which were in Hungarian. Among the submissions were requests and submissions concerning the organisation of cultural and educational events, requests for the rental of premises, requests for information on vacancies, etc. 10 (83%) legal entities responded to the written submissions in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language and 1 (8%) provided a partial response in the national language and in the language of a national minority.

2 (3%) legal entities used the language of a national minority in addition to the national language in their official agenda. Another 12 (21%) respondents stated that they use the language of a national minority partly in their official agenda, especially in minutes, resolutions and records.

Bilingual documents (questions 23 – 40)

During the reference period, 13 (22%) legal entities provided bilingual official forms in whole or in part. Bilingual forms were mainly used for applications and requests. No request for

bilingual official forms, bilingual public documents or bilingual decisions was received from any of the respondents. One (2%) of the legal entities received submissions initiating administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority, but did not indicate the total number of submissions during the reference period.

Meeting of the bodies of the legal entity (questions 41 – 44)

In addition to the national language, the language of a national minority was also used in the meetings of the bodies of 27 (47%) legal entities established by municipalities. In 12 (21%) cases, the national language and partly the language of a national minority, including the Ruthenian language, were used. 26 (45%) legal entities conducted meetings in the national language and in the language of a national minority, including the Ruthenian language. In 10 (17%) legal entities, the proceedings were partly conducted in the language of a national minority and 18 (31%) legal entities conducted their proceedings in the national language.

For 6 (10%) legal entities, materials were also prepared in the language of a national minority and for 9 (16%) legal entities, materials were prepared partly in the language of a national minority. The possibility of using the language of a national minority in meetings of legal entities was provided in 1 (2%) case through interpreting services, 37 (64%) legal entities provided this possibility through their employees who have a command of the language of a national minority. The remaining legal entities provided the same in other ways but did not indicate how.

Public information (questions 45 – 51)

Two (3%) legal entities received requests for information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language. In addition to the national language, 20 (34%) respondents also reported information in the language of a national minority regarding threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in buildings where legal entities are located. 18 (31%) legal entities provided this information partly in the language of a national minority. Signs and announcements intended for informing the public were also presented in the language of a national minority by 28 (48%) respondents, and partially also in the language of a national minority by 16 (28%) legal entities, especially on the website and the official board, as well as in other places, e.g. on social networks, information boards, bulletin boards, leaflets, etc. 11 (19 %) legal entities established by municipalities did not display the signs and notices in the language of a national minority. Three (5%) legal entities did not answer the question.

Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information and on amendments and supplements to certain act (Act on Freedom of Information) imposes an obligation on legal entities to whom the act confers the power to decide on the rights and obligations of natural persons or legal entities in the field of public administration to publish important information²⁷,

²⁷ Sec. 5 of Act No. 211/2000 Coll: The manner in which the obliged entity is established, its powers and competences and a description of its organisational structure, the place, time and manner in which the information can be obtained; information on where to lodge an application, request, suggestion, complaint or other submission, the place, time limit and method of lodging a remedy and the possibility of judicial review of the decision of the obliged entity, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the obliged entity in dealing with all applications, suggestions and other submissions, including the relevant time limits, to be complied with, a summary of the regulations, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the obliged entity acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in

which is defined by a special act, in the municipalities concerned also in the language of national minorities. 11 (19%) legal entities in the municipalities in question also published this information in the language of national minorities. 16 (28%) legal entities published it partially in the language of a national minority. 21 (36%) legal entities established by municipalities did not publish the information in question. As many as ten (17%) respondents did not give any answer.

Public relations (questions 52 – 54)

In accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll., a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority may use the language of a national minority when communicating with the employees of health care facilities and social service facilities or facilities for the social protection of children and social guardianship in the municipalities concerned, and such facilities shall allow the use of the language of the national minority if the conditions of the facility so permit. 8 out of 9 social service facilities provide the possibility of using the language of a national minority through their employees communicating in the language of a national minority, including the Ruthenian language, one of the facilities did not answer the question.

Final questions (questions 55 – 60)

44 (76%) of respondents, including legal entities established by the municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, stated that creating conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication is seamless, for 7 (12%) legal entities it is partly problematic and one (2%) legal entity identified the provision of this obligation as problematic. In the reference period, one complaint was received by one of the legal entities established by municipalities due to a violation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., namely the lack of traffic signs in the language of a national minority, and the complaint was resolved by installing the traffic signs in question.

3.2.2 Legal entities established by self-governing regions

In this section, the Report focuses on 54 relevant legal entities established by the Nitra, Trnava, Banská Bystrica, Košice, Prešov and Bratislava self-governing regions, namely 50 legal entities located in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority and 4 in municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority. Of these, 25 are in social services, 24 in culture, 3 in road transport and 2 in health.²⁸

Designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 7)

34 (63%) respondents indicated the designation of the legal entity established by the self-governing region in the language of a national minority, 2 (4%) respondents answered that they have a partial designation in the language of a national minority, 17 (31%) respondents,

relation to the obliged entity, the schedule of administrative fees which the obliged entity collects for administrative acts and the schedule of fees for making information available.

²⁸ For the sake of completeness of the text, wherever the term “legal entity established by a self-governing region” is used in the text of this part of the Report, it refers to a legal entity established by a self-governing region located in a municipality with a Hungarian national minority. The information contained in the text concerning a legal entity established by a self-governing region located in a municipality with a Ruthenian minority shall be presented separately in the text, unless this information coincides with the information relating to the remaining entities.

including 3 establishments located in municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority, did not indicate a designation in the language of a national minority, 1 (2%) respondent did not answer the question.

The designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority was given alongside the name of the municipality in the national language on the buildings of the legal entity established by the self-governing region in 37 (69 %) cases. 15 (28%) respondents did not indicate this designation, including 3 entities located in municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority. One entity did not respond to this question. 38 (70%) respondents indicated that the name of the legal entity established by the local authority was placed on buildings in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language, of which 34 (89%) in the same font as in the national language and 4 (11%) in a smaller font.

Official communications (questions 8 – 22)

Out of the total number of 2,379 employees of legal entities established by self-governing regions, 490 (21%) have a command of the language of a national minority in spoken form only and 1,107 (47%) in spoken and written form, and every legal entity has at least one employee who has a command of the language of a national minority in both spoken and written form, except for one legal entity that wrote that this data is not monitored in their establishment.

The use of the language of the national minority in official communication was ensured by 51 (94%) legal entities through employees of the legal entity established by the local authority communicating in the language of a national minority, of which 1 legal entity indicated another way of ensuring the use of the language of a national minority (lecturers' explanations, accompanying texts to exhibitions, press releases, communication on the website and social networks are provided in the language of a national minority). 3 (6%) legal entities ensured the use of the language of a national minority in official communication through their employees and through interpreting or translation services, 2 legal entities did not comment on the issue. The time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority was determined by 10 (19%) legal entities, including 1 located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority.

Information on the possibility to use the language of a national minority in spoken and written form in official communication was mentioned by 24 (44%) legal entities. Information was provided in 2 (8%) cases exclusively in the national language, in one (2%) case only in a minority language and in 18 (33%) cases in the national language and in the language of a national minority, mostly on the information board or website.

In the reference period, 4 (7%) legal entities registered a total of 124 written submissions in the language of a national minority, mainly related to professional cultural and educational events, satisfaction questionnaires, financial and health care, and operations, while 2 of the legal entities provided a response to these submissions in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language, and 1 legal entity partially in the language of a minority as well. One legal entity used the language of a national minority in its official agenda and 11 used it partially.

Bilingual documents (questions 22 – 40)

Bilingual official forms were provided during the reference period by 4 (8%) legal entities, partially by 7 (13%) legal entities established by self-governing regions, namely forms related to information, organising events for citizens belonging to a national minority, social

counselling, personnel records, reader applications, statistical and survey materials, invitations, catalogues, book and loan regulations, marketing and promotional materials. The remaining legal entities did not provide bilingual forms or the question did not apply to them.

No requests for bilingual official forms were received by any legal entity. Two legal entities issued official forms on request in the language of a national minority, for a total of 16 forms.

No legal entities received requests for bilingual public documents or submissions initiating administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority during the reference period. Similarly, no legal entity established by the local authority received submissions initiating administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority during the reference period.

One legal entity issued 6 decisions in the administrative proceedings in the language of the national minority, which were related to the Act on Freedom of Information, pedagogical supervision in expositions, pandemic situation and security measures in force.

Meeting of the bodies of the legal entity (questions 41 – 44)

In 18 (33%) legal entities established by the self-governing region, the language of a national minority was used in addition to the national language, and in 13 (24%) legal entities, including two in municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority, the language of a national minority was partially used in addition to the national language.

23 (43%) legal entities, including one based in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, conducted meetings in the national language and in the language of a national minority. In 3 (6%) legal entities the meetings were conducted only in the language of a national minority and in 26 (48%) legal entities, including a legal entity based in the municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, in the national language. Two of the legal entities did not answer this question.

3 (6%) legal entities prepared materials in the language of a national minority for the meeting of the bodies of a legal entity established by the local authority, 13 (24%) legal entities partially prepared materials in the language of a national minority and 35 (65%) legal entities did not prepare materials in the language of a national minority.

The possibility of using the language of a national minority was ensured by 37 (67%) legal entities through their employees, 2 ensured communication through interpreting and translation services, while the remaining respondents either did not provide this possibility or did not comment on the question.

Public information (questions 45 – 51)

In the reference period, 51 (94%) of legal entities established by the local authority stated that they had not received requests for information on generally binding legal regulations in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language. Information concerning threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic, which is in places accessible to the public and which is administered by a legal entity established by a local authority, is also provided in the language of a national minority by 20 (37%) legal entities, 12 (22%) legal entities stated that this information is provided only partially in the language of a national minority, 22 (39%) legal entities stated that this information is not provided in the language of a national minority and 1 legal entity did not respond.

Signs and notices intended for public information, which are administered by the legal entity, are also reported by 20 (37%) legal entities in the language of a national minority and 18 (33%) partly in the language of a national minority. This information was mainly posted on the website, the information board and the official or information board. Important information is also published in the language of the national minority by 7 (13%) legal entities and partially in the language of a national minority by 18 (28%).

Seven (13%) legal entities in the questionnaire survey indicated that they also provide important information regarding the legal entity in a minority language. 15 (28%) legal entities provide it in a minority language partially.

Public relations (questions 52 – 54)

In the reference period, legal entities established by the local authority, which are social service facilities, ensured the possibility of using the language of a national minority in communication with the employees of the social service facility through the employees of the social service facility communicating in the language of a national minority in 83% of cases (20 legal entities), and in 4% (1) through interpreting or translation services. The above was also ascertained in relation to legal entities which are health care establishments. The completed questionnaire was submitted by two entities: Outpatient Health Care Facility of the Nitra Self-Governing Region in Štúrovo and Outpatient Health Care Facility of the Nitra Self-Governing Region in Šaľa and since most of the health care facilities located in the territory of some of the municipalities within the meaning of the Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. are owned by private persons, it was not possible to process more data in this section. It is, however, encouraging that both of these entities stated that they ensure the possibility of using a minority language through their employees.

Final questions (questions 55 – 60)

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication was described as seamless by 33 (61%) legal entities, and 10 (19%) legal entities stated that the creation of these conditions was partially problematic. 8 (15%) legal entities identified the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority as problematic.

The main reasons for the problematic creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication were cited by legal entities as an insufficient number of qualified employees, insufficient financial resources, as well as insufficient professional support. Complaints due to violation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. were received by 4% of legal entities (2) for a total of 4 complaints, 87% (47) were not received and 5 legal entities did not respond. The legal entities who received the complaints stated that the shortcomings complained of had been remedied on their part.

3.3 State Administration

3.3.1 The status and competence of selected state administration bodies in relation to Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

In accordance with Sec. 2(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of National Minority Languages, as amended, pursuant to par. 1 of the aforementioned section²⁹ a citizen of the Slovak Republic who is a person belonging to a national minority has the right to communicate in spoken and written form before a local authority body in a municipality, local authority and a legal entity established by the local authority (hereinafter the "public authority"), including the submission of written documents and evidence, also in the language of a minority, and the public administration authority shall provide a reply to a submission written in the language of a minority in addition to the national language also in the language of a minority³⁰. The public authority shall create the conditions for the exercise of the right under the first sentence in an adequate manner, and may set a time slot for the handling of matters in the language of a national minority. The public authority shall ensure that information on the possibilities of using the minority language is visible at the seat of the public authority. Local public authority bodies are those bodies which a special law provides that they exercise state administration, which are not central public authority bodies or public authority bodies with national competence.

For the exercise of the right of citizens belonging to a national minority to communicate with a public authority in the language of a national minority, it is not the location of the seat of the relevant body that is decisive, but the place of communication. If the organizational unit of a local authority body is located in a municipality that is listed according to Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll., it is considered a public authority according to Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

In the preparation of this Report, the Office of the Plenipotentiary, in accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll., addressed, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, the relevant local authority bodies and their organisational units (hereinafter the "public authority bodies") in which, in addition to the national language, the language of a national minority is used for official communication. A total of 89 public authority bodies were contacted, of which 85 public authority bodies in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority and 4 public authority bodies in municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority (a District Office and a branch of the District Office, one branch of the Customs Office and one branch of the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family). These are 14 district offices (and their branches), 27 Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (and their offices), 16 Tax Offices (and their branches and contact

²⁹ That is in a municipality which is included in the list specified in 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.

³⁰ Except for the issuance of public documents, which exemption shall not apply to public documents under par. 4 and 5 of this section.

points), 13 Customs Offices (and their branches), 8 Regional Veterinary and Food Administrations, 6 Regional Public Health Authorities and 5 State Archive Offices³¹.

The questionnaire survey focused on 6 thematic areas of the use of languages of national minorities in the competence of state administration/local public authority bodies as they result from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. The thematic areas were divided into: signs in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 6), official communication (questions 7 – 25 / 7 – 20), bilingual documents (questions 25 – 42 / 21 – 37), meetings of the office / branch (questions 43 – 45 / 38 – 40), public information (questions 46 – 52 / 41 – 47) and final questions (questions 53 – 58 / 48 – 53). Individual respondents were asked between 53 and 55 questions. Out of a total of 89 public authority entities, all of those contacted returned a completed questionnaire. The text of the questionnaires for public authority bodies is included in Annexes No. 3 and No. 4, and the list of public authority bodies and their organisational units where, pursuant to Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the language of a national minority is used in official written communication in addition to the national language is included in Annex No. 8. For all questions where comparisons could be made, the Report includes a comparison of the data with survey results from the 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2020 Reports³².

3.3.2 Signs in the language of the national minority (questions 1 – 6)

In a municipality defined by a special regulation, the designation of the public authority located on buildings shall be indicated in the language of a minority in addition to the national language in accordance with Sec. 2(6) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. According to the data obtained in the questionnaire survey, 88 (99%) of the public authority bodies fulfil this legal obligation. 88 (99%) of the public authority bodies have the name of the municipality in the language of a national minority alongside the name of the municipality in the national language on their buildings.

Comparing this with the results from 2016, 2018 and 2020³³, there is a noticeable shift in the area of designation in the language of the national minority, with 44% of authorities having the municipal designation on their buildings also in the language of a national minority in 2016 (the authorities themselves were also designated in the language of a national minority in 74% of cases in that year), more than 80% of such authorities in 2018 (the authorities were also marked in the language of a national minority in 100% of cases in that year) and 96% of authorities in 2020 to 99% of authorities currently having their designations, including the municipality's designation in the language of a national minority.

³¹ In the following, District Offices and their branches will be referred to as “District Offices”, Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and their offices as “OLSAF”, Tax Offices, their branches and contact points as “Tax Offices”, Customs Offices and their branches as “Customs offices”, Regional Veterinary and Food Administrations as “RVFA”, Regional Public Health Authorities as “RPHA”, and State Archives as “Archives”.

³² In 2014, in the context of the ongoing process of establishing a new structure of public authority bodies under the ESO programme, the Report focused on the results of the audit of the Control and Prevention of Corruption Section of the Office of the Government in selected district offices on the use of minority languages. For this reason, it was not possible to compare the results of the questionnaire surveys with the Report for this period.

³³ The 2012 result was obtained from a questionnaire survey, which included public authority bodies that did not participate in the questionnaire survey in subsequent years. The data is only available for 124 authorities as a whole and so cannot be compared with the result for the 89 authorities contacted in the later surveys. In 2012, 95 (77%) of the 124 authorities surveyed stated that their buildings also had a designation in the language of a national minority.

Table 47: Municipal and public authority designation placed on buildings in the national language and in the language of a national minority

	The designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority is provided alongside the designation of the municipality in the national language		The designation of the public authority body located on buildings	
2016	36*	44 %	61	74 %
2018	71	80 %	88	99 %
2020	85	96 %	89	100 %
2022	88	99 %	88**	99 %

* 2 public authority bodies had this designation partially indicated (2%)

** 1 district office answered apparently for a seat in a municipality not listed in the special regulation, and not for the relevant branch

These designations are given in the same font by 75 (84%) of the public authority bodies and in smaller font by 13 (14% - 5 district offices, 2 RPHAs, 1 RVFA, 1 OLSAFs³⁴ and 4 archives)³⁵. In 2016, the public authority bodies had had these designations in the same font in 28 (46%) cases and in smaller font in 33 (54%) cases. In 2018 and 2020, the public authority bodies had had these designations in 53 (60%) cases in the same font and 35 (40%) cases in smaller font. From the above, it is possible to observe a trend of equalizing the size of the font indicating the authorities in the language of a national minority and in the national language.

3.3.3 Official communication (7 – 25 / 7 – 20)

The following section of the questionnaire survey investigated the situation in the field of the use of languages of national minorities in official communication, namely the number (and share) of employees who have a command of the language of a national minority, whether they are interested in language competence training, or how they evaluate its completion, the way in which the use of the language of a national minority is ensured in official communication, displaying information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in official communication at the seat of the public authority, registering written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority and the answers given to the submissions in question in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language, and using the language of a national minority in official agenda.

Ensuring the use of the language of a national minority in official communication

Act No. 184/1999 Coll., Sec. 7(1) provides that a public authority and its employees are obliged to use the national language in their official communication and, under the conditions laid down by this Act and special laws, also use the language of a minority. The public authority and its employees are not obliged to have a command of the language of a minority. This of course does not rule out the possibility that they do so. According to the results of the questionnaire survey, of the 3,062 employees performing civil and public service in the public authority bodies located in the municipalities listed in the special regulation, 933 (30%) have a command of the language of a national minority in spoken and written form and 693 (23%) only

³⁴ It is OLSAF in Stropkov, branch Medzilaborce in the Ruthenian language

³⁵ The respondent to the questionnaire on behalf of the district office explained that the Ministry of the Interior ordered the boards in question in a centralized and uniform manner, with individual district offices not being able to interfere with the size or type of font used. In the case of the archives, which also fall under the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, it is probably a similar case.

in spoken form. Of these, 2,916 employees work in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, of whom 932 (31%) have a command of the Hungarian language in spoken and written form and 649 (22%) only in spoken form, and 146 work in municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority, of whom 1 (1%)³⁶ has a command of the Ruthenian language in spoken and written form and 44 (30%) only in spoken form. In 3 district offices, one branch of the customs office, three OLSAF and one archive, all employees have at least a verbal command of the language of a national minority, namely Hungarian.³⁷

Table 48: Share of employees with a command of the language of a national minority in spoken and written form and only in spoken form out of the total number of employees in 2022

public authority	total number of employees	in word and in writing	share in %	in word	share in %
district offices	572	173	30 %	124	22 %
tax authorities	474	100	21 %	130	27%
customs offices	314	91	29 %	117	37 %
RPHA	204	56	27 %	53	26 %
RVFA	160	45	28 %	29	18 %
OLSAF	1,312	448	34 %	238	18 %
archives	26	20	76 %	2	8 %
TOTAL	3,062	933	30 %	693	23 %

Table 49: Comparison of the number and share of employees who had a command of the language of a national minority in 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022

period	in word and in writing	share in %	in word	share in %
2016	936	26 %	681	19 %
2018	940	23 %	883	22 %
2020	985	30 %	833	26 %
2022	933	30 %	693	23 %

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, 85 (96%) of the public authority bodies ensure the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication through their own employees communicating in the language of a national minority (all except 1 district office, 1 tax office and 2 customs offices), of which 3 district offices, 3 tax offices, 2 RVFAs also provide it through interpreting or translation services. In this way, the possibility of using the language of the national minority is also ensured by 1 district office operating in a municipality where the Ruthenian language is used, 1 tax office and 2 RVFAs. In total, 12 (13%) of the public authority bodies use interpretation and translation services. 2 customs offices stated that they have not yet encountered a need to ensure the use of the language of a national minority³⁸. Compared to the results for 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2020,

³⁶ The employee of the District Office in Medzilaborce.

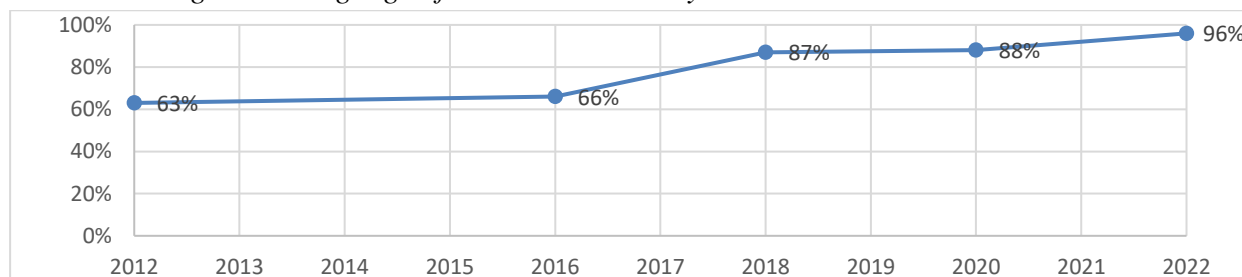
³⁷ These are the District Office in Košice-okolie, branch in Moldava nad Bodvou, the District Office in Michalovce, branch in Veľké Kapušany, the District Office in Trebišov, branch in Kráľovský Chlmec, the Customs Office in Michalovce, branch in Dobrá, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Nové Zámky, branch in Štúrovo, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Rimavská Sobota, branch in Hajnáčka, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Rimavská Sobota, branch in Hajnáčka, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Rožňava, branch in Plešivec and the State Archive in Nitra, branch Komárno Archive.

All but one employee have a command of Hungarian at 2 district offices, 2 tax offices, 2 customs offices, 1 RPHA, 6 OLSAFs and 4 other archives.

³⁸ These are the Customs Office in Trnava, Galanta branch and the Customs Office in Nitra, Nové Zámky branch.

there has been an increase in the number of public authority bodies that ensure the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication through internal employees. In 2012 it was 63%, in 2016 66%, in 2018 87%, in the previous period (2020) 88%, and currently (2022) 96% of the public authority bodies.

Chart 14: Comparison of the share of public authority bodies that ensure the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication through their own employees communicating in the language of a national minority



Language competence education

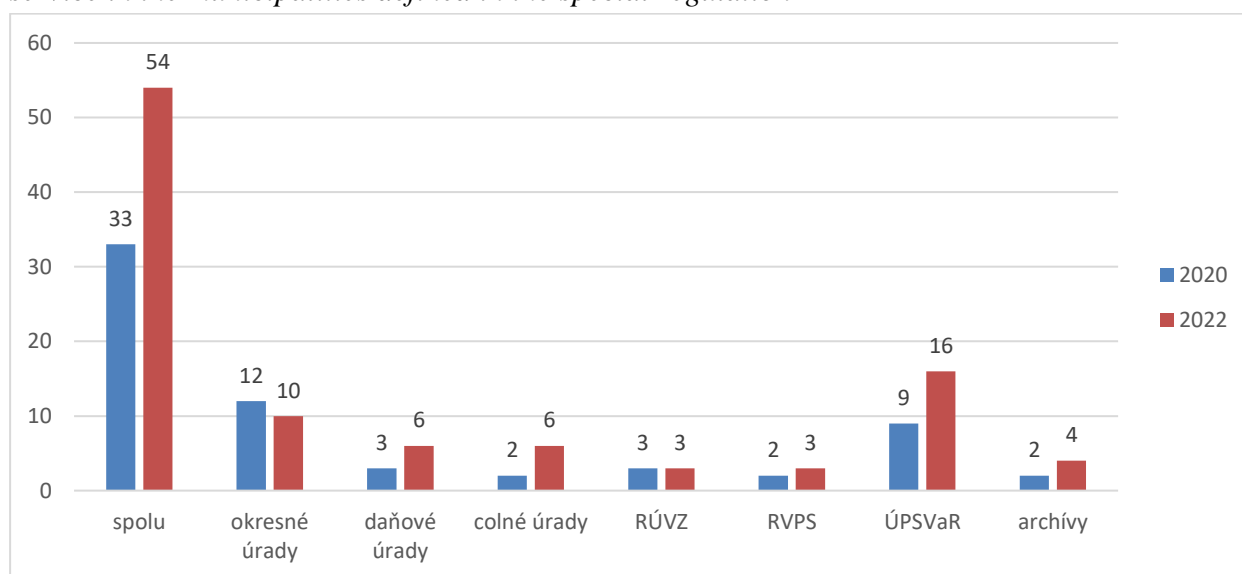
Since 2019, language competency training for employees of district offices has been conducted for the group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a special regulation, aimed at maintaining and improving the level of language proficiency in the language of national minorities. The language competence training was initiated by the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities in connection with the adoption of the Decree of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 126/2017 Coll., which establishes the details of the training of civil servants, as well as in connection with the declared need of the public authority bodies themselves for a similar opportunity to improve in the language of a national minority resulting from the lack of knowledge of the professional terminology of employees. In the reference period, 43 (8%) employees of 10 district offices (37 of them in Hungarian and 6 in Ruthenian) completed the course. Employees in 5 district offices rated this training as very useful and employees in 5 district offices rated it as useful. 1 district office whose employees did not participate in the language competency training stated as a reason that it was not necessary³⁹ and 2 district offices (1 operating in a municipality where Hungarian is used and 1 operating also in a municipality where Ruthenian is used) stated that it was not offered to them. Employees of the district office which, according to the information from the questionnaire survey, had not been offered language competence training in Hungarian would be interested in it together with 9 other district offices in the upcoming period (77% in total). This interest is not shared by employees of 1 district office that also operates in a municipality where the Ruthenian language is used and 1 district office whose employee had received language competence training and rated it as useful (15% in total, 1 district office did not provide a response).

Employees of 6 (38%) tax offices, 2 (15%) customs offices, 3 (50%) RPHAs, 3 (38%) RVFAs, 16 (59%) OLSAFs and 4 (80%) archives declared interest in language competence training aimed at maintaining and 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

³⁹ The branches in question ensure the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication through their own employees communicating in the language of a national minority.

the special regulation. Together with the 10 district offices mentioned above, 54 (63%) of the employees of public authority bodies are interested in language competence training. Compared to the results 2 years ago, this interest has increased in total from 33 (37%) of the public authority bodies and specifically decreased in the case of district offices (2 district offices have lost employees over time), but increased in the case of tax offices (by 3, i.e. 19%), RVFA (by 1, i.e. 13%) and archives (by 2, i.e. 40%), and remained unchanged in the case of customs offices and the RPHAs.

Chart 15: Comparison of the number of the public authority bodies whose employees declared an interest in language competence training aimed at maintaining and 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



Information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority

Pursuant to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. and Sec. 1 of Government Regulation No. 535/2011 Coll., a public authority is obliged to provide information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority – in spoken and written form in official communication – in a visible place at the seat of the body, while the cited Act does not specify in detail in which place the information should be published. Public administration bodies, within the framework of information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority within the meaning of Slovak Government Regulation No. 535/2011 Coll. indicate the way in which they ensure the use of the language of a national minority in official communication.

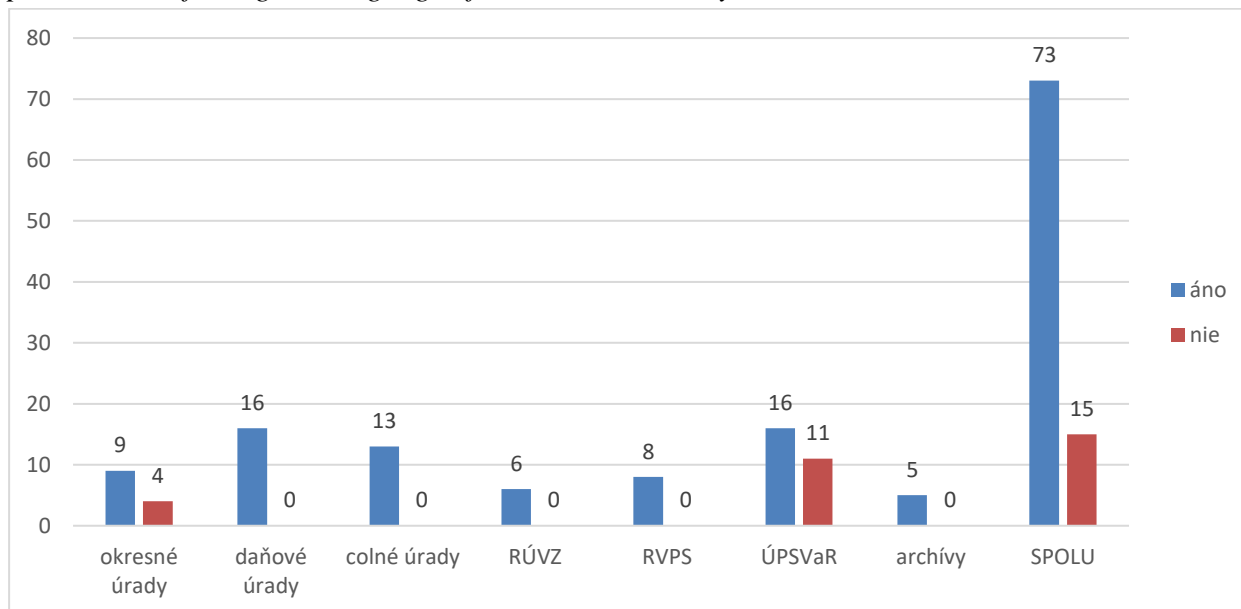
Table 50: Public authorities that visibly display information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in their seat

public authority	total number	yes	share in %	no	share in %
district offices	14	9	64 %	4	31 %
tax authorities	16	16	100 %	0	0 %
customs offices	13	13	100 %	0	0 %
RPHA	6	6	100 %	0	0 %
RVFA	8	8	100 %	0	0 %
OLSAF	27	16	59 %	11 ⁴⁰	41 %

⁴⁰ However, several of them also provide most of the other information in Hungarian on the premises.

archives	5	5	100 %	0	0 %
TOTAL	89	73	82 %	15	17 %

Chart 16: Public authorities that visibly display and do not display information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in their seat



88 out of 89 public authority bodies responded to the question. There has been a decrease in the number of district offices reporting this information from 13 to 9 compared to the previous period's results⁴¹. There was a negative shift in the results for OLSAF according to the results of the questionnaire survey. While in the previous period all OLSAFs indicated that this information was provided, in the last survey only 16 OLSAFs responded in this way.⁴² There has been a positive change at 1 RVFA⁴³.

Of the public authority bodies that fulfilled this legal obligation, 69 (95%) provide the information in both the national language and the language of a national minority, 8 (11%) provide it in the national language (of which 4 OLSAFs did not provide the information), 1 OLSAF provides it exclusively in the language of a national minority (in Hungarian)⁴⁴ and 2 OLSAFs did not answer the question.

⁴¹ According to the results of the questionnaire survey in the previous period, this information was not provided by the District Office in Trebišov, Kráľovský Chlmec branch. According to the results of the last questionnaire survey, it was joined by the District Office in Senec, the District Office in Levice, Šahy branch and Želiezovce branch and the District Office in Humenné, Medzilaborce branch. The District Office in Rožňava did not respond to the question.

⁴² The change concerns the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Dunajská Streda, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Dunajská Streda, Šamorín branch, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Dunajská Streda, Veľký Meder branch, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Komárno, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Komárno, Hurbanovo branch, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Levice, Želiezovce branch, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, in Nové Zámky, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, in Pezinok, Senec branch, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, in Revúca, Tornaľa branch, and the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, in Veľký Krtíš, Vinica branch. 4 of these offices include signs and notices intended to inform the public, which are also presented in Hungarian in the administration of the labour office/its office.

⁴³ The Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Šaľa has joined the other RVFA and provides the information in question, both in the national language and in the language of a national minority.

⁴⁴ It is the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Michalovce, branch in Veľké Kapušany.

Table 51: Public authorities that visibly display information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in their seat

public authority	number of authorities providing information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority	in the national language	share in %	in the national language and in the language of a national minority	share in %
district offices	9	4 ⁴⁵	44 %	9	100 %
tax authorities	16	0	0 %	16	100 %
customs offices	13	0	0 %	13	100 %
RPHA	6	1	17 %	5	83 %
RVFA	8	1	12 %	7	88%
OLSAF	16	2	12 %	12	75 %
archives	5	0	0 %	5	100 %
TOTAL	73	8	11 %	69	95 %

In 34 (38 %) public administration bodies (7 district offices, 9 tax offices, 7 customs offices, 2 RPHAs, 4 RVFAs, 4 OLSAFs and 1 archive) the information is published on the official information board; in 51 (57 %) public administration bodies (6 district offices, 12 tax offices, 9 customs offices, 4 RPHAs, 7 RVFAs, 9 RVFAs, 9 OLSAFs and 4 archives) it is published on the information board; for 13 (14%) public administration bodies (6 district offices, 3 RPHAs, 2 OLSAFs and 2 archives) it is published on the website and 8 (9%) public administration bodies (1 district office, 6 OLSAFs and 1 archive) publish it on another public place within the office (e.g. on the door of the office, in the corridors, in the lobby, at the reception). 1 RPHA stated that it also publishes it by "oral communication"⁴⁶. 28 (31%) public authority bodies (7 district offices, 5 tax offices, 3 customs offices, 4 RPHAs, 3 RVFAs, 3 OLSAFs and 3 archives) make use of several possibilities of publishing information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority.

This shows that compared to the previous period, the number of public authority bodies providing information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority has decreased from 87 (98%) to 73 (82%). This reverses the upward trend in disclosure seen in previous questionnaire surveys: 48 authorities (59%) in 2016, 56 authorities (63%) in 2018 and 87 authorities (98%) in 2020.⁴⁷ For example, given the fact that the 4 district offices that indicated that they did not provide this information also indicated that they only provided it in the national language, it is worth considering whether the respondents to the questionnaires understood the question asked and answered it in a relevant manner.

Time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority

⁴⁵ In this sense responded also those district offices which stated that they did not provide the information in question: The District Office in Senec, the District Office in Levice, Šahy branch and Želiezovce branch, the District Office in Trebišov, Kráľovský Chlmec branch and the District Office in Humenné, Medzilaborce branch.

⁴⁶ It is the Regional Public Health Authority based in Dunajská Streda. That form is not in accordance with the statutory provisions.

⁴⁷In 2012, 77% (96) of public authority bodies had published it. During this period, there was a different structure and number of public authority bodies that fulfilled the legal obligation in question, however, following a legislative change in 2013, a number of public authority bodies were dissolved or transformed into new bodies with different scope and competences.

Pursuant to Sec. 2(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the public authority body shall create conditions for the exercise of the right to communicate in spoken and written form in the language of a national minority (within the meaning of the aforementioned paragraph) in an adequate manner, and it may determine the time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority. This legal option was used by 1 district office⁴⁸, 2 tax offices⁴⁹ and 1 archive⁵⁰, for a total of 4 (4%) public authority bodies during the reference period. A number of public authority bodies have stated that the determination of time slot is not necessary, given that they are able to provide citizens with the opportunity to communicate in the language of a national minority throughout their working hours. In the previous monitoring period, 6 public authority bodies (7%) and in 2018 12 authorities (13%) had designated this slot.

Written submissions in the language of a national minority

Pursuant to Sec. 2 of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the public authority bodies in municipalities defined by the Act shall accept submissions, written documents and evidence from citizens in the languages of national minorities and shall provide a response to submissions made in the languages of national minorities in addition to the national language in the language of a national minority.

A total of 9 (10%) of the public authority bodies recorded such submissions: 2 district offices⁵¹, namely 1 in the Hungarian language in the field of environment and 102 in the Ruthenian language in the field of organizational department and other field, 1 RPHA⁵², namely 2 in the field of hygiene facilities for children and youth, 3 OLSAFs⁵³ in an unrecorded number in the field of material need, social protection of children and social curatorship and compensation and 3 archives⁵⁴ in a total number of 31, in the field of administrative agenda and routine requests for copies. Compared to the previous period, the number of public authority bodies registering such submissions has decreased (12 and 13% respectively in 2020). Due to the number of submissions registered at 3 OLSAFs, it is not possible to accurately compare the number of submission with the previous period, but even without taking into account the number of submissions from these offices, the total number of submissions is maintained at higher levels compared to the periods at the beginning of the monitoring. In 2012, 18 submissions had been registered in the language of a national minority, in 2016 4 submissions, in 2018 116 submissions, in 2020 279 submissions and in 2022 at least 136 (but certainly more, of which 102 in the Ruthenian language and at least 34 in the Hungarian language). All of the above-mentioned public authority bodies have responded to such submissions in accordance with the Act.

Official agenda

⁴⁸ These are the District Office in Levice, Šahy branch and Želiezovce branch

⁴⁹ These are the Tax Office in Nitra, Komárno branch and the Tax Office Nitra, Nové Zámky branch.

⁵⁰ It is the State Archive in Nitra, the branch of the Archive in Nové Zámky.

⁵¹ These are the District Office in Galanta and the District Office in Medzilaborce

⁵² It is the Regional Public Health Authority based in Komárno.

⁵³ These are the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Dunajská Streda, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Dunajská Streda, Šamorín branch and the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Dunajská Streda, Veľký Meder branch.

⁵⁴ These are the State Archives in Nitra, the branch of the Komárno Archives, the State Archives in Nitra, the branch of the Nové Zámky Archives and the State Archives in Trnava, the branch of the Galanta Archives (based in Šaľa).

Act No. 184/1999 Coll., Sec. 3(4) allows for the use of the language of a national minority in the official agenda (in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information for the public and the agenda of churches and religious societies for the public, with the exception of the Registry Office).

In the reference period, this legal possibility was used by 1 (1%) public authority body, namely the district office⁵⁵ in the field of land and forests, and partially by 4 (4%) public administration bodies, namely 2 district offices⁵⁶ in the field of general internal administration (e.g. when dealing with an offence), 1 RPHA⁵⁷, in a number of areas⁵⁸, and 1 archive⁵⁹ in the field of research and study of archival documents. In the previous period, this option has been partially used by 5 (6%) public authority bodies (2 district offices; 2 archives and one RPHA), as well as in 2020 and in 2018 it had been partially used by 2 (2%) public authority bodies.

3.3.4 Bilingual documents (questions 25 – 42 / 21 – 37)

In accordance with Sec. 2(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., a public authority in a municipality defined by a special regulation provides citizens with official forms issued within the scope of its competence upon request in bilingual form, namely in the national language and in the language of a minority. Public authority bodies are able to fulfil this obligation when they have bilingual forms and professional terminology in the languages of national minorities. In accordance with Sec. 2(5) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates, permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations are issued in a municipality defined by a special regulation in the national language and in the language of a minority, bilingually upon request. In case of doubt, the text of the public document in the national language shall prevail. At the same time, in accordance with Sec. 2(4) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. the decision of a public authority body in administrative proceedings in a municipality defined by a special regulation, if the proceedings have been initiated by submission in the language of a minority or upon request, shall be issued in the language of a minority in addition to the national language in a parallel copy. In case of doubt, the text of the decision in the national language shall prevail.

Official forms

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, 32 (36%) public authority bodies have bilingual official forms for citizens: 2 district offices, one in Hungarian⁶⁰ and one in Ruthenian⁶¹, both in the cadastral department and in Ruthenian also in the field of environment, land and forests, 11 tax offices⁶², but in all cases these are instructions for filling in tax forms,

⁵⁵ This is the District Office in Komárno.

⁵⁶ These are the District Office in Nové Zámky, Štúrovo branch and the District Office in Michalovce, Veľké Kapušany branch.

⁵⁷ It is the Regional Public Health Authority based in Komárno.

⁵⁸ Acquisition of professional competence for the performance of epidemiologically serious activities, educational materials of the Health Education Department, oral communication in the performance of state health surveillance and official food control, consultations, educational activities, epidemiological investigations in the outbreak of diseases.

⁵⁹ It is the State Archive in Banská Bystrica, branch Archive in Rimavská Sobota.

⁶⁰ The District Office in Košice-okolie, Moldava nad Bodvou branch.

⁶¹ It is the District Office in Medzilaborce.

⁶² These are the Tax Office in Bratislava, Senec branch, the Tax Office in Trnava, Dunajská Streda branch, the Tax Office in Trnava, Galanta branch, the Tax Office in Trnava, contact point in Šamorín, the Tax Office in Nitra, Nové Zámky branch, the Tax Office in Nitra, contact point in Šahy, the Tax Office in Banská Bystrica, Rimavská Sobota

not the forms themselves, 6 customs offices⁶³, namely in the field of excise duties, 3 RPHAs⁶⁴, namely in the field of applications, proficiency tests, etc., at 6 RVFAs⁶⁵, in the field of food hygiene (notifications, registrations, applications) and at 4 archives⁶⁶, in one case also research regulations, in all cases applications. Bilingual forms are partially provided in 20 (22%) public authority bodies: 4 district offices⁶⁷, namely the cadastral department, the trade business department and the department of general internal administration (registry activities), 5 tax offices⁶⁸, but in all cases these are instructions on how to fill in the tax forms, not the forms themselves, at 7 customs offices⁶⁹, also with instructions on excise duties, at 2 RPHA⁷⁰, at 1 RVFA⁷¹, in the area of the Health, Animal Protection, Ecology and Veterinary Pharmacy and Food Hygiene Departments, and at 1 archive⁷², in the area of the administrative agenda and applications.

Table 52: Issue of bilingual official forms

public authority	Provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of the competence					
	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %
district offices	2	14 %	4	29 %	8	57 %
tax authorities	11	69 %	5	31 %	0	0 %
customs offices	6	46 %	7	54 %	0	0 %
RPHA	3	50 %	2	33 %	1	17 %
RVFA	6	76 %	1	12 %	1	12 %
OLSAF	0	0 %	0	0 %	27	100 %
archives	4	80 %	1	20 %	0	0 %
TOTAL	32	36 %	20	22 %	36	42 %

Comparing the results from 2012, 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022, we can see a continuous increase in the number of public authority bodies that have provided bilingual official forms for citizens, while at the same time the number of public authority bodies that have not provided

branch, the Tax Office in Košice, Rožňava branch, the Tax Office in Košice, contact point in Moldava nad Bodvou, the Tax Office in Košice, contact point in Veľké Kapušany, the Tax Office in Košice, contact point in Kráľovský Chlmec.

⁶³ These are the Customs Office in Trnava, Dunajská Streda branch, the Customs Office in Trnava, Galanta branch, the Customs Office in Trnava, station in Veľký Meder, the Customs Office in Nitra, Nové Zámky branch, the Customs Office in Nitra, station in Štúrovo and the Customs Office in Košice, Rožňava branch.

⁶⁴ These are the Regional Public Health Authority based in Komárno, the Regional Public Health Authority based in Rimavská Sobota and the Regional Public Health Authority based in Rožňava.

⁶⁵ These are the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Dunajská Streda, the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Galanta, the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Komárno, the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Nové Zámky, the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Rimavská Sobota and the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Rožňava.

⁶⁶ These are the State Archives in Banská Bystrica, the branch of the Rimavská Sobota Archive, the State Archives in Košice, the branch of the Rožňava Archive, the State Archives in Nitra, the branch of the Nové Zámky Archive and the State Archives in Trnava, the branch of the Galanta Archive (with its seat in Šaľa).

⁶⁷ These are the District Office in Dunajská Streda, the District Office in Galanta, the District Office in Rimavská Sobota and the District Office in Rožňava.

⁶⁸ These are the Tax Office in Nitra, Komárno branch, the Tax Office in Nitra, Štúrovo branch, the Tax Office in Nitra, contact point in Šaľa, the Tax Office in Nitra, contact point in Hurbanovo, the Tax Office in Nitra, contact point in Kolárovo

⁶⁹ These are the Customs Office in Nitra, Štúrovo branch, the Customs Office in Nitra, Komárno branch, the Customs Office in Banská Bystrica, Rimavská Sobota branch, the Customs Office in Michalovce, Čierna nad Tisou branch, the Customs Office in Michalovce, Ubl'a branch, the Customs Office in Michalovce, Veľké Slemence branch and the Customs Office in Michalovce, Dobrá branch.

⁷⁰ These are the Regional Public Health Authority based in Dunajská Streda and the Regional Public Health Authority based in Galanta.

⁷¹ This is the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Senec.

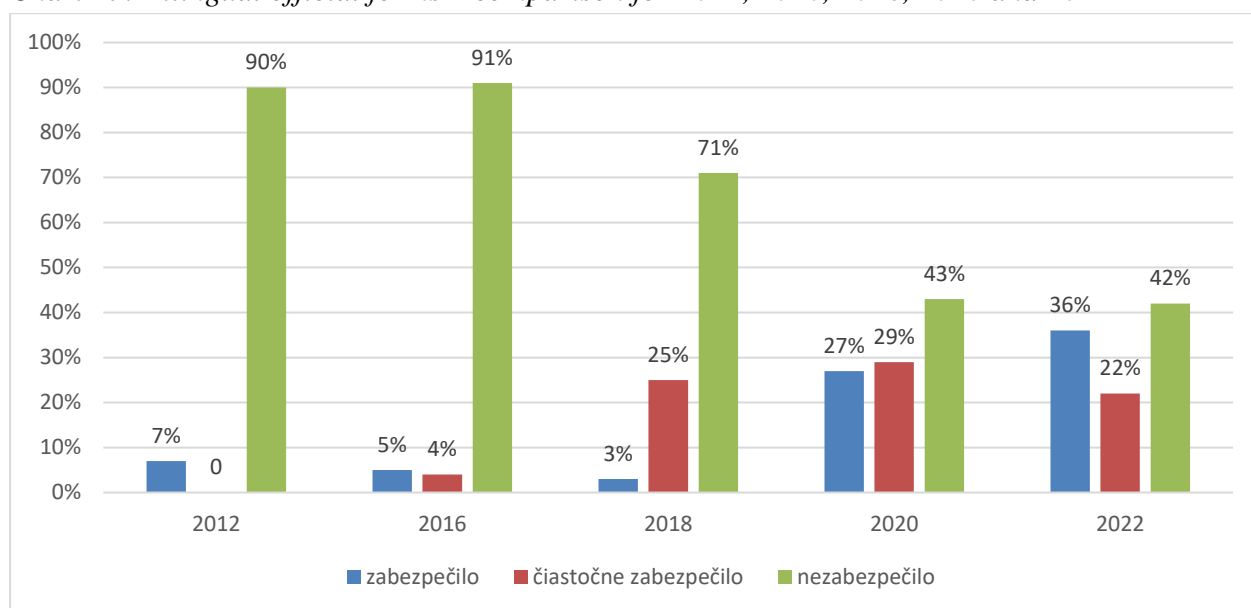
⁷² It is the State Archive in Nitra, the branch of the Komárno Archive.

these forms is decreasing. They had been provided by 9 (7%) public authority bodies in 2012, 4 (5%, 3 (4%) bodies partially) in 2016, 3 (3%, 22 (25%) partially) in 2018, 24 (27%, 26 (29%) partially) in 2020, and 32 (36%) and 20 (22%) partially in 2022. On the other hand, 112 (90%) public authority bodies had not provided the forms in 2012, 75 (91%) in 2016, 63 (71%) in 2018, 38 (43%) in 2020 and 36 (42%) in 2022.

Table 53: Bilingual official forms - comparison for 2012, 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022⁷³

period	provided by	share in %	partially provided	share in %	did not provide	share in %
2012	9	7 %	-	-	112	90 %
2016	4	5 %	3	4 %	75	91 %
2018	3	3 %	22	25 %	63	71 %
2020	24	27 %	26	29 %	38	43 %
2022	32	36 %	20	22 %	36	42 %

Chart 17: Bilingual official forms – comparison for 2012, 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022



In the reference period, requests for bilingual official forms were received by 1 archive⁷⁴ (1% of the public authority bodies), which issued 5 of them in the national language and in the language of a national minority during the reference period. The other 2 archives⁷⁵ (2% of the public authority bodies) issued a total of 658 official forms bilingually, in the national language and in a minority language, on request during the reference period. Compared to the previous period, there is a decrease in the number of authorities receiving requests for the issue of official forms also in the language of a national minority, from 4 (5%) in the previous monitoring period

⁷³ The remaining percentage of public authorities did not answer the question.

⁷⁴ It is the State Archive in Nitra, the branch of the Archive in Nové Zámky.

⁷⁵ These are the State Archives in Banská Bystrica, branch Archive Rimavská Sobota and the State Archives in Trnava, branch Archive Galanta (based in Šaľa).

to 1 (1%), but an increase in the number of forms issued also in the language of a national minority, from 275 in the previous period to 663 in 2021 – 2022.

Public documents

In the reference period, 1 archive⁷⁶ (1% of the public authority bodies) received 3 requests for the issuance of public documents, namely certificates issued bilingually by the archive in the national language and in the language of a national minority, in the number of 3 pieces. This is the first recording of the issuance of a public document on the basis of a request also in the language of a national minority since 2016. In 2012, 3 decisions were made in the language of a national minority and in 2016, 2 decisions were made in the language of a national minority.

Administrative proceedings

In the reference period, 2 archives⁷⁷ (2% of the public authority bodies) received submissions in the language of a national minority, which initiated administrative proceedings also in the language of a national minority. The archives mentioned did not indicate their number.

No requests for bilingual decisions were received by any public authority during the reference period. In the reference period, no public authority body issued decisions in administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority.

A comparison of the results from 2012, 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022 shows that for the first time in the area in question, the public authority bodies that received submissions in the language of a national minority initiating administrative proceedings also in the language of a national minority were recorded. Decisions made in both the original and in the language of a national minority were issued as follows: in 2012 3, in 2016 and 2018 no decisions were issued, in 2020 one decision was issued and in 2022 no such decisions were issued.

3.3.5 Meetings of the office/branch (questions 43 – 45 / 38 – 40)

Act No. 184/1999 Coll., Sec. 3, allows for the proceedings of a public authority in a municipality defined by a special regulation to be held in the language of a national minority if all those present agree to it.

Table 54: The language of the proceedings of the public authority

public authority	Use of the language of a national minority in the meetings of a public authority					
	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %
district offices ⁷⁸	3	23 %	5	38 %	8	57 %
tax authorities	0	0 %	4	25 %	12	75 %
customs offices	0	0 %	4 ⁷⁹	31 %	9	69 %
RPHA	1	17 %	2	33 %	3	50 %
RVFA	1	12 %	1	12 %	6	76 %

⁷⁶ It is the State Archive in Trnava, the branch of the Archive Galanta (based in Šaľa).

⁷⁷ These are the State Archives in Nitra, the branch of the Archives in Nové Zámky and the State Archives in Trnava, the branch of the Archives in Galanta (based in Šaľa).

⁷⁸ 1 district office marked all 3 options - the language used to conduct the meetings varies by district office department.

⁷⁹ Including the customs office in a municipality where the Ruthenian language is used.

OLSAF	5	19 %	6	22 %	16	59 %
archives	0	0 %	2	40 %	3	60 %
TOTAL	10	11 %	24	27 %	57	64 %

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, the language of a national minority (in all cases Hungarian) is used in 10 (11%) public authority bodies, in 24 (27%) partially, and in 57 (64%) the language of a national minority is not used in meetings. 1 district office has identified all three options, given the fact that each department has its meetings in a different manner.

Tab 55: Language in which the meetings of the public authority are conducted

public authority	in the national language	share in %	in the language of a national minority	share in %	in the national language and in the language of a national minority	share in %
district offices⁸⁰	8	57 %	1	7 %	6	43 %
tax offices⁸¹	15	94 %	0	0 %	2	12 %
customs offices	10	77 %	0	0 %	3	23 %
RPHA	4	67 %	0	0 %	2	33 %
RVFA	6	76 %	0	0 %	2	24 %
OLSAF	25	93 %	0	0 %	2	7 %
archives	5	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %
TOTAL	73	82 %	1	1 %	17	19 %

The language in which the public authority bodies conducted meetings during the reference period was the national language in 73 (82%) cases, the language of a national minority in 1 (1%) case, and the language of a national minority and the national language in 17 (19%) cases. 2 (2%) public authority bodies indicated more than one option, due to the fact that some of their organisational units conducted their meetings in a different way than the others. Materials for the meetings of the public administration bodies are also prepared in the language of a national minority by the employees of 1 RVFA⁸² and partially by 4 (4%) public authority bodies: 2 district offices⁸³, 1 RPHA⁸⁴ and 1 archive⁸⁵.

Compared to previous monitoring periods, there has been an increase in the use of the language of a national minority in this area. There has been a shift in the use of the language of a national minority in meetings from 9 (11%) of the public authority bodies in 2016, 6 (7%) in 2018 and 8 (9%) in 2020 to 10 (11%) of the public authority bodies in 2022, and in the partial use from 14 (17%) of the public authority bodies in 2016, 16 (17%) in 2018 and 17 (19%) in 2020 to 24 (27%) of the public authority bodies during the reference period. As for the meetings, one public authority body conducted the meeting in the language of a national minority⁸⁶, 17

⁸⁰ 1 district office marked all 2 options - the language used to conduct the meetings varies by district office department.

⁸¹ 1 tax office has indicated 2 options

⁸² This is the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Galanta.

⁸³ Only some departments of the District Office in Dunajská Streda and the District Office in Komárno.

⁸⁴ It is the Regional Public Health Authority based in Komárno.

⁸⁵ It is the State Archive in Trnava, the branch of the Archive Galanta (based in Šaľa).

⁸⁶ It is the District Office in Michalovce, Veľké Kapušany branch.

(19%) of the bodies conducted the meetings also in the language of a national minority, which represents a slight decrease compared to 2020 (from 23 and 26%, respectively), but an increase compared to 2018 from 14 (16%) public authority bodies and 16 (20%) from 2016. There has been a slight increase in the use of languages of national minorities in the preparation of meeting materials, with 3 (3%) of the employees of public authority bodies preparing materials in the national language and in the language of a national minority in 2016, 1 (1%) of the public authority in 2018, 3 (3%) of the public authority bodies in 2020, while in 2022, 1 public authority prepared materials in the language of a national minority and 4 (4%) also prepared materials in the language of a national minority.

Table 56: Comparison of the use of languages of national minorities in the meetings of public authority bodies and the preparation of materials for them

period	Use of the language of a national minority in the meetings of a public authority			Conducting the proceedings of the public authority body in the language of a national minority			Preparation of materials for the meetings of the public authority body in the language of a national minority	
	yes	partially	no	yes	partially	no	yes	also in the language of a n. m.
2016	9	14	58	0	16	65	0	3
2018	6	16	61	0	14	68	0	1
2020	8	17	64	0	23	66	0	3
2022	10	24	55	1	17	73	1	4

3.3.6 Public information (questions 46 – 52 / 41 – 47)

Act No. 184/1999 Coll. obliges public authority bodies in municipalities defined by a special regulation Sec. 4 (9) to provide information within their competence on generally binding legal regulations in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language upon request. The survey found that, as in previous periods, no requests for this information were received by any public authority body during the reference period.

Sec. 4(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. imposes an obligation on public authority bodies in municipalities defined by a special regulation to provide information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in places accessible to the public in the language of a minority in addition to the national language. In accordance with the Act, a total of 36 (40%) public authority bodies provide such information also in the language of a national minority, namely 7 district offices (including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority), 2 tax offices⁸⁷, 5 RPHAs, 8 RVFAs, 11 OLSAFs and 3 archives; 9 (12%) public authority bodies in total, namely 2 district offices, 3 tax offices, 2 OLSAFs (including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority) and 2 archives. The information in question is not provided in accordance with the Act by 41 (46%) public authority bodies, namely 4 district offices (including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority), 11 tax offices⁸⁸, 13

⁸⁷ All the others, however, present them in the form of pictograms and thus without the use of language.

⁸⁸ However, they present the information in question in the form of pictograms and thus without the use of language.

customs offices, 1 RPHA and 13 OLSAFs. 2 district offices and 1 OLSAF did not answer the question.

Table 57: Providing information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in places accessible to the public in both the national language and the language of a national minority

public authority	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %
district offices	7	50 %	2	14 %	3	21 %
tax authorities	2⁸⁹	12 %	3	19 %	11	69 %
customs offices	0	0 %	0	0 %	13	100 %
RPHA	5	83 %	0	0 %	1	17 %
RVFA	8	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %
OLSAF	11	41 %	2	7 %	13	48 %
archives	3	60 %	2	40 %	0	0 %
TOTAL	36	40 %	9	10 %	41	46 %

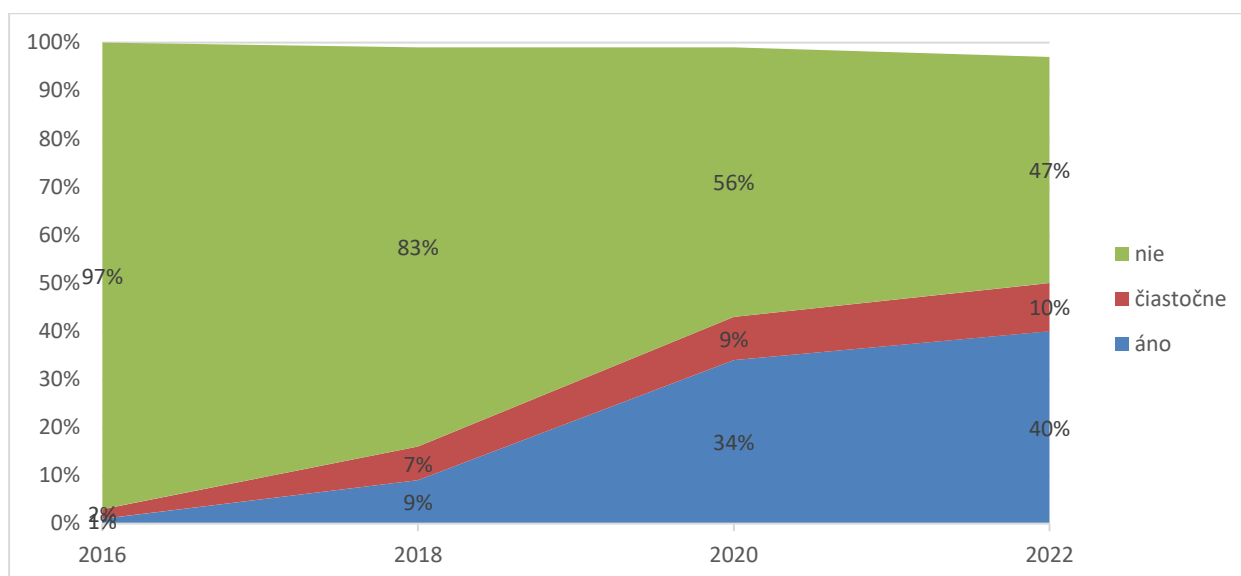
The comparison with the results of questionnaire surveys in previous periods shows a gradual improvement in the situation in this area. In 2016, 1 (1%) public authority body had complied with the legal obligation to provide the information, in 2018 8 (9%), in 2020 30 (34%) and in 2022 it had been 36 (40%) public authority bodies. Partially reported information had been reported by 2 (2%) of public authority bodies in 2016, 6 (7%) in 2018, 8 (9%) in 2020, and 9 (11%) of the public authority bodies during the reference period. On the other hand, 86 (97%) of public authority bodies had not complied with this legal obligation in 2016, 74 (83%) in 2018, 50 (56%) in 2020 and 42 (47%) during the reference period.

Table 58: Providing information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in places accessible to the public in both the national language and the language of a national minority - comparison for the period 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022

period	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %
2016	1	1 %	2	2 %	86	97 %
2018	8	9 %	6	7 %	74	83 %
2020	30	34 %	8	9 %	50	56 %
2022	36	40 %	9	10 %	42	47 %

Chart 18: Providing information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in places accessible to the public in both the national language and the language of a national minority - comparison for the period 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022

⁸⁹ All the others, however, present them in the form of pictograms and thus without the use of language.



Sec. 4(6) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. provides for the possibility in municipalities defined by a special regulation to provide all signs and announcements intended to inform the public⁹⁰ also in the language of a national minority. A total of 39 (47%) public authority bodies, namely 7 district offices, 3 tax offices, 6 customs offices, 4 RPHAs, 8 RVFAs, 7 OLSAFs and 4 archives, provide the above-mentioned signs and notices also in the language of a national minority; a total of 34 (38%) public authority bodies, namely 4 district offices, 13 tax offices, 6 customs offices, 2 RPHAs, 8 OLSAFs and 1 archive, partially. This legal option is not used by 14 (16%) of the public authority bodies, namely 1 district office, 1 customs office, and 11 OLSAsF. 2 district offices and 1 OLSAF did not answer the question. 14 (16%) of the public authority bodies publish these signs and notices on their website, 26 (29%) on the official and 30 (34%) on the information board, 8 public authority bodies publish them elsewhere, mostly in the entrance areas, on the entrance doors, or in the form of bilingual information leaflets, local television and press. 22 (25%) of the public authority bodies use a combination of the above options to publish signs and notices intended to inform the public also in the language of a national minority.

Table 59: Placing of signs and notices intended to inform the public also in the language of a national minority

public authority	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %
district offices	7	50 %	4	29 %	1	7 %
tax authorities	3	19 %	13	81 %	0	0 %
customs offices	6	46 %	6	46 %	1	8 %
RPHA	4	67 %	2	33 %	0	0 %
RVFA	8	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %
OLSAF	7	26 %	8	30 %	11	41 %
archives	4	80 %	1	20 %	0	0 %
TOTAL	39	44 %	34	38 %	14	16 %

There have been no significant changes in the monitored area compared to previous periods. In 2018, 17 (19%) of public authority bodies provided signs and notices intended to inform the public also in the language of a national minority, in 2020 41 (46%), in 2022 39 (44%). The languages of national minorities were partially used in this area in 28 (32%) public

⁹⁰ Especially in shops, sports venues, restaurants, streets, roadsides and overpasses, airports, bus stations and railway stations.

authority bodies in 2018, 39 (44%) in 2020 and 34 (38%) in 2022. In 2018, 43 (48%) of the public authority bodies, in 2020 9 (10%) and in 2022 14 (16%) of the public authority bodies did not indicate the signs and notices in question also in the language of a national minority.

Table 60: Placing of signs and notices intended to inform the public also in the language of a national minority - comparison for the period 2018, 2020 and 2022

public authority	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %
2018	17	19 %	28	32 %	43	48 %
2020	41	46 %	39	44 %	9	10 %
2022	39	44 %	34	38 %	14	16 %

Relevant information (how the obliged entity is established, its powers and competences and a description of its organisational structure, the place, time and manner in which the information can be obtained; information on where to lodge an application, request, suggestion, complaint or other submission, the place, time limit and method of lodging a remedy and the possibility of judicial review of the decision of the obliged entity, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the obliged entity in dealing with all applications, suggestions and other submissions, including the relevant time limits, to be complied with, a summary of the regulations, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the obliged entity acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the obliged entity, the schedule of administrative fees which the obliged entity collects for administrative acts and the schedule of fees for making information available) was published also in the language of a national minority by 10 (11%) public authority bodies, namely 1 district office, 3 RPHAs, 2 RVFAs, 1 OLSAF and 3 archives; partially 17 (19%) public authority bodies, namely 8 district offices, 2 customs offices, 3 RVZ, 3 RVFAs, 1 OLSAFs; and 57 (64%) public authority bodies, namely 4 district offices, 16 tax offices, 10 customs offices, 3 RVFA, 22 OLSAFs and 2 archives, did not publish it at all. 1 district office, 1 customs office and 3 OLSAFs did not respond to the question. There has been a slight shift towards increased use of minority languages in this area. In addition to the national language, important information in the language of a national minority was not published by 63 (77%) public authority bodies in 2016, 70 (79%) in 2018, 60 (67%) in 2020 and 57 (64%) in 2022.

Table 61: Publication of important information (manner of establishment of the obliged person, its powers, etc. also in the language of a national minority) - comparison for the period 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022

period	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %
2016	1	1 %	14	17 %	63	77 %
2018	5	6 %	13	15 %	70	79 %
2020	19	21 %	9	10 %	60	67 %
2022	10	11 %	17	19 %	57	64 %

3.3.7 Final questions (questions 53 – 58 / 48 – 53)

The creation of conditions for the use of Hungarian and Ruthenian languages in official communication was assessed as problematic by 1 district office⁹¹, 1 tax office⁹², 1 RPHA⁹³ and 2

⁹¹ It is the District Office in Senec.

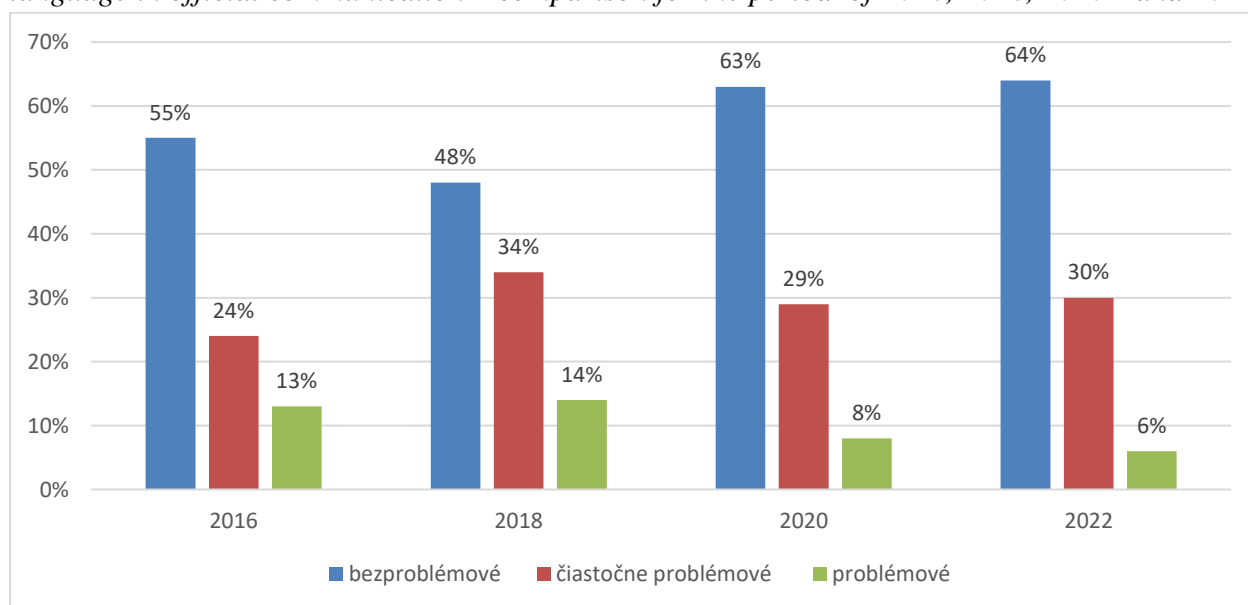
⁹² It is the Tax Office in Nitra, Komárno branch.

OLSAFs⁹⁴ (including the OLSAF operating in the municipality where the Ruthenian language is used), a total of 5 (6%). On the contrary, it is perceived as seamless by employees of 57 (64%) public authority bodies (4 district offices, 13 tax offices, 11 customs offices, 2 RPHAs, 5 RVFAs, 17 OLSAFs and 5 archives). 27 employees (30%) identified the creation of conditions for the use of languages of national minorities as partly problematic (9 district offices, 2 tax offices, 2 customs offices, 3 RPHAs, 3 RVFAs and 8 OLSAFs). Compared to the results of previous surveys, there has been a slight decrease in the number of public authority bodies perceiving this area as problematic and an increase in the number of public authority bodies perceiving it to be seamless.

Table 62: Creating conditions for the use of the Hungarian language and the Ruthenian language in official communication – comparison for the period of 2016, 2018, 2020⁹⁵ and 2022

period	seamless	share in %	partly problematic	share in %	problematic	share in %
2016	45	55 %	20	24 %	11	13 %
2018	43	48 %	30	34 %	12	14 %
2020	56	63 %	26	29 %	7	8 %
2022	57	64 %	27	30 %	5	6 %

Chart 19: Creating conditions for the use of the Hungarian language and the Ruthenian language in official communication – comparison for the period of 2016, 2018, 2020⁹⁶ and 2022



⁹³ It is the Regional Public Health Authority based in Rimavská Sobota.

⁹⁴ These are the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Revúca, Tornaľa branch and the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Stropkov, Medzilaborce branch.

⁹⁵ The remaining percentage of the public authority bodies did not answer the question.

⁹⁶ The remaining percentage of the public authority bodies did not answer the question.

13 (15%) of the public authority bodies identified the lack of qualified employees as the main problem in creating conditions for the use of Hungarian and Ruthenian in official communication (3 district offices, 3 tax offices, 3 RPHAs, 1 RVFA and 3 OLSAFs), 7 (8%) of the public authority bodies identified insufficient financial resources (3 district offices, including the district office operating in the municipality where the Ruthenian language is used, 2 RPHAs, 1 RVFA and 1 OLSAF) and 14 (16%) of the public authority bodies insufficient professional support (6 district offices, 1 tax office, 2 customs offices, 2 RPHAs and 3 OLSAFs). 8 public authority bodies reported a combination of the above factors. 12 (13%) public authority bodies gave other reasons: 1 district office⁹⁷ according to the answer to the question "has not noticed any request from the clients to use the Hungarian language", the others consider it difficult to use the language of a national minority in highly professional texts, in areas regulated by legislation available only in the national language, they lack professional terminology in the language of the national minority, or they criticise the process of providing interpreting and translation services under the Framework Contract of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and the failure to provide their superiors with uniform forms and their translations, and in the case of the Ruthenian language they point to the fact that the employees of the branch do not have a command of the codified Ruthenian language in spoken or written form, it is rather the use of the Ruthenian dialect.

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, of the 89 public authority bodies, only 1 district office⁹⁸ (1%) received a complaint in the area of administrative offences in the field of the use of languages of national minorities. This was a failure to publish information concerning a threat to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic, which, in accordance with Sec. 4(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. is displayed in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by a special regulation in addition to the national language, also in the language of a minority. Following receipt of the complaint, the district office repeatedly requested the relevant support centre to supply new information signs that would comply with the Act and temporarily relocated the original signs. There were no significant changes compared to the number of complaints received by the public authority bodies (in the previous period there had been 2 complaints received by 2 bodies, in 2018 1 complaint and in 2016 no such complaint had been registered).

Information for individual government departments

District offices

A total of 14 district offices or their branches communicate with citizens in the municipalities defined by a special regulation, 12 of them in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority and 2 district offices in municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority. Of the above, one apparently did not refer to its branch in the municipality, which is included in the special regulation, but to its branch in the town, which is not covered by the relevant provisions of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., and thus did not fill it out in a relevant manner. This fact, which is the basis for the data collected for one of the two district offices operating in a city with a Ruthenian national minority, has an impact on the results of the survey related to the use of this language.

⁹⁷ It is the District Office in Senec.

⁹⁸ It is the District Office in Galanta.

Designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 6)

The designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority, in addition to the name of the municipality in the national language, on the buildings of the public authority bodies, was displayed in accordance with the Act in 13 (93%) district offices, including one district office located in a town with a Ruthenian national minority, as well as the designation of the district office located on the buildings in the national language and in the language of a national minority. One (7%) district office did not comply with this obligation.⁹⁹ Of these district offices, 7 (50%) indicate their designation in the language of a national minority in the same font as in the national language (including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority) and 5 (36%) in smaller font. One district office did not respond to the question. With the exception of 2 district offices, the font size of which was equal to that of the national language, and 1 district office, which appears to have provided data for its seat not located in a municipality listed in a specific regulation, there have been no changes in the area in question.

Official communications (questions 7 – 24)

Of the 572 employees of district offices and their offices communicating with citizens in the municipalities listed in the special regulation, 173 (30%) have a command of the language of a national minority in spoken and written form and 124 (22%) only in spoken form, of whom 485 employees work in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, 172 (35%) of whom have a command of the Hungarian language in spoken and written form and 96 (20%) only in spoken form. Of the 87 employees of district offices that also operate in a city with a Ruthenian national minority, 1 (1%) employee has a command of the Ruthenian language in spoken and written form and 28 (32%) only in spoken form. One district office did not respond to these questions. There were no significant changes from the previous period when 209 (31%) of employees had had a command of the minority language in spoken and written form and 127 (18%) in spoken form.

Language competency training aimed at maintaining and improving the level of proficiency in the language of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in the special regulation was carried out for employees of 10 (71%) district offices during the reference period, including 1 in a town with a Ruthenian national minority. A total of 43 (8%) of the employees (37 of them in Hungarian and 6 in Ruthenian) attended the course. In the previous period, a total of 74 employees from 12 district offices, including one in a town with a Ruthenian national minority, took part. Employees of 5 (50%) district offices rated this training as very useful (including employees of 1 district office operating in a city with a Ruthenian national minority) and employees of 5 (50%) district offices rated it as useful.¹⁰⁰

Employees of 1 district office, as in the previous period, did not consider it necessary to participate in language competence training, employees of 2 other district offices were not offered it (1 of them works in a municipality where the Hungarian language is used and 1 in a municipality where the Ruthenian language is used). Employees in 10 (71%) of the district offices are interested in it in the future. In the previous period, employees from 12 district offices

⁹⁹ This is the District Office in Humenné, Medzilaborce branch.

¹⁰⁰ In the previous period, it had been rated as very useful by employees in 4 district offices and as useful by employees in 8 district offices.

declared this interest. 1 district office did not provide a response. For more information on competency-based training, see subsection 3.3.3 Official communication.

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, thirteen (93%) district offices ensure the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication through their employees communicating in the language of a national minority (9 – 64% in the previous period), 4 (29%) through interpreting or translation services, in both categories 1 office in each city where the Ruthenian language is used. 3 (21%) of these district offices provide for the use of the language of a national minority through a combination of the above options.

Information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority was published in a visible place in the seat of the authority by 9 (64%) district offices (compared to 13 in the previous period), all of them in both the national language and the language of a national minority. 7 (50%) district offices provide this information on the official information board, 6 (43%) on the information board, 6 (43%) on the website, 1 (7%) on the office door, of which 7 (50%) district offices use a combination of these options. 4 (29%) district offices do not fulfil this legal obligation. In both categories, there is one district office operating in a town where the Ruthenian language is used.

One (7%) district office has set a time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority.¹⁰¹ Written submissions in the language of a national minority were received by 2 district offices¹⁰², namely 1 in the Hungarian language in the field of environment and 102 in the Ruthenian language in the field of organisation department and others. These submissions were also answered in the language of a national minority. Compared to the previous period, this is a twofold increase in the total number of such submissions.

The District Office in Komárno (7%) used the possibility to conduct official agenda defined by the Act in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language, 2 (14%) district offices¹⁰³ used this possibility partially (in the previous period it had been 1 district office). These were in the areas of general internal administration and land and forests.

Bilingual documents (questions 26 – 42)

Bilingual forms were provided during the reference period in 2 (14%) district offices¹⁰⁴, 1 and 1 in Hungarian and Ruthenian languages respectively, and in 4 (36%) district offices partially, namely in the areas of trade business, general internal administration (civil registry), cadastre, administrative proceedings in Hungarian and in the areas of environment, land and forest, cadastre and others in the Ruthenian language. In the previous period, 3 district offices had also partially provided forms in the language of a national minority. In the reference period, no district office received requests for bilingual forms and none issued them on request (in the previous period, 2 district offices received them, while 1 district office issued 4 such forms also in the Ruthenian language).

No requests for bilingual public documents or decisions were received by any district office. No submissions in the language of a national minority were received by any district office initiating administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority. No district office

¹⁰¹ These are the District Office in Levice, Šahy branch and Želiezovce branch.

¹⁰² These are the District Office in Galanta and the District Office in Medzilaborce

¹⁰³ These are the District Office in Nové Zámky, Štúrovo branch and the District Office in Michalovce, Veľké Kapušany branch.

¹⁰⁴ These are the District Office in Košice-okolie, Moldava nad Bodvou and the District Office in Medzilaborce.

issued decisions in administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority during the reference period. The situation has not changed compared to the previous period in this area.

Meetings of the office/branch (questions 43 – 45)

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, 3 (21%) district offices, including one in a town with a Ruthenian national minority, also used the language of a national minority in their meetings, and 5 (36%) district offices used it partially¹⁰⁵. One (7%) district office¹⁰⁶ conducts its proceedings in the language of a national minority and 6 (43%) also in the language of a national minority (including one in a town with a Ruthenian national minority). Employees in 2 (14%) district offices also prepare their meeting materials in the language of a national minority. Compared to the previous period, there was a slight improvement of approximately 1 district office in each category.

Public information (questions 46 – 52)

Seven (50%) district offices provide information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places open to the public in municipalities defined by the special regulation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language, and 2 (14%) district offices do so partially. Compared to the previous period, the situation has improved in the case of 2 district offices, which have also started to provide this information in the language of a national minority. Three (21%) district offices did not comply with this legal obligation during the reference period, according to the results of the questionnaire survey.¹⁰⁷

Signs and notices intended to inform the public were provided in the language of a national minority in 7 (50%) district offices, including one in a town with a Ruthenian national minority. They were partially reported in 4 (29%) district offices. One (7%) district office did not mention the signs and notices in question in the language of a national minority and one (7%) district office did not answer the question. Six (43%) of the district offices provided such signs and notices on the website; 7 (50%) on the official information board and 6 (43%) on the information board. Seven (50%) of these district offices used a combination of options for publishing the texts in question, including one in a town with a Ruthenian national minority.

Important information (method of establishment of the obliged entity, its powers, etc.) was also published in the language of a national minority at 1 (7%) district office in a town with a Ruthenian national minority and partially published at 8 (57%) district offices. 4 (29%) district offices do not publish this information in the language of a national minority. One (7%) district office did not answer the question. In the reference period, no district office received requests for information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language.

Final questions (questions 53 – 58)

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication was assessed as seamless by the employees of 4 (29%) district offices, including one based in a town with a Ruthenian national minority. 9 (64%) district offices, including one

¹⁰⁵ Of these, 1 district office indicated both options, with the situation differing for each department.

¹⁰⁶ It is the District Office in Michalovce, Veľké Kapušany branch.

¹⁰⁷ These are the District Office in Nové Zámky, Štúrovo branch, the District Office in Rožňava and the District Office in Humenné, Medzilaborce branch.

district office also operating in a town with a Ruthenian national minority, rated the creation of conditions as partly problematic. 1 (7%) district office considered them to be problematic.¹⁰⁸ As a reason, they stated that they had not noticed any request from clients to use the Hungarian language in official communication, and if there were any interest, there would certainly be a problem, as the District Office in Senec does not have a sworn interpreter at its disposal. 9 district offices that identified this area as partly problematic perceived the reasons for this situation to be insufficient numbers of qualified employees (3 – 21%), insufficient funding (3 – 21%) and insufficient professional support (6 – 43%). Other reasons given by the district authorities were problems with professional terminology in the language of a national minority, failure to deliver forms by the Ministry of the Interior and the process of provision of interpreting and translation services under the "Framework Contract" of the Ministry of the Interior.

One complaint concerning a violation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. was received by one (7%) district office¹⁰⁹. This was a failure to publish information concerning a threat to the life, health, safety or property of citizens, which, in accordance with Sec. 4(7) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. is provided in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by a special regulation in addition to the national language, also in the language of a minority. The District Office has requested the relevant support centre to supply new information boards (again) and has temporarily relocated the original signage. In the previous period, the district office had received 1 complaint concerning a violation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

Tax Offices

In municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, there are 16 seats, branches or contact points of tax offices.

Designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 6)

All 16 tax offices had the municipality's designation and the name of the office provided on their buildings in the language of a national minority, all of which were in the same font. The same situation had already been observed in the previous monitoring period.

Official communications (questions 7 – 20)

Out of a total of 474 employees of the relevant tax offices, their branches and contact points, 100 (21%) were proficient in the language of a national minority in spoken and written form and 130 (27%) in spoken form. Compared to the previous period, there was a slight decrease from 22% of employees with proficiency in a national minority language in spoken and written form and 36% of employees with proficiency in a national minority language in spoken form. Employees of 6 (38%) tax offices expressed interest in language competency training, which is a twofold increase compared to the previous period.

Fifteen (94%) of the tax offices reported that the use of the Hungarian language in official communication was ensured through their employees and 4 (25%) through interpretation or translation services, while 3 tax offices reported a combination of these options.

¹⁰⁸ It is the District Office in Senec.

¹⁰⁹ It is the District Office in Galanta.

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, all 16 tax offices complied with the legal obligation to provide information on the possibility of using the Hungarian language in a visible place at the seat of the authority, and all of them provided this information in the national language and in the language of a national minority. Compared to the previous period, the number of tax offices fulfilling their legal obligation increased by 1 (6%). Nine (56%) tax offices published the information on the official information board and 12 (75%) on the information board. 5 tax offices published it on both boards. Two (13%) tax offices have set a time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority, compared to 5 (31%) tax offices in the previous period. Neither in this monitoring period, no tax office registered written submissions from citizens in the Hungarian language and did not make use of the possibility to conduct the official agenda defined by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language.

Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 37)

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, 11 (69%) tax offices had bilingual official forms within their scope of competence and 5 (31%) had them partially provided. However, it should be noted in this respect that in all cases the instructions were for selected or all tax forms and not for the official forms (tax forms) themselves. In the previous monitoring period, 31% of tax offices had declared that official forms had been fully provided in the language of a national minority and 69% partially had done so.

As in the previous period, no requests for the issue of bilingual official forms and public documents were received by any tax office and none were issued by any tax office. No tax office received any submissions in the Hungarian language initiating administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority, and no tax office has issued administrative decisions in a Hungarian language equivalent.

Meetings of the office/branch (questions 38 – 40)

As in the previous monitoring period, 12 (75%) tax offices did not use the Hungarian language in the meetings and 4 (25%) tax offices partially used the language of the national minority in the meetings. 15 (94%) tax offices conducted meetings in the national language and 2 (13%) tax offices conducted meetings in the national language and in the language of a national minority. One tax office indicated both of these options, as each organisational unit meets separately. Compared to the previous period, the number of tax offices conducting their meetings in Hungarian has decreased by 2 (13%). As in the previous period, the materials for the meetings were prepared in the national language at all 16 tax offices.

Public information (questions 41 – 47)

Two (13%) tax offices indicated in the questionnaire survey that they provide information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by the special regulation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language, 3 (19%) tax offices provided it partially, and 11 (69%) did not provide it in this way. In this context, it should be noted that 14 (88%) of the tax offices, all of which indicated that they also provided the information in question partially or not in the

language of a national minority, provided it through pictograms and thus without the use of language.

Signs and notices intended to inform the public were partially provided in Hungarian at 13 (81%) tax offices and fully provided at 3 (19%). Compared to the previous period, this is an increase of 1 tax office (6%) which also provides these signs and notices in the language of a national minority. Of these, 1 (6%) tax office listed them on the website, 3 (19%) on the official information board and 3 (19%) on the information board, of which 1 (6%) tax office listed a combination of these options and 10 (63%) tax offices did not answer the question.

Important information (method of establishment of the obliged entity, its powers, etc.) is not published in the language of a national minority by any tax office, which is a decrease of 1 (6%) case when it was published and 1 (6%) case when it was partially published compared to the results of the previous questionnaire survey. In the reference period, no tax office received requests for information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language.

Final questions (questions 48 – 53)

The creation of conditions for the use of the Hungarian language in official communication was assessed by 13 (81%) tax offices as seamless (compared to 11 (69%) tax offices in the previous period). Two (13%) tax authorities rated the creation of conditions as partly problematic (previously 4 - 25%). As in the previous period, one (6%) tax office considered them to be problematic. All 3 tax offices that rated these conditions as problematic or partly problematic justified them by insufficient number of qualified employees, 1 in addition by insufficient professional support and 1 pointed to the complexity of professional translation of legislation issued in the national language.

Customs Offices

The questionnaire survey covered 13 customs offices or their branches and stations, 12 of them in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority and one in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority.

Designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 6)

All 13 customs offices had the designation of the municipality and the office provided on their buildings in accordance with the Act, in addition to the name of the municipality in the national language, in the language of a national minority, in the same font as in the national language. The situation was the same in the previous monitoring period.

Official communications (questions 7 – 20)

Of the 314 employees who communicate with citizens in the municipalities defined by the special regulation, 91 (29%) have a command of the language of a national minority in spoken and written form and 117 (37%) only in spoken form. Of these employees, 277 work in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, of whom 91 (33%) have a command of the Hungarian language in both written and spoken form and 104 (38%) only in spoken form. There are 37 employees in the town with a Ruthenian national minority, none of whom have written command of the Ruthenian language and 13 (35%) have verbal command of the language.

Similarly to the previous monitoring period, interest in language competence training was declared by employees of 2 (15%) customs offices and employees of 11 (85%) customs offices were not interested, including one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority.

In the questionnaire survey, 11 (85%) customs offices stated that they ensured the use of the language of a national minority in official communication through their employees communicating in the language of a national minority (1 more than in the previous period), including in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. Two (15%) customs offices stated that there has been no requirement to communicate in Hungarian yet.¹¹⁰

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, all customs offices, as in the previous period, fulfilled the legal obligation to provide information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in a visible place at the seat of the authority, all of them in the national language and in the language of a national minority. Seven (54%) customs offices, including one in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, provided the information on an official information board and 9 (69%) customs offices provided the information on an information board; of these, two customs offices (15%) used a combination of the above methods.

As in the previous period, no customs office has set a time slot for handling cases in the language of a national minority. No customs office registered written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority (in the previous period 1 customs office registered 2 written submissions in the Ruthenian language). No customs office, as in the previous period, conducted its official agenda as defined by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language.

Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 37)

According to the results of the questionnaire survey (as in the previous period), bilingual official forms were provided at 6 (46%) customs offices and at 7 (54%) they were partially provided. In the case of 4 customs offices that indicated that they had fully provided bilingual forms, these were provided in the area of excise duties, in the case of the others they included explanatory notes/instructions on form filling, general submission, control of funds at the crossing of the state border, in the Ruthenian language (partially provided) it was the reporting obligation and instructions on filling in the tax return.

As in the previous period, no requests for the issue of bilingual official forms and public documents were received by any customs office during the reference period. No customs office has also issued bilingual public documents. No submissions in the language of a national minority have been received by any customs office initiating administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority. During the reference period, no customs office issued decisions in administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority.

Meetings of the office/branch (questions 38 – 40)

In the questionnaire survey, 4 (31%) customs offices stated that they also partially use the language of a national minority in their meetings (including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority) and 9 (69%) customs offices do not use it at all in their meetings. Compared to the previous period, the language of a national minority appeared in 1 customs office that had

¹¹⁰ These are the Customs Office in Trnava, Galanta branch and the Customs Office in Nitra, Nové Zámky branch.

not previously used it in the meeting. Three (23%) customs offices also conduct their meetings in the language of a national minority (including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority). As in the previous period, the materials for the meetings were prepared in the national language at all 13 customs offices.

Public information (questions 41 – 47)

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, information concerning threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by the special regulation was provided in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language in 4 (31%) customs offices and was not provided in 9 (69%) customs offices, including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. These 9 customs offices indicated that they provide the information in question by means of pictograms and thus without the use of language.

Signs and announcements intended to inform the public in the language of the national minority were placed in 6 (46%) customs offices, including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority and partially in 6 (46%) customs offices (in the previous period fully in 4 and partially in 8). One (8%) customs office did not provide the information in question. Two (15%) customs offices displayed the notices on the official information board and 5 (38%) customs offices displayed them on the information board. Important information (method of establishment of the obliged entity, its competencies etc.) was not published in 11 (85%) customs offices, including in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, and was partially published in 2 (15%) customs offices (in the previous period it was 1 customs office more). In the reference period, no customs office registered requests for information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language.

Final questions (questions 48 – 53)

One (85%) of the customs offices, including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, described the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication as seamless. Two (15%) customs offices considered it to be partly problematic, both stated lack of professional support as the reason. In the previous period, 1 customs office had stated that it assessed this area as problematic, while no customs office did so during the reference period. In the reference period, no complaint concerning a violation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. was received by any customs office (in the previous period, 2 such complaints had been received by the customs office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority).

Regional Public Health Authorities

Of the 36 offices operating in the Slovak Republic, 6 are located in towns with a Hungarian national minority.

Designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 6)

All 6 RPHAs had their municipality and office signs in the language of a national minority displayed alongside the name of the municipality and office on their buildings in accordance with the Act, of which 4 (67%) in the same font and 2 (33%) in a smaller font than in

the national language. In this area, 1 RPHA has been added compared to the previous period, which also indicates the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority.

Official communications (questions 7 – 20)

A total of 204 employees work at the 6 RPHAs located in the municipality defined by the special regulation, of which 56 (27%) have a command of Hungarian in both written and spoken form and 53 (26%) only in spoken form. The share of employees with a command of a national minority language has not changed significantly compared to the previous period. As in the previous period, 3 (50%) RPHA employees declared an interest in language competency training and 3 employees (50%) did not. According to the results of the questionnaire survey, all 6 RPHAs ensured the use of the Hungarian language in official communication through their employees.

As in the previous period, all 6 RPHAs fulfilled their legal obligation to provide information on the possibilities of using the Hungarian language in official communication in a visible place, of which 5 (83%) RPHAs also provided this information in the language of the national minority and 1 (17%) RPHA in the national language. Two (33%) RPHAs posted this information on the official information board, 4 (67%) on the information board, 3 (50%) on the website and 1 (17%) stated that it was also communicated by oral communication. Four (67%) RPHAs use a combination of these options.

No RPHA has set a time slot for dealing with cases in the Hungarian language. 2 written submissions in the Hungarian language in the field of hygiene were registered at 1 (17%) RPHA (1 in the previous period). A reply was provided to the submission in question. The official agenda in the Hungarian language was again partially conducted by 1 (17%) RPHA in the field of educational and consultancy activities; in the competence for epidemiologically serious activities; in the performance of state health surveillance and official food control.

Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 37)

As in the previous period, according to the questionnaire survey, 3 (50%) RPHAs provided bilingual official forms for citizens within the scope of their competence, 2 (33%) RPHAs partially and 1 (17%) RPHA did not provide the forms in question (in the previous period, 2 RPHAs had not provided them and 1 had provided them partially). Almost all bilingual forms represent requests from different areas. No requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms and public documents were received by any RPHA during the reference period (nor in the previous period). No RPHA has also issued bilingual public documents. No submissions in the Hungarian language were received by any RPHA to initiate administrative proceedings and no RPHA issued a decision in the language of a national minority during the reference period.

Meetings of the office/branch (questions 38 – 40)

During the reference period, the employees of one (17%) RPHA also used the Hungarian language in their meetings and the employees of 2 (33%) RPHAs used it partially (in the previous period, 3 RPHA had used it partially). As in the previous period, 2 (33%) RPHAs conducted the meeting in the national language and in the language of a national minority and 4

(67%) RPHA in the national language. Meeting materials were prepared partly in the language of a national minority at one (17%) of the RPHAs.¹¹¹

Public information (questions 41 – 47)

Information, signs and notices concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens in places open to the public in municipalities defined by special regulation were again displayed in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language at 5 (83%) RPHAs and at one (17%) RPHA they were not provided.¹¹² Signs and notices intended to inform the public were also provided in the language of a national minority at 4 (67%) RPHAs and were partially provided at 2 (33%) RPHAs. Four (67%) RPHAs provided the signs and notices on the website, 1 (17%) on the official information board, 3 (50%) on the information board and one RPHA used bilingual information leaflets, local television and the press to publicise them. Four (67%) RPHAs used a combination of these options. Important information (method of establishment of the obliged entity, its competencies, etc.) was also published in the language of a national minority at 3 (50%) RPHA and partially at 3 (50%) RPHAs. Compared to the previous period, when it was not published at all at 1 RPHA in the language of a national minority, it was at least partially published at each relevant RPHA. In the reference period, no requests for information on generally binding legal regulations in addition to the state language were received by any Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in the language of a national minority.

Final questions (questions 48 – 53)

The creation of conditions for the use of the Hungarian language in official communication was assessed by 2 (33%) of the RPHAs as seamless, which is an improvement compared to the previous period, when no RPHA had assessed this area in this way. It is perceived as partly problematic by 3 (50%) RPHAs and problematic by 1 RPHA (17%), similar to the previous period. 3 (50%) RPHAs stated insufficient number of qualified employees, 2 (33%) insufficient financial resources, 3 (50%) insufficient professional support and 1 RPHA referred to "highly professional translations of decisions, the correct stylisation of which is legally very important and requires financial requirements for the provision of an interpreter" as the reason. Three (50%) of the RPHAs listed reported a combination of the above factors. No complaints regarding the use of the Hungarian language were received by any RPHA during this period.

Regional Veterinary and Food Administrations

There are 8 RVFAs in municipalities defined by the special regulation, all in towns with a Hungarian national minority.

Designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 6)

All 8 RVFAs have the municipality and authorities' signs in the language of a national minority on their buildings alongside the name in the national language, 7 (88%) in the same font

¹¹¹ It is the Regional Public Health Authority based in Komárno.

¹¹² It is the Regional Public Health Authority based in Galanta.

and 1 (12%) in a smaller font. Compared to the previous period, there have been no changes in this area.

Official communications (questions 7 – 20)

The 8 RVFAs covered by the questionnaire survey have 160 employees, of whom 45 (28%) have a working knowledge of Hungarian in both written and spoken form and 29 (18%) only in spoken form (compared to 45 (26%) in written and spoken form and 25 (14%) in spoken form in the previous period). 3 (38%) RVFAs employees expressed interest in language competency training, 4 (50%) RVFAs employees did not, and 1 (12%) did not answer the question. Compared to the previous period, one more RVFA is interested. All RVFA ensure the use of the Hungarian language in official communication through their employees communicating in the language of a national minority, and 2 (25%) also use interpreting or translation services.

All RVFAs have fulfilled their legal obligation to provide information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in a visible place at the seat of the authority (in the previous period 1 RVFA did not fulfil this obligation). 7 RVFAs (88%) provided this information in both the national language and the language of the national minority and 1 (12%) RVFA in the national language, 4 (50%) of them on the official information board and 7 (88%) on the information board; 3 of these RVFA combined these options.

Again, no RVFA has set a time slot for handling cases in the language of a national minority. No RVFA registered written submissions in the language of a national minority during the reference period. No RVFA conducted its official agenda as defined by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language.

Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 37)

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, 7 (88%) RVFAs had bilingual forms and 1 (12%) RVFA had them partially (in the previous period 6 RVFA had them fully and 2 partially). One RVFA stated that they are provided by the State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic. The forms concerned the following areas: food hygiene and animal health; notifications, registrations and applications.

No RVFA received a request for bilingual official forms (1 RVFA had received one in the previous period). No requests for public documents or submissions in the Hungarian language initiating administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority were received by the RVFAs during the reference period. During the reference period, no RVFA issued administrative decisions in the language of a national minority.

Meetings of the office/branch (questions 38 – 40)

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, the Hungarian language is also used in the meetings of 1 (12%) RVFA, and partially in the meetings of 1 (12%) other RVFA. In 2 RVFAs (25%) the meetings are conducted in Hungarian language in addition to the national language, in the other 6 (75%) only in the national language. 1 (12%) of the employees of the RVFAs also prepared the meeting materials in Hungarian. In all three areas, there was an increase of 1 (12%) in the number of RVFAs using Hungarian in their meetings, conducting meetings and preparing materials in Hungarian compared to the previous period.

Public information (questions 41 – 47)

During the reference period, all RVFAs had information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens displayed in places accessible to the public also in the Hungarian language.¹¹³ This is a significant improvement compared to the previous period, as in 2020, 3 (37.5%) of the RVFAs had provided the information in question in the language of a national minority, two (25%) of the RVFAs partially had done so, and 3 (37.5%) of the RVFA had not provided the information.

Signs and notices intended to inform the public in the Hungarian language were displayed at all RVFA (in the previous period at 5 (63%) RVFAs, partially displayed at two (25%) RVFAs and not displayed at one (12%) RVFAs). Six (75%) of the RVFAs posted them on the official information board and 5 (63%) of the RVFA posted them on the information board; 3 (38%) of these RVFAs used a combination of these methods. Important information (method of establishment of the obliged entity, its competencies etc.) was posted in 2 (25%) RVFAs also in the language of a national minority and in 3 (38%) it was partially posted in this way. This is an increase in the number of RVFAs that also post important information at least partially in the language of a national minority by 3 (38%) RVFAs. No requests for information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority were received by the RVFAs during the reference period.

Final questions (questions 48 – 53)

As in the previous period, the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication was assessed by 5 (63%) of the RVFAs as seamless. Three (38%) of the RVFAs assessed these conditions as partly problematic, due to the insufficient number of qualified employees, insufficient funding and because "highly specific professional texts in the language of national minorities and their interpretation also from a legal point of view towards the parties require an expert level of knowledge of the language of the national minority." No complaints were received by the RVFAs regarding the use of the Hungarian language during the monitoring period.

Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

In the Slovak Republic, there are 27 municipalities defined by the special regulation in which the seat or branch of the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family is located, of which 26 are municipalities with a Hungarian national minority and one with a Ruthenian national minority.

Designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 6)

All 27 of the OLSAFs had the municipality and office signs in the language of a national minority listed on their buildings alongside the name of the municipality and office in the national language, and in all cases in the same font. Compared to the previous period, this is an improvement in the area of 1 OLSAF that was not designated in accordance with the Act in the previous period.

¹¹³ One RVFA stated that it uses "internationally recognised pictograms in places accessible to the public according to Government Regulation No. 387/2006 Coll." on requirements for ensuring safety and health signage at work.

Official communications (questions 7 – 20)

A total of 1,312 employees work at the relevant OLSAF and their branches, of whom 448 (34%) have a working knowledge of the language of a national minority in spoken and written form and 238 (18%) only in spoken form; 1, 290 employees work in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, of whom 448 (35%) have a command of the Hungarian language in spoken and written form and 235 (18%) only in spoken form; 22 (14%) employees work in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, of whom none have a command of the Ruthenian language in spoken and written form and 3 have only a command of the Ruthenian language in spoken form.¹¹⁴ In the previous period, the total number of employees of OLSAFs and their branches was 1,421, of whom 444 (31%) had a command of the language of a national minority in spoken and written form and 371 (27%) in spoken form.

The interest in language competency training was expressed by employees of 16 OLSAFs, including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority (in the previous period, a total of 9 OLSAFs). All 27 OLSAFs ensured the use of the language of a national minority in official communication through their employees communicating in the language of a national minority.

The legal obligation to provide information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in a visible place at the seat of the body was fulfilled by 16 (59%) of the OLSAFs (according to the results of the previous survey, all 27), including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. Twelve (44%) provided this information in both the national language and the language of a national minority, and 1 (4%) indicated in the questionnaire that it was only in the language of a national minority. Four (15%) of the OLSAFs published the information in question on the official information board, 9 (33%) on the information board, 2 (7%) on the website and 4 (15%) in other public places within the authority; 3 (11%) of these OLSAF used a combination of these options.

The time slot for dealing with cases in the language of a national minority has not been set by any of the OLSAFs. Four (15 %) of the OLSAFs registered an unreported number of submissions in the Hungarian language, in the areas of material need, social protection of children and social welfare and compensation. In the previous period, 6 (22%) of the OLSAFs had received 204 submissions. Three (75%) of the above-mentioned OLSAFs did not provide responses to the submissions in question in the language of national minority in addition to the national language, and 1 (25%) provided partial responses in the language of a national minority. None of the OLSAFs conducted official agenda in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language.

Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 37)

None of the OLSAFs provided bilingual forms in the language of a national minority within the scope of their competence and none received requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms and public documents or submissions in the language of a national minority initiating administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority during the reference

¹¹⁴ The branch in question stated that they do not have a command of written form of the Ruthenian language, but only the dialect.

period. In the reference period, no decisions in administrative proceedings were issued by the OLSAFs in the language of a national minority. The results of the questionnaire survey do not differ in this area from the previous period.

Meetings of the office/branch (questions 38 – 40)

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, the Hungarian language is also used in the meetings of 5 (19%) of the OLSAFs, and partially in the meetings of 6 (22%) of the OLSAFs, which is an increase from 4 (15%) where the language of a national minority was used and 3 (11%) where it was used partially compared to the previous period. Meetings were also conducted in Hungarian at 2 (7%) of the OLSAFs (compared to 8 – 30% in the previous period). As in the previous period, the materials for the meeting were not prepared in the language of a national minority at any of the OLSAFs.

Public information (questions 41 – 47)

In addition to the national language, 11 (41%) of the OLSAFs provided information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by the special regulation in the language of a national minority, and 2 (7%) provided it partially in the Hungarian or Ruthenian language. In the language of the national minority, 13 (48%) of the OLSAFs did not mention them at all, compared to 11 (41%) in the previous period.

Signs and announcements intended to inform the public were also presented in the Hungarian language by 7 (26%) of the OLSAFs and 8 (29%) partially, which represents a decrease by 2 OLSAFs that used the language of a national minority at least partially in this area compared to the previous period. Five (19 per cent) of the OLSAFs provided it on an official information board, 4 (15%) on an information board and 4 (15%) on another public space within their building. Four of these OLSAFs used a combination of these options. Eleven (41%) of the OLSAFs, including 1 in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, did not provide the signs and notices in question in the language of a national minority.

Important information (the way of establishment of the obliged entity, its competencies, etc.) was also published in Hungarian by 1 (4%) of the OLSAFs and 1 (4%) of the OLSAFs partially. In the reference period, no requests for information on generally binding legal regulations in addition to the state language were received by any OLSAFs in the language of a national minority.

Final questions (questions 50 – 55)

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication was assessed as seamless by 17 (63%) of the OLSAFs, as partially problematic by 8 (30%) and as problematic by 2 (7%), including the OLSAF in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. In the previous period, 1 (4%) of the OLSAF rated them as such. Three (11%) of the OLSAFs identified insufficient number of qualified employees, 1 (4%) of the OLSAFs insufficient financial resources, 3 (11%) insufficient professional support, and others the financial difficulty of translating and interpreting, as reasons why creating these conditions is problematic. Another one was the lack of established and unambiguous professional terminology when translating legislative texts published in the national language, and the OLSAFs operating

in a town with a Ruthenian national minority pointed to the fact that its employees only have a command of the Ruthenian dialects and not of the written Ruthenian language. No complaint concerning violation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. was received by the OLSAFs.

Archives

Within the network of state archives and their branches, there are 5 branches in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority.

Designations in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 6)

All archives have the municipality and archive designation in the language of a national minority on their buildings alongside the name in the national language, of which 1 (20%) has the same font and 4 (80%) have a smaller font.

Official communications (questions 7 – 20)

A total of 26 employees members work in the 5 relevant branches of the state archives, of whom 20 (77%) have a command of the Hungarian language in both written and spoken form and 2 (8%) only in spoken form.¹¹⁵ Compared to the previous period, there was an increase in the share of employees with a command of Hungarian, with 16 (62%) having a command in both written and spoken Hungarian and 5 (19%) in spoken Hungarian only. The employees of 4 (80%) archives expressed an interest in language competency training, compared to the employees of 2 archives in the previous period.

During the reference period, all the archives ensured the possibility of using the Hungarian language in official communication through their employees, one of them through a former employees member. One archive (20%) set aside time slot to handle cases in the language of a national minority. All 5 archives have also fulfilled their legal obligation to provide information on the possibilities of using the Hungarian language in official communication, all of them in the language of a national minority, in a visible place. One (20%) archive provided it on the official information board, 4 (80%) on the information board, 2 (40%) on the website; of these, 2 by a combination of the above and 1 (20%) at the door.

In the reference period, 3 (60%) archives recorded a total of 31 submissions from citizens in the Hungarian language. The submissions were related to administrative matters, genealogy, research, and were also requests for copies. The archives also responded to submissions in the language of a national minority. In the previous monitoring period, 1 (20%) archive had recorded 9 such submissions. Similarly to the previous period, 2 (40%) archives conducted their official agenda in addition to the national language also in the language of a national minority during the reference period, namely in the research agenda and in the study of archival documents.

Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 37)

Compared to the previous monitoring period, the number of archives providing bilingual official forms for citizens has increased from 2 (40%) to 4 (80%), while in the previous period 2 (40%) archives had had it partially provided and 1 (20%) had had not, while now the fifth and final archive (20%), which was lacking them until now, has it partially provided. One (20%) of

¹¹⁵ In the State Archives in Nitra, the Komárno Archives, all employees have a command of the Hungarian language in spoken and written form, in the other 4 archives all employees except 1 can speak it at least.

the archives also has research rules in the Hungarian language, the others have research letters and various requests. Three (60%) archives issued a total of 663 official forms on request during the reference period and 1 (20%) archive recorded 3 requests for certificates to which it responded in accordance with the Act. In the previous period, one archive had received requests for bilingual official forms, of which 270 had been issued. No submissions in the Hungarian language have been received by any archives initiating administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority. No state archives registered requests for bilingual decisions and none issued them during the reference period.

Meetings of the office/branch (questions 38 – 40)

In the reference period, 2 (40%) of the archives' employees also used the Hungarian language in their meetings (compared to 1 archives' employees in the previous period). All the archives conducted the proceedings in the national language (in the previous period 1 also in Hungarian). 1 (20%) of the archive employees prepared the materials for the meeting partly in the language of a national minority.

Public information (questions 41 – 47)

Information, signs and notices concerning threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic were displayed in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by the special regulation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language by 3 (60%) archives and by 2 (40%) archives partially¹¹⁶. In the previous period had not been provided in 4 (80%) archives and partially provided in 1 (20%) archive. Signs and notices intended to inform the public in the language of a national minority were provided by 4 (80%) archives and partially by 1 (20%) archive, of which 3 (60%) on the website, 2 (40%) on the official information board, 4 (80%) on the information board and 2 (40%) in other places in the public areas of their building. Four of these archives used a combination of these options.

In addition to the national language, 3 (60%) archives provided important information (method of establishment of the obliged entity, its competencies etc.) in the language of a national minority. No archives registered requests for information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language.

Final questions (questions 48 – 53)

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication was again assessed by all 5 archives as seamless. No archives have received any complaints regarding the use of the Hungarian language.

Public authority bodies - conclusions

The creation of conditions for the use of the Hungarian and Ruthenian languages in official communication is assessed by more public authority bodies as seamless compared to previous periods.

¹¹⁶ One archive stated that it provides them through pictograms and thus without the use of language.

In the area of designations in the language of a national minority, 99 % of the public authority bodies now indicate their designations, including municipal designations, in the language of a national minority. The share of employees in these authorities who have a working knowledge of the language of a national minority in both spoken and written form has remained unchanged, while the share of employees who have only a spoken command of the language has fallen slightly compared to the previous period, but is still higher than in the earlier figures.

In the area of official communication, the number of the public authority bodies ensuring the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication through internal employees has increased to 96% of all public authority bodies. Interest in language competency training increased overall, but decreased in the case of district offices, whose employees were the only ones to have had the opportunity to attend. According to the results of the survey, the number of public authority bodies providing information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority has decreased during the reference period (from 98% to 82%). The number of the public authority bodies registering submissions in the language of a national minority decreased, but the number of registered submissions in the Ruthenian language increased significantly (102).

Since the beginning of the monitoring of the provision of bilingual official forms, there has been a continuous increase in the number of the public authority bodies providing them (36% and 22% partially). However, there has been a decrease in the number of authorities receiving requests for such forms, from 5% to 1%, but an increase in the number of forms also issued in the language of a national minority (from 275 to 663). For the first time, public authority bodies that received submissions in the language of a national minority initiating administrative proceedings also in the language of a national minority were recorded. No requests for a bilingual decision were registered.

With regard to the meetings of the public authority bodies, there has been an increase in the use of the language of a national minority in meetings. For the meeting, a slight decrease was observed compared to the previous period, but the values were still higher than during the earlier reference periods. There has been a slight increase in the use of languages of national minorities in the preparation of meeting materials in the language of a national minority.

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. Compared to previous periods, there have been no significant changes in signage and public information notices.

3.4 Organisational Components of the Armed Security Forces and Rescue Corps

In accordance with Sec. 7(4) of Act No.184/1999 Coll., if members of the Armed Security Forces and Rescue Corps, other armed forces, the Fire and Rescue Corps and the municipal police have a command of the language of a national minority, they may use the language of a national minority in communication with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority in a municipality defined by the special regulation. In accordance with Sec. 7a of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic provides professional and methodological assistance to public administration bodies and organisational units of security and rescue forces in the implementation of this Act.

The list of organisational units of the Fire and Rescue Corps, the Armed Security Corps, the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and other armed forces in which, in accordance with

Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the language of a national minority is used in addition to the national language in communication is included in Annex No. 9.

3.4.1 Organisational components of the Fire and Rescue Corps

The Fire and Rescue Corps are established by Act No. 315/2001 Coll. on the Fire and Rescue Corps as amended, which also regulates the status, tasks, organisation and management of the Fire and Rescue Corps. On the basis of a request from the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of the Interior identified the district directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps in which, in addition to the national language, the language of a national minority is used in official communication in accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll. The questionnaire was sent by all 6 respondents, all of them based in towns with a Hungarian national minority.

Designations in the language of a national minority (questions 2 – 6)

All the relevant district directorate had the municipality and the public authority's name in Hungarian on their buildings in accordance with the Act, 3 (50%) of them in the same font and 3 (50%) in smaller font.

Official communications (questions 7 – 21)

The above-mentioned district directorate have a total of 380 officers, of whom 89 (23%) have a command of the Hungarian language in both written and spoken form and 124 (33%) only in spoken form, and in one case¹¹⁷ all officers have at least a spoken command of the Hungarian language. In the previous period, 68 (19%) of the 349 members had had a command of the Hungarian language in spoken and written form and 126 (36%) only in spoken form.

Officers of 4 (67%) district directorates use partly the language of a national minority in the performance of their official duties, officers of 2 (33%) do not use it at all in their official duties.¹¹⁸ When communicating with citizens belonging to a national minority, 2 (33%) district directorates use it and 4 (67%) district directorates use it partially. Compared to the previous period, there is a slight increase in the use of the Hungarian language in official communication, whereas in the previous period it had been used by the officers of one (17%) district directorate and partially by the officers of 5 (83%) district directorates.

All district directorates ensure the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication through their own employees and in addition, 2 (33%) district directorates also provide interpreting or translation services through the Framework Agreement of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. In the previous period, 1 (17%) district directorate stated that it had not ensured the use of the Hungarian language. No district directorate sets a time slot for handling cases in the language of a national minority.

As in the previous period, all 6 (100%) of the district directorates visibly display information on the possibilities of using the Hungarian language in spoken and written form in official communication, all of them also in the language of a national minority. This information is displayed by all district directorates on the information board and by 3 (50%) of them on the

¹¹⁷ It is the District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps in Dunajská Streda

¹¹⁸ These are the District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps in Nové Zámky and the District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps in Komárno.

entrance door to the building. No district directorate registered written submissions from citizens in Hungarian language and did not use this language in official work during this period.

Bilingual documents (questions 22 – 37)

Compared to the previous period, a bilingual form (record of the handover of the intervention site, according to 2 district directorates, the only form used within the Fire and Rescue Corps) has been provided in 3 (50%) district directorates. The other 3 (50%) do not have it even during the reference period.

During the reference period, no requests for bilingual official forms, public documents or decisions, or submissions initiating proceedings in the language of a national minority, were received by any district directorate.

Meeting of the Rescue Corps organisational structure (questions 39 – 41)

As in the previous period, two (33%) district directorates reported that they also conduct part of their meetings in Hungarian and one (17%) district directorate conducts its meetings in the language of a national minority. Officers of any district directorate do not prepare materials for meetings in the language of a national minority.

Public information (questions 42 – 48)

Information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic is also provided in the Hungarian language in places accessible to the public in the administration of 5 (83%) district directorate, one (17%) presents it through pictograms, thus without the use of language. Signs and notices intended to inform the public are also provided in the Hungarian language by 4 (67%) district directorates, partially by one (17%) and only in the national language by one (17%) district directorate, of which one (17%) on the website and on the official information board, 5 (83%) on the information board and 2 (33%) also on the front door, while 3 (50%) district directorates use a combination of the above options. Important information (method of establishment of the obliged entity, its competencies etc.) was also given in the language of a national minority by 1 (17%) district directorate, 2 (33%) partially and 3 (50%) did not provide it at all in Hungarian.

No district directorates received requests for information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language during the reference period.

Final questions (questions 49 – 54)

Two (33%) district directorates perceived the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication as seamless during the reference period (no district directorate had done so in the previous period). The remaining 4 (67%) identified it as partially problematic (all in the previous period), with 3 (50%) identifying it as problematic due to insufficient numbers of qualified employees and insufficient funding. One (17%) district directorate reported that employees proficient in the language of a national minority do not have a working knowledge of professional terminology and legislation in the

language of a national minority. In the reference period, no district directorate received a complaint for violation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

3.4.2 Organisational units of the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps

In accordance with Act No. 4/2001 Coll. on the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps, as amended, the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps are an armed corps that performs tasks related to the execution of detention, the execution of imprisonment, the protection and guarding of the Corps' facilities and the protection of order and security in court facilities. Organisationally, it consists of the General Directorate, the detention centres, the prisons for the execution of custodial sentences, the juvenile detention centre and the hospital for the accused and convicted, and members of the Corps. In the framework of the questionnaire survey, one Institute for the Execution of Imprisonment Sentences (hereinafter the "Institute"), which is located in a municipality with a Hungarian national minority, was contacted. The text of the questionnaire is included in Annex No. 6.

Official communications (questions 2 – 4)

Of the 254 members of the Institute, 88 (35%) have a command of the Hungarian language in spoken and written form and 32 (13%) only in spoken form. Compared to the previous period, the number of employees with a command of the Hungarian language in this area has decreased from 117 (47%) with a command of the Hungarian language in spoken and written form to 32 (13%) with only a command of the Hungarian language in spoken form. Members of the Institute who have a command of the language of a national minority partly communicated with citizens belonging to the Hungarian national minority.

Public information (questions 5 – 7)

As in the previous period, information, signs and notices concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens in places open to the public under the administration of the Institute, and signs and notices intended to inform the public and important information (the manner of establishment of the obliged entity, its competences, etc.) are also provided in the language of a national minority

Final questions (questions 8 – 11)

In the reference period, no complaints were received by the Institute due to violation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

3.4.3 Organisational units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic

The Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic are established pursuant to Act No. 321/2002 Coll. on the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic as amended, to preserve peace, to guarantee the defence of the Slovak Republic and to fulfil the obligations arising from international treaties to which the Slovak Republic is bound. Civil servants and employees who make up the civilian personnel of the Armed Forces shall also participate in the performance of the tasks of the Armed Forces. Within the framework of the survey, 6 military units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter "AF SR") in municipalities with Hungarian national minority were

contacted, including 4 military units of the Air Force of AF SR and two military units of the Ground Forces of AF SR. The text of the questionnaire for AF SR is included in Annex No. 6.

Official communications (questions 2 – 4)

Of the 813 members of the military units, 57 (7%) have a command of the Hungarian language in spoken and written form and 97 (12%) only in spoken form, while in 1 military unit¹¹⁹ not a single member has a command of the Hungarian language. Compared to the previous period, the share of members who have a command of Hungarian has slightly decreased. Two years ago, of the 848 members, 51 (6%) had been proficient in written and spoken language and 120 (14%) were proficient in spoken language only. Members of the military units of AF SR who had a command of the Hungarian language used this language when communicating with citizens of Hungarian nationality in 3 (50%) units, in another two (33%) partially and in one (17%) they did not use it.

Public information (questions 5 – 7)

Five (83%) military units also provided information in the language of a national minority regarding threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens in places open to the public (e.g. fences separating public space from the armed forces area), and one (17%) service also provided information partly in Hungarian. In the previous period, 4 (67%) military services had also provided it in the language of a national minority and 2 (33%) had not. Signs and notices intended to inform the public, which are administered by an organisational unit of the Armed Forces, are in Hungarian by 3 (50 %) units (compared to 2 (33 %) units in the previous period). In the reference period, no unit also provided important information (the manner of establishment of the obliged entity, its competencies, etc.) in the language of a national minority, whereas in the previous period one (17%) military unit had done so in this way.

Final questions (questions 8 – 11)

No military unit of the Slovak Armed Forces received any complaints for violation of the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages during the reference period.

3.5 Public Prosecutors' Offices and Courts

3.5.1 The status and competence of selected District Prosecutor's Offices and Courts in relation to Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

Within the framework of this year's questionnaire survey, for the first time, the status of the use of languages of national minorities was also surveyed at the level of district prosecutor's offices and courts that have their seat in municipalities pursuant to the Government Regulation

¹¹⁹ Operational Unit Koliňanský vrch/Aircraft Rocket Brigade/Air Force of the Slovak Armed Forces, which has 2 members.

No. 221/1999 Coll., namely the following entities: the District Prosecutor's Office in Galanta, the District Prosecutor's Office in Dunajská Streda, the District Prosecutor's Office in Komárno, the District Prosecutor's Office in Nové Zámky, the District Prosecutor's Office in Rimavská Sobota, the District Prosecutor's Office in Rožňava and the District Court in Dunajská Streda, the District Court in Galanta, the District Court in Komárno, the District Court in Nové Zámky, the District Court in Rimavská Sobota and the District Court in Rožňava. All the entities concerned are located in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority. The above-mentioned entities have a completely different position in relation to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. compared to the public authority bodies analysed in the previous part of this Report, and the use of languages of national minorities in relation to them is regulated primarily by other legislation of a procedural nature (for example, Act No. 160/2015 Coll. – Civil Procedure Code and Act No. 301/2005 Coll. – Criminal Procedure Code). The questionnaire survey therefore focused primarily on the area of visual bilingualism and communication with citizens belonging to national minorities directly in the proceedings. The questionnaire consisted of 15 questions and is attached as Annex No. 7 to this Report.

3.5.2 Public Prosecutor's Offices

3.5.2.1 Visual Bilingualism

The questionnaire survey carried out in the framework of the survey on the state of the use of minority languages at the level of the district prosecutor's offices concerned showed that 4 (67%) respondents mentioned the designation of the district prosecutor's office on the building in which it is located, also in the language of a national minority. Only one of them provides the name of the municipality in the national language in addition to the name of the municipality in the language of a national minority. One (17%) of the respondents reported that the district prosecutor's office building also lists office hours in the language of a national minority. Not a single respondent provides general information in the language of the national minority on the information board in the building of the district prosecutor's office, however, 3 (50%) respondents provide information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the district prosecutor's office, partly also in the language of a national minority.

3.5.2.2 Communication

The district prosecutor's offices concerned have a total of 116 employees, 22 (19%) of whom have both a written and a spoken command of Hungarian, and 24 (21%) have a spoken command of Hungarian. This shows that 40% (46) of the employees of the district prosecutor's offices concerned have at least a working knowledge of the Hungarian language. We consider it necessary to point out that not a single respondent indicated that they do not have an employee who has at least a working knowledge of Hungarian. 5 (83%) of the respondents stated that they ensure the right to use the language of a national minority in their communication with citizens through their employees, if necessary, while 2 (33%) of them also ensure it through interpreters and translators. In our opinion, the second option was associated by the respondents with communication in criminal proceedings within the meaning of Sec. 28 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Two (33%) district prosecutor's offices registered written complaints from citizens in the language of a national minority during the reference period. These submissions were in the area of criminal and administrative law. One district prosecutor's office partially issued decisions on submissions written in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language during the reference period.

3.5.3 Courts

3.5.3.1 Visual Bilingualism

The questionnaire survey conducted in the framework of the survey on the state of the use of minority languages at the level of the district courts concerned showed that 4 (67%) respondents provided the designation of the district court on the building in which it is located, also in the language of a national minority. Only one of them provides the name of the municipality in the national language in addition to the name of the municipality in the language of a national minority. Not a single respondent provided information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places open to the public in a minority language in addition to the national language.

3.5.3.2 Communication

The district courts concerned have a total of 437 employees, 128 (29%) of whom have both a written and spoken command of Hungarian and 83 (19%) only a spoken command of Hungarian. This shows that 48% (211) of the employees of the district courts concerned have at least a working knowledge of the Hungarian language. We consider it necessary to point out that not a single respondent indicated that they do not have an employee who has at least a working knowledge of Hungarian. 2 respondents stated that the right to use the language of a national minority in communication with citizens is ensured by their employees, 3 through interpreters and translators, and 1 respondent stated both of the above options.

In the reference period, more than 50 written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority were registered in two district courts. It is not possible to quantify the exact number, as 1 respondent stated that they do not keep a separate register of submissions written in the languages of national minorities. These submissions were in the areas of civil, criminal and commercial law. One district court partially issued decisions on submissions written in a minority language in addition to the national language in the language of a national minority, in a total of 10 decisions during the reference period.

Conclusion

The Report on the State of the Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 – 2022 is the sixth report submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic in accordance with Sec. 7a(2) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., which, following the previous ones, presents a comparison of the scope of the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in time series, which enables an analysis of the factors influencing the use of the languages of national minorities. For the first time, the Report also focused on other entities – district courts and district prosecutor's offices – to which Act No. 184/1999 Coll. does not impose obligations directly, but whom the ordinary citizen comes into contact with. The survey methodologically follows the method of data processing used in previous reports, which was aimed at identifying those areas where there are shortcomings in the use of languages of national minorities in application practice. Of course, the comparability of the data is distorted to some extent by a slight change in the questionnaires in response to the amendment to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. effective from 1 January 2022.

The Report traces the development of the national legislative and institutional framework for the use of languages of national minorities during the reference period, as well as the international legal framework for the use of languages of national minorities. The primary objective of the Report was to summarize the state of use of languages of national minorities by public administration bodies and organizational units of the Fire and Rescue Corps, Armed Security Corps, Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and other armed forces in comparison with the results of previous surveys. The part of the Report that presents the results of an extensive questionnaire survey maps the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. by the entities concerned in the period 2021 and 2022 (until 1 July).

Key findings:

The 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 also includes a separate Annex No. 11, which contains the List and number of specific shortcomings in the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. identified on the basis of the questionnaire survey.

Act No. 184/1999 Coll. defines in Sec. 7b(1) the language rights, the observance of which is obligatory and failure to observe them is an administrative offence. An administrative offence in the field of the use of languages of national minorities shall be committed by a public authority in a municipality pursuant to Sec. 2(1) if:

- it fails to allow or inform a citizen who is a person belonging to a national minority to communicate in the language of the national minority (Sec. 2(3)) in spoken or written form;

- at the request of a citizen who is a person belonging to a national minority, fails to issue a copy of the decision and the birth certificate, marriage certificate or death certificate also in the language of a national minority (Sec.2 (4) and (5));
- fails to ensure that its designation on the building in which it is located is also in the language of a national minority (Sec. 2(6));
- fails to provide, at the request, an official form issued within the scope of its competence also in the language of a national minority (Sec. 2(7));
- fails to ensure that the municipality in its territory is marked in the language of a national minority within its jurisdiction in the cases provided for in Sec. 4(1);
- fails to provide information, signs and notices within its area of competence (under Sec. 4(7), first sentence)¹²⁰;
- fails to provide information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority upon request (Sec. 4(9));
- fails to provide the Office of the Government with information and written documentation (pursuant to Sec. 7a(3)).

The results of the survey show that a total of 793 cases in the areas defined above may have been misconduct in the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. (see Annex No. 11 to the Report; in 2020 it was 781, in 2018 it was 1,267 and in 2016 it was 1,712 cases). However, in relation to the above figure, it should be pointed out that this year the Office of the Plenipotentiary recorded a much higher return rate of completed questionnaires than in the last survey (note: especially in relation to legal entities established by local authorities).

Another category of linguistic rights, the observance of which is obligatory and failure to observe of which is not an administrative offence under Act No. 184/1999 Coll. includes the following rights:

- the provision of a reply to public authority bodies to a submission written in the language of a national minority also in the language of a national minority;
- the issuance of permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations in the language of a national minority upon request;
- the issuance of a decision by a public administration authority in administrative proceedings also in the language of a national minority, if the proceedings have been initiated by a submission in the language of a national minority;
- the issuance of a decision by a public administration authority in administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority upon request;
- the publication of important information on the official municipal information board, on the municipality's website and in the periodical press, also in the language of a national minority.

The results of the survey show that there may be misconduct in respect of language rights in this category in 590 cases (see Annex No. 11 to the Report; 612 cases in the last survey). In this context, it should be pointed out that, for example, there has been a significant improvement

¹²⁰ A legal entity or natural person entrepreneur who fails to indicate a sign or a notice pursuant to Sec. 4(7) also in the language of a minority shall be guilty of an administrative offence in the area of the use of minority languages if it is a sign or a notice containing information relating to a threat to the life, health, property or safety of citizens of the Slovak Republic.

in this category in the case of public authority bodies (from 71 cases to 3 cases), while in relation to legal entities there has been an increase in the number of cases of misconduct, but this is also related to the significant increase in the number of legal entities who sent in completed questionnaires)

The language rights, the exercise of which is provided for by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. as an option, include:

- a sign also in the language of a national minority for railway station, bus station, airport and harbour;
- the naming of streets in the language of a national minority in the municipality;
- local geographical signs in the municipality also in the language of a national minority;
- keeping the official agenda, in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information for the public and the agenda of churches and religious societies for the public in addition to the registry office in the language of a national minority;
- keeping the chronicle of the municipality also in the language of a national minority;
- the use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal police in their official communication;
- the use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal police, Armed Security Forces, other armed forces, Fire and Rescue Corps who have a command of the language of a national minority when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority;
- the use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal council at municipal council meetings;
- the meetings of the public authority also in the language of a national minority;
- the issuing of generally binding regulations by public authority bodies also in the language of a national minority;
- the publication of notices intended to inform the public by means of local radio or other technical devices, including in the language of a national minority;
- inscriptions on monuments, memorials and commemorative plaques also in the language of a national minority.

The results of the survey show that language rights in this category are used in 2,675 cases (2,359 cases in the last survey), partially in 1,327 cases (1,096 cases in the last survey) and not used in 2,580 cases (2,294 cases in the last survey; see Annex No. 11 to the Report). The above results are also related to the increased return rate of the completed questionnaires as well as to the change of the questionnaire, especially in relation to the legal possibilities that were introduced into the legal order by the latest amendment to Act No. 184/1999 Coll., effective from 1 January 2022 (the possibility of using information road signs used to guide road users with the names of the marked destinations also in the language of a minority).

When comparing the results of the survey with the monitoring of previous periods, it is possible to observe an improvement in the state of application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. and a gradual decrease in the number of cases where an administrative offence may have been committed due to the increased number of respondents. Although it may seem that the changes are not significant compared to the survey conducted in the previous period, we would like to demonstrate the usefulness of conducting a regular survey by pointing out the development of

some areas of minority language use since 2012, when the first ever report on the use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic was prepared.

Chart 20: Use of the language of a national minority concerned in the official agenda of municipalities - comparison of 2012 and 2022 (the category "did not respond" is not included in the graphical representation¹²¹)

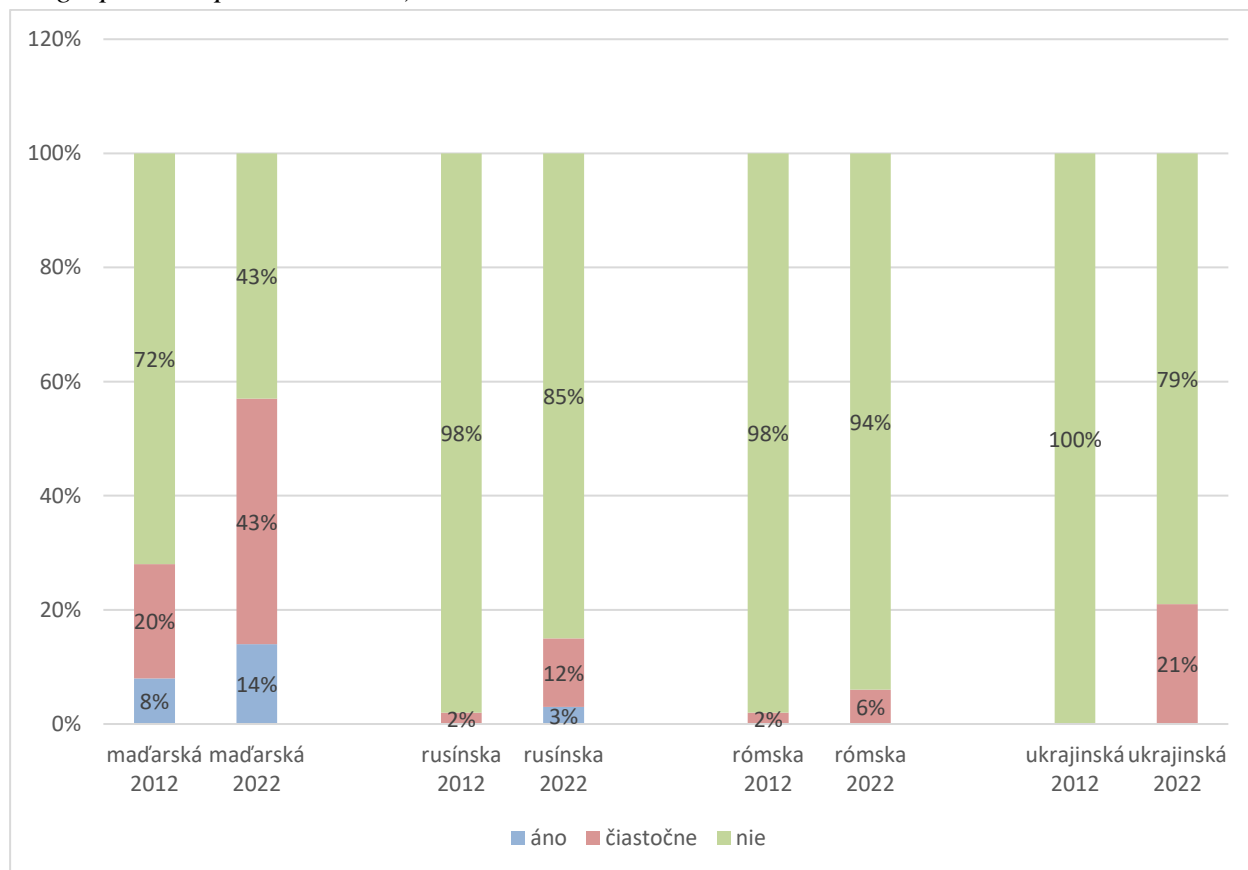


Chart 21: Municipal councils' meetings language (comparison of 2012 and 2022)

¹²¹ In the case of a municipality with a German national minority, there has been no change in this area.

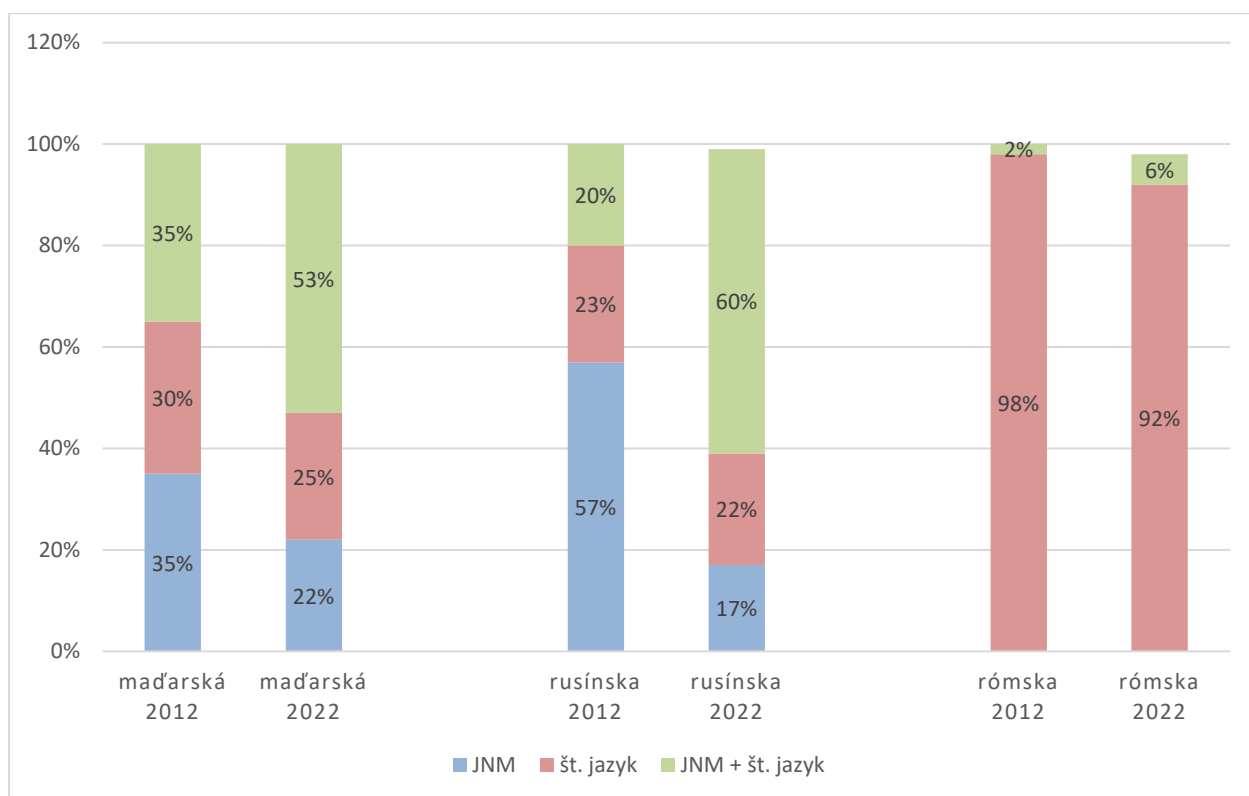
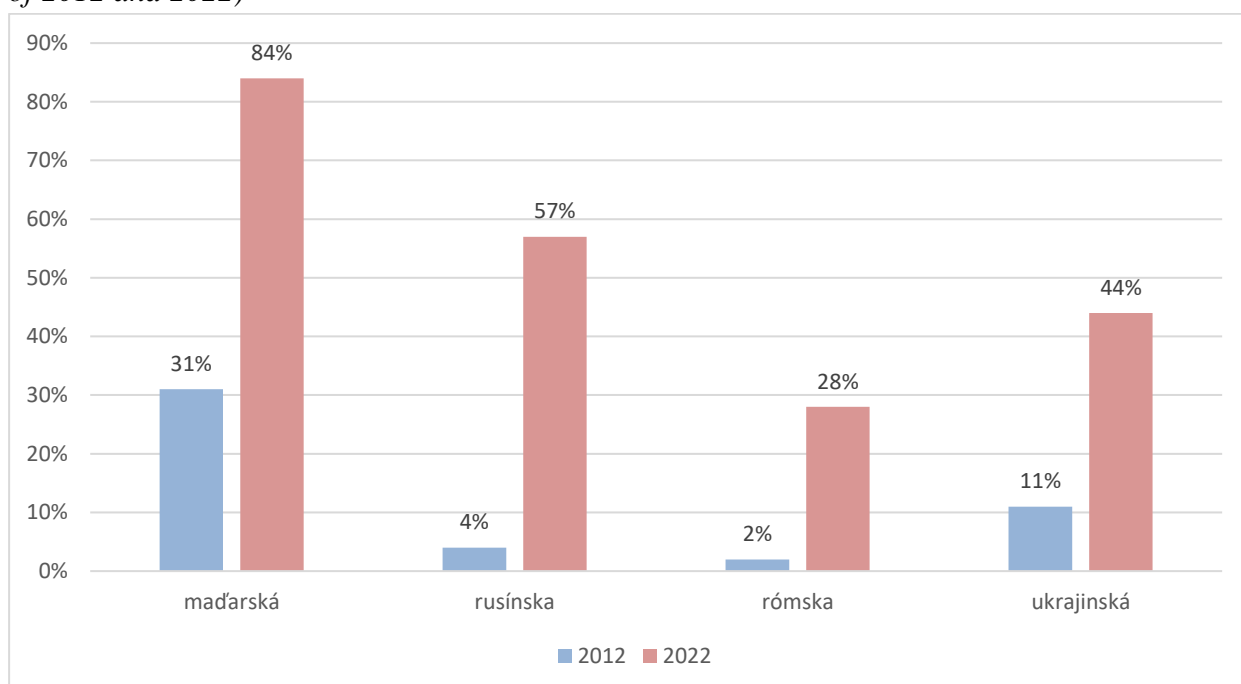


Chart 22: Indication of the possibility of using the language of a national minority (comparison of 2012 and 2022)



It follows that the purposeful and continuous efforts made in the field of improving the application practice of the use of languages of national minorities have tangible results, which are reflected in the results of the above-mentioned surveys.

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 partially problematic.¹²² 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.

Recommendations for application practice:

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 building on the conclusions of previous reports, we propose that:

- more consideration is given to the language competences of applicants when recruiting,

¹²² For more details on municipalities see page 61
For more details on public authority bodies see pages 90 - 91

- 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 Plenipotentiary¹²³. 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 electronification 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.

¹²³ The material is available at:
https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3578/metodicke_usmernenie_uv_sr_k_financnemu_zabezpeceniu.pdf

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE
for local authorities (municipalities) on the use of languages of national minorities

Dear Respondent,

we would like to ask for your cooperation **in surveying the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 and 2022 (until 1 July 2022)** by filling in the following questionnaire. The data is collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purpose of preparing the Report on the State of Use of the Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is entitled, pursuant to Section 7a(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter "Act No. 184/1999 Coll."), to request information and written documents from public administration bodies on the use of the languages of national minorities in the area of their competence. If a public administration body fails to provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it commits an administrative offence pursuant to Sec. 7b(1)(h) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

The above obligation applies to **all municipalities listed in 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 Slovak Government Regulation No. 534/2011 Coll. (hereinafter the "Slovak Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll."). The regulation in question, which is **in force**, is based on the **1991 Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings**.

Please read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill in** the relevant data.

Please complete the answers **for the period 2021 to 1 July 2022** (hereafter **the "reference period"**).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

DESIGNATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY
--

1. Indicate for which national minority you are filling in the questionnaire (*note: if there are several national minorities in the municipality, the questionnaire is filled in separately for each national minority*):

2. Indicate the name of the municipality in the national language:.....

3. Indicate the name of the municipality in the language of a national minority (*note: if the municipality is listed in Government Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. in Cyrillic, indicate it in Cyrillic*):

4. Indicate whether the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority is indicated on the road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority is identical to the name in the national language

5. Indicate whether the designation of the municipality part in the language of a national minority is indicated on the road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality part:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) the designation of the municipality part in the language of a national minority is identical to the name in the national language
- e) does not apply to our municipality (we do not have parts of the municipality)

6. Indicate whether in your municipality information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens (*e.g. safety signs during road reconstruction*) **is also provided in the language of a national minority on additional text plates:**

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) does not apply to our municipality (*note: if there are no traffic signs with additional text plates in the municipality*)

7. Indicate whether the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority is given below the name in the national language when referring to the railway station, bus station, airport and port (*note: Mark your answers in the appropriate box with an x*):

	railway station	bus station	airport	port
a) yes				
b) partially				
c) no				
d) does not apply to our municipality				

8. If you marked answer a) or b) for at least one of the options in question 7, please indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is given below the name in the national language when referring to the railway station, bus station, airport and port (note: Mark your answers in the appropriate box with an x):

	railway station	bus station	airport	port
a) in the same font size				
b) in smaller font size				

9. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is displayed alongside the designation of the municipality in the national language on public administration buildings:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

10. Indicate how the *designation of public administration body* is displayed on buildings:

- a) in the national language only
- b) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

11. Indicate whether the *designation of the public administration body* in the language of a national minority is displayed on buildings alongside the equivalent in the national language:

- a) in the same font size
- b) in smaller font size

12. Indicate how the *streets* in your municipality are marked with signs:

- a) in the national language only
- b) in the national language and in the language of a national minority
- c) the streets are not marked in our municipality

13. Indicate how the *geographical markers* in your municipality are marked with signs:

- a) in the national language only
- b) in the national language and in the language of a national minority
- c) there are no geographical markers in our municipality

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

EMPLOYEES OF THE MUNICIPAL/CITY OFFICE

14. Indicate the total number of employees of the municipality/city office:

.....

15. Indicate the number of employees who have a command of the language of a national minority:

a) speaking only (*note: they do not have a command of written form of the language*)

.....

b) speaking and in writing

ENSURING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY

16. Indicate how your municipality ensures the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication:

a) through municipal employees communicating in the language of a national minority

b) through interpretation or translation services

c) in another way (*please specify*)

17. Indicate whether your municipality sets a time limit for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority:

a) yes

b) no

INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY

18. Indicate whether your municipality provides in a visible place information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority - in spoken and written form in official communication in the seat of the *public administration body* in accordance with Sec. 1 of Government Regulation No. 535/2011 Coll. implementing certain provisions of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.:

a) yes

b) no

19. If you marked answer a) in question 18, please indicate in which language this information is given (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

a) in the national language

b) in the language of a national minority

20. If you marked answer a) in question 18, how is the information given (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

a) on an official notice board of the municipality

- b) on an information board of the municipality
 - c) on the website of the municipality
 - d) in another way (*please specify*)
-

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

21. Indicate whether any *written submissions* from citizens in the language of a national minority were *registered with your office* during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

22. If you marked answer a) in question 21, what was the total number of such submissions during the reference period:

.....

23. If you marked answer a) in question 21, what areas were covered by such submissions (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) grant applications
- b) environment
- c) housing policy
- d) taxes and fees
- e) population registration
- f) the personnel agenda
- g) sale of municipal property
- h) other (*please specify*)

24. If you marked answer a) in question 21, please indicate whether your office *provided responses to submissions* written in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

25. If you marked answer a) or b) in question 24, what was the total number of responses to submissions during the reference period:

26. If you marked a) or b) in question 24, what areas were covered by the responses provided to submissions during the reference period (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) grant applications
- b) environment

- c) housing policy
 - d) taxes and fees
 - e) population registration
 - f) the personnel agenda
 - g) sale of municipal property
 - h) other (please specify)
-

OFFICIAL AGENDA

27. Indicate whether your municipality also uses the language of a national minority in the official agenda of the municipal office - e.g. in minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

28. If you marked a) or b) in question 27, please indicate in which areas (note: multiple answers may be given):

- a) minutes
 - b) resolutions
 - c) statistics
 - d) population registration
 - e) invitations, agendas and materials for meetings of commissions and the municipal council/municipal committee
 - f) notifications
 - g) public information
 - h) invitations
 - i) other (please specify)
-

CHRONICLES

29. Indicate whether your municipality also keeps the chronicle in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) our municipality does not keep a chronicle

MUNICIPAL POLICE (note, fill in only if you have a municipal police in your municipality)

30. Indicate the total number of municipal police officers:

.....

31. Indicate the number of municipal police officers who have a command of the language of a national minority:

- a) in spoken form only (*note: they do not have a command of written form of the language*)
.....
- b) speaking and in writing

32. Indicate whether the language of a national minority is used in addition to the national language in the performance of the duties of the municipal police:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c)no

33. Indicate whether the consent of those present to the use of the language of a national minority has been expressed in the service of the municipal police in your municipality:

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) in some cases
- d) no such situation has arisen

34. Indicate whether in your municipality municipal police officers who have a command of the language of a national minority use this language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS

OFFICIAL FORMS

35. Indicate whether your municipality provides *bilingual official forms* for citizens within its scope of competence:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

36. If you marked answer a) or b) in question 35, please indicate in which areas they are provided (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) the Registry Office
- b) population registration
- c) elections
- d) construction
- e) environment
- f) social area
- g) education

- h) local taxes and charges
- i) housing
- j) other (*please specify*)

37. Indicate whether your municipality received *requests for the issuance of official forms bilingually*, namely in the national language and in the language of a national minority during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

38. If you marked answer a) in question 37, what was the total number of requests for the issue of official forms bilingually during the reference period:

39. Indicate whether your municipality issued *official forms* upon request *bilingually*, namely in the national language and in the language of a national minority during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

40. If you marked answer a) in question 39, what was the total number of forms issued on the basis of requests during the reference period:

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

41. Indicate whether your municipality received *requests for bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

42. If you marked answer a) in question 41, please indicate the number during the reference period:

- the number of requests for permits:
- the number of requests for authorisations:
- the number of requests for certificates:
- the number of requests for statements:
- the number of requests for declarations:

43. If you marked answer a) in question 41, please indicate whether *bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) *were issued* during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

44. If you marked **answer a)** in question **43**, please indicate the number during the reference period:

- the number of permits:
- the number of authorisations:
- the number of certificates:
- the number of statements:
- the number of declarations:

45. If there is a Registry Office in your municipality, did it receive *requests for bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates* during the reference period?

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) does not apply our municipality (we do not have a Registry Office)

46. If you marked **answer a)** in question **45**, please indicate the number of such requests during the reference period:

- the number of requests for bilingual birth certificates:
- the number of requests for bilingual marriage certificates
- the number of requests for bilingual death certificates:

47. If you marked **answer a)** in question **45**, please indicate whether *bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates were issued* during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

48. If you marked **answer a)** in question **47**, please indicate the number during the reference period:

- the number of birth certificates:
- the number of marriage certificates:
- the number of death certificates:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

49. Indicate whether your municipality received any *submissions that initiated administrative proceedings* in the language of a national minority during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

50. If you marked **answer a)** in question **49**, please indicate the number of these during the reference period:

51. Indicate whether *decisions in administrative proceedings were issued* in your municipality *on the basis of submissions* in both the original and the language of a national minority during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

52. If you marked **answer a)** in question **51**, please indicate the number of these during the reference period:

53. If you marked **answer a)** in question **51**, please indicate which areas were affected by the **decisions** (note: multiple answers may be given):

- a) social area
 - b) taxes and local charges
 - c) other (please specify) -
-

54. Indicate whether your municipality received *requests for decisions in both the original and the language of a national minority* during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

55. If you marked **answer a)** in question **54**, please indicate the number of these during the reference period:

56. If you marked **answer a)** in question **54**, please indicate which areas were affected by the **decisions** (note: multiple answers may be given):

- a) social area
 - b) taxes and local charges
 - c) other (please specify)
-

57. If the municipality issues decisions in the language of a national minority, please indicate whether the *designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority is indicated alongside the designation of the municipality in the national language on decisions issued in the language of a national minority*:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) does not apply to our municipality

MEETINGS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

58. Indicate whether in your municipality the language of a national minority is also used by the members of the municipal/city council in their meetings:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

59. Indicate whether the Mayor in your municipality also uses the language of a national minority in the meetings of the municipal/city council:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

60. Indicate in which language the municipal/city council meetings are conducted in your municipality:

- a) in the national language
- b) in the language of a national minority
- c) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

61. Indicate whether materials for the municipal/city council meeting are also prepared in the language of a national minority in your municipality:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

62. Indicate how your municipality ensures the possibility of using the language of a national minority in the meetings of the municipal/city council (note: multiple answers may be given):

- a) through the Mayor/members of the municipality council/ or the Mayor/members of the city council
- b) through municipal/city employees
- c) through an interpreter
- d) in another way (*please specify*).....
- e) not provided

PUBLIC INFORMATION

GENERALLY BINDING LEGISLATION

63. Indicate whether your municipality has received *requests for information on generally binding legislation* in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

64. If you marked answer a) in question 63, please indicate the number of these during the reference period:

65. If you marked answer a) in question 63, please indicate whether your municipality *provided information on generally binding legislation* in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

66. If you marked answer a) or b) in question 65, please indicate the number of these during the reference period:

GENERALLY BINDING REGULATIONS

67. Indicate whether your municipality also issues and publishes *generally binding municipal regulations* in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

INFORMATION RELATING TO THREATS TO THE LIFE, HEALTH, SAFETY OR PROPERTY OF CITIZENS

68. Indicate whether the places open to the public that are under the administration of the municipality, are provided with information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic also provided in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

69. The municipality is a building authority within the meaning of the Act on Spatial Planning and Building Regulations (Building Act). Accordingly, does your municipality conduct a review of construction site signage, including with respect to information relating to threats to the life, health, safety or property of the citizens of the SR?

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) partially

TRAFFIC SIGNS

70. Indicate whether your municipality, when determining the use of traffic signs on local and special purpose roads, ensures that information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens is also provided in the language of a national minority on the additional text plates to the traffic signs:

- a) yes
- b) partially

c) no

71. Indicate whether informative road signs with the names of designated destinations also in the language of a national minority are used in your municipality to guide road users:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

SIGNS AND NOTICES

72. Indicate whether signs and notices intended to inform the public, particularly in stores, sports venues, restaurants, on streets, at and over roads, at airports, bus stations and railway stations, are under the administration of the municipality, also in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

73. Indicate whether announcements intended to inform the public by means of local radio or other technical devices are also published in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

74. Indicate where your municipality publishes announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of a national minority (note: multiple answers may be given):

- a) on the website of the municipality
- b) on the municipal radio
- c) on the municipal television
- d) in the periodical press of the municipality
- e) on an official notice board of the municipality
- g) in the application
- h) in SMS
- f) elsewhere (*please specify*):

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

75. Indicate whether the important information (*information on the composition and powers of the municipality's local authority bodies, an overview of the legislation, instructions, orders, interpretative opinions under which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the municipality, the place, time and manner in which information can be obtained, and information on where natural persons or legal entities can submit a request, proposal, suggestion, complaint or other submission, the procedure to be followed by the municipality in dealing with all requests, motions and other submissions, including the relevant time limits to be observed, the schedule of administrative fees to be levied by the municipality for acts and proceedings of administrative*

bodies, the schedule of fees for making information available and information on the management of public funds and the disposition of municipal property) on the municipality's official notice board, on the municipality's website and in the periodical press, is also published in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

MEMORIALS, MONUMENTS AND COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

76. If your municipality owns memorials, monuments and commemorative plaques, are the inscriptions on them in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language?

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) does not apply to our municipality

FINAL QUESTIONS

77. Indicate whether creating conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication in your municipality is:

- a) seamless
- b) partly problematic
- c) problematic

78. If you marked answer b) or c) in question 77, please give the reason (note: you can give more than one answer):

- a) insufficient number of qualified employees
 - b) insufficient funding
 - c) insufficient professional support
 - d) other factors (*please specify*)
-

79. Indicate whether your municipality received *complaints due to violation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.* during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

80. If you marked answer a) in question 79, please indicate the total number of these during the reference period:

81. If you marked answer a) in question 79, please indicate what was the subject of such complaints:

.....

82. If you marked answer a) in question 79, please indicate how these complaints were addressed:

Date:

The questionnaire was completed by
(name, surname, function and signature):

.....

Date:

The questionnaire was approved by
(name, surname, function and signature of the Mayor of the municipality/Mayor of the town or the head of the municipal authority/town office):

.....

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE
for legal entities established by the local authority on the use of languages of national minorities

Dear Respondent,

we would like to ask for your cooperation **in surveying the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 and 2022 (until 1 July 2022)** by filling in the following questionnaire. The data is collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purpose of preparing the Report on the State of Use of the Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is entitled, pursuant to Section 7a(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter "Act No. 184/1999 Coll."), to request information and written documents from public administration bodies on the use of the languages of national minorities in the area of their competence. If a public administration body fails to provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it commits an administrative offence pursuant to Se. 7b(1)(h) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

The above obligation applies to **all municipalities listed in 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 Slovak Government Regulation No. 534/2011 Coll., which is in force and is based on the 1991 Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings.**

Please read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill in the** relevant data.

Please **complete the answers for the period 2021 to 1 July 2022** (hereafter the "**reference period**").

The questionnaire **should not be completed** for legal entities operating in **the field of pre-school education, primary schools and secondary schools.**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

DESIGNATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY
--

1. Indicate in which area is your *legal entity* active ¹²⁴.....

¹²⁴ Areas of competence: e.g. healthcare; social services; social protection of children and social welfare; culture; tourism; recreation and sport; property management; technical services; housing management; public utility and municipal works; telecommunications; vocational training, etc.

2. Indicate the name of *the legal entity* established by the local authority in the national language:
.....

3. Indicate the name of *the legal entity* established by the local authority in the language of a national minority:

4. Indicate the name of the municipality or town that established *the legal entity*:
.....

5. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is displayed alongside the designation of the municipality in the national language *on the buildings of the legal entity established by the local authority*:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

6. Indicate how the *designation of the legal entity* established by the local authority is displayed *on the buildings*:

- a) in the national language only
- b) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

7. Indicate whether the *designation of the legal entity* established by the local authority in the language of a national minority is displayed *on the buildings* in addition to the equivalent in the national language:

- a) in the same font size
- b) in smaller font size

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

EMPLOYEES OF THE LEGAL ENTITY

8. Indicate the total number of employees of *the legal entity* established by the local authority:

9. Indicate the number of employees who have a command of the language of a national minority:

- a) spoken form only (*note: they do not have a command of written form of the language*)
.....
- b) speaking and in writing

ENSURING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY

10. Indicate how the *legal entity* established by the local authority ensures the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) through the employees of *the legal entity* established by the local authority communicating in the language of a national minority
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (*please specify*):

11. Indicate whether the local authority sets a time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) no

INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY

12. Indicate whether *the legal entity* established by the local authority provides in a visible place information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority - in spoken and written form in official communication in the seat of the public authority in accordance with Sec. 1 of Government Regulation No. 535/2011 Coll. implementing certain provisions of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.:

- a) yes
- b) no

13. If you marked answer a) in question 12, please indicate in which language this information is given (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) in the national language
- b) in the language of a national minority

14. If you marked answer a) in question 12, how is the information given (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) on an official notice board
- b) on an information board
- c) on the website
- d) in another way (*please specify*).....

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

15. Indicate whether *written submissions* from citizens in the language of a national minority were registered with *the legal entity* established by the local authority during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

16. If you marked answer a) in question 15, what was the total number of such submissions during the reference period:

17. If you marked answer a) in question 15, what areas were covered by such submissions:

.....

18. If you marked *answer a)* in question 15, please indicate whether the legal entity established by the local authority *provided* responses to submissions written in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

19. If you marked answer a) or b) in question 18, what was the total number of responses to submissions during the reference period:

20. If you marked answer a) or b) in question 18, what areas were covered by such submissions:

.....

OFFICIAL AGENDA

21. Indicate whether the *legal entity* established by the local authority also uses the language of a national minority in its official agenda - e.g. in minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

22. If you marked a) or b) in question 21, please indicate in which areas:

.....

BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS

OFFICIAL FORMS

23. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the local authority provides *bilingual official forms* for citizens within its scope of competence:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) does not apply to an entity established by a local authority

24. If you marked a) or b) in question 23, please indicate in which areas they are provided:

.....

25. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the local authority received *requests for the issuance of official forms bilingually*, namely in the national language and in the language of a minority , during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

26. If you marked answer a) in question 25, please indicate what the total number of requests for official forms was:

.....

27. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the local authority issued *official forms bilingually* on request , namely in the national language and in the language of a minority, during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

28. If you marked answer a) in question 27, please indicate the total number of official forms issued on the basis of requests during the reference period :

.....

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

29. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the local authority received *requests for bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) does not apply to an entity established by a local authority

30. If you marked answer a) in question 29, please indicate the number during the reference period:

- the number of requests for permits:
- the number of requests for authorisations:
- the number of requests for certificates:
- the number of requests for statements:
- the number of requests for declarations:

31. If you marked answer a) in question 29, please indicate whether *bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) were issued during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

32. If you marked answer a) in question 29, please indicate the number during the reference period:

- the number of permits:
- the number of authorisations:
- the number of certificates:
- the number of statements:
- the number of declarations:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

33. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the local authority received any *submissions initiating administrative proceedings* in the language of a national minority during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) does not apply to an entity established by a local authority

34. If you marked answer a) in question 33, please indicate the number of submissions during the reference period:.....

35. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the local authority received *requests for bilingual decisions* during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

c) does not apply to an entity established by a local authority

36. If you marked answer a) in question 35, please indicate the number of requests during the reference period:.....

37. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the local authority issued *decisions in administrative proceedings* in the language of a national minority during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

38. If you marked answer a) in question 37, please indicate the total number of such decisions during the reference period:

39. If you marked answer a) in question 37, please indicate which areas were affected by such decisions:

.....

40. If the legal entity established by the local authority issues decisions in the language of a national minority, please indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is indicated alongside the designation of the municipality in the national language *on decisions* issued in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) does not apply to an entity established by a local authority

MEETING OF THE BODIES OF A LEGAL ENTITY
--

41. Indicate whether the language of a national minority is also used in the meetings of the bodies of the legal entity established by the local authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

42. Indicate in which language the meetings of the bodies of the legal entity established by the local authority are conducted:

- a) in the national language
- b) in the language of a national minority
- c) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

43. Indicate whether the materials for the meetings of the bodies of the legal entity established by the local authority are also prepared in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

44. Indicate how the possibility of using the language of a national minority in the meetings of the bodies of the legal entity established by the local authority is ensured (note: multiple answers may be given):

- a) through the employees of the legal person
- b) through interpreting services
- c) in another way (*please specify*):.....
- d) not provided

PUBLIC INFORMATION

GENERALLY BINDING LEGISLATION

45. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the local authority received *requests for information on generally binding legal regulations* in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

46. If you marked answer a) in question 45, please indicate the number of requests during the reference period:

47. If you marked answer a) in question 45, please indicate whether the legal entity established by the local authority *provided information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority* in addition to the national language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

INFORMATION RELATING TO THREATS TO THE LIFE, HEALTH, SAFETY OR PROPERTY OF CITIZENS

48. Indicate whether there is in places open to the public that are under the administration of the legal entity established by the local authority, information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic also provided in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

SIGNS AND NOTICES

49. Indicate whether signs and notices intended to inform the public that are in the administration of the legal person established by the local authority are also in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

50. Indicate where the legal entity established by the local authority also publishes notices intended for informing the public in the language of a national minority (note: multiple answers may be given):

- a) on the website
- b) on an official notice board
- c) elsewhere (please specify):

.....

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

51. Indicate whether the important information (*how the obliged entity is established, its powers and competences and a description of its organisational structure, the place, time and manner in which the information can be obtained; information on where to lodge an application, request, suggestion, complaint or other submission, the place, time limit and method of lodging a remedy and the possibility of judicial review of the decision of the obliged entity, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the obliged entity in dealing with all applications, suggestions and other submissions, including the relevant time limits, to be complied with, a summary of the regulations, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the obliged entity acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the obliged entity, the schedule of administrative fees which the obliged entity collects for administrative acts and the schedule of fees for making information available*) **published also in the language of a national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

AREAS OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

52. If the legal entity established by the local authority is a health care institution, please indicate how it ensures the possibility of using the language of a national minority with the employees of health care institutions (note: fill in only if this question applies to you; multiple answers may be given):

- a) through the employees of the health facility
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (please specify):

.....

53. If the legal entity established by the local authority is a social services institution, please indicate how it ensures the possibility of using the language of a national minority with the employees of the social services institution (note: fill in only if this question applies to you; multiple answers may be given):

- a) through the employees of the social services facility
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (*please specify*):

.....

54. If the legal entity established by the local authority is a social protection institution for children and social guardianship, please indicate how it ensures the possibility of using the language of a national minority with the employees of the social protection institution for children and social guardianship (*note: fill in only if this question applies to you; multiple answers may be given*):

- a) through the employees of the social protection of children and social guardianship
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (*please specify*):

.....

FINAL QUESTIONS

55. Indicate whether the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication for a legal entity established by a local authority is:

- a) seamless
- b) partly problematic
- c) problematic

56. If you marked answer b) or c) in question 55, please give the reason (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) insufficient number of qualified employees
- b) insufficient funding
- c) insufficient professional support
- d) other factors (*please specify*)

.....

.....

57. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the local authority received *complaints due to violation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.* in the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

58. If you marked answer a) in question 57, please indicate the total number of such complaints during the reference period:

59. If you marked answer a) in question 57, please indicate what was the subject of such complaints:

.....

60. If you marked answer a) in question 57, please indicate how these complaints were addressed:

.....

Date:

The questionnaire was completed by
(name, surname, function and signature):

.....

Date:

The questionnaire was approved by
(name, surname, function and signature of the statutory representative of the legal entity
established by the local authority):

.....

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE
for District Offices on the use of languages of national minorities

Dear Respondent,

we would like to ask for your cooperation **in surveying the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 and 2022 (until 1 July 2022)** by filling in the following questionnaire. The data is collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purpose of preparing the Report on the State of Use of the Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is entitled, pursuant to Sec. 7a(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter "Act No. 184/1999 Coll."), to request information and written documents from public administration bodies on the use of the languages of national minorities in the area of their competence. If a public administration body fails to provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it commits an administrative offence pursuant to Sec. 7b(1)(h) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

Please read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill in** the relevant data.

Please **complete the answers for the period 2021 to 1 July 2022** (hereafter the **“reference period”**).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

DESIGNATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF A MINORITY

1. Indicate for which national minority you are filling in the questionnaire (*note: if there are several national minorities in the municipality, the questionnaire is filled in separately for each national minority*):

.....

2. Indicate the name of the District Office/District Office branch in the national language:

.....

3. Indicate the *designation* of the District Office/District Office branch in the language of a national minority:

.....

4. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is displayed alongside the name of the municipality in the national language *on the buildings of the District Office/District Office branch*:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

5. Indicate how the *designation of the District Office/District Office branch* is located on the *buildings*:

- a) in the national language only
- b) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

6. Indicate whether the *designation of the District Office/District Office branch* in the language of a national minority is displayed *on the buildings* alongside the equivalent in the national language:

- a) in the same font size
- b) in smaller font size

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE/DISTRICT OFFICE BRANCH

7. Indicate the total number of employees

District Office:.....

Your branch:.....

8. Indicate the number of employees who have a command of the language of a national minority:

	District Office	Your branch
a) in spoken and in written form		
b) in spoken form only		

9. Indicate whether the employees participated in language competence training aimed at maintaining and 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 (*hereinafter referred to as "language competence training"*):

- a) yes
- b) no

10. If you marked answer a) in question 9, please indicate how many employees participated in language competence training:

.....

11. If you marked answer a) in question 9, please indicate how employees who participated in language competence training rate this training:

- a) very useful
- b) useful
- c) useless

12. If you marked answer b) in question 9, please indicate the reason why employees did not participate in the language competence training:

- a) not necessary (*employees have a sufficient command of the language in question*)
- b) has not been offered
- c) were unable to attend (*due to workload*)
- d) lack of interest

13. Are your employees interested in language competence training in the future?

- a) yes
- b) no

ENSURING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY

14. Indicate how the District Office/District Office branch ensures the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) through its own employees
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in any other way (*please specify*):

15. Indicate whether the District Office/District Office branch designates a time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) no

INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY

16. Indicate whether the District Office/District Office branch provides information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority - in spoken and written form in official communication in the seat of the District Office/District Office branch in accordance with Sec. 1 of the Government Regulation No. 535/2011 Coll., implementing certain provisions of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in a visible place:

- a) yes
- b) no

17. If you marked answer a) in question 16, please indicate in which language this information is given:

- a) in the national language
- b) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

18. If you marked answer a) in question 16, how is the information given (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) on an official notice board

- b) on an information board
- c) on the website
- d) _____ in _____ any _____ other _____ way _____ (please specify):.....

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

19. Indicate whether *written submissions* from citizens in the language of the national minority were registered at the District Office/District Office branch during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

20. If you marked answer a) in question 19, what was the total number of such submissions during _____ the _____ reference _____ period:

.....

21. If you marked answer a) in question 19, what areas were covered by such submissions (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) general internal administration
- b) trade business
- c) environment
- d) land and forests
- e) cadastre
- f) transport and roads
- g) organising department
- h) crisis management
- i) vehicle registration
- j) documents department
- k) other

22. If you marked answer a) in question 19, please indicate whether *responses to submissions* written in a minority language other than the national language were provided in the District Office/District Office branch during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

23. If you marked answer a) or b) in question 22, what areas were covered by the responses to submissions given during the reference period (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) general internal administration
- b) trade business
- c) environment
- d) land and forests
- e) cadastre
- f) transport and roads

- g) organising department
- h) crisis management
- i) vehicle registration
- j) documents department
- k) other

OFFICIAL AGENDA

24. Indicate whether the District Office/District Office branch also uses the language of a national minority in its official agenda - e.g. in minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

25. If you marked a) or b) in question 23, please indicate in which areas (note: multiple answers may be given):

- a) general internal administration
- b) trade business
- c) environment
- d) land and forests
- e) cadastre
- f) transport and roads
- g) organising department
- h) crisis management
- i) vehicle registration
- j) documents department
- k) other

BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS

OFFICIAL FORMS

26. Indicate whether *bilingual official forms* are provided for citizens at the District Office/District Office branch within the scope of its competence:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

27. If you marked answer a) or b) in question 26, please indicate in which areas they are provided:

.....

28. Indicate whether the District Office/District Office branch received *requests for the issuance of official forms bilingually*, namely in the national language and in the language of a minority , during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

29. Please indicate whether the District Office/District Office branch issued *official forms bilingually* on request, namely in the national language and in the language of a minority, during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

30. If you marked answer a) in question 29, what was the total number of bilingual official forms issued in the reference period:

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

31. Indicate whether the District Office/District Office branch received *requests for bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) during the reference period?

- a) yes
- b) no

32. If you marked answer a) in question 31, please indicate the number in the reference period:

- the number of applications for permits:
- the number of applications for authorisations:
- the number of requests for certificates:
- the number of requests for statements:
- the number of requests for declarations:

33. If you marked answer a) in question 31, please indicate whether *bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) were issued during the reference period?

- a) yes
- b) no

34. If you marked answer a) in question 33, please indicate the number in the reference period:

- the number of permits:
- the number of authorisations:
- the number of certificates:
- the number of statements:
- the number of declarations:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

35. Indicate whether the District Office/District Office branch received any *submissions initiating administrative proceedings* in the language of a national minority during the reference period?

- a) yes
- b) no

36. If you marked answer a) in question 35, please indicate the number of submissions during the reference period:

37. Indicate whether the District Office/District Office branch received *requests for bilingual decisions* during the reference period?

- a) yes
- b) no

38. If you marked answer a) in question 37, please indicate the number of submissions during the reference period:

39. Indicate whether *decisions in administrative proceedings were issued* by the District Office/District Office branch in the language of a national minority during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

40. If you marked answer a) in question 39, please indicate the total number of such decisions in the reference period:

41. If you marked answer a) in question 39, please indicate which areas were affected by such decisions:
.....

42. If the District Office/District Office branch issues decisions in the language of a national minority, please indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is indicated alongside the name of the municipality in the national language *on decisions* issued in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) does not apply to the District Office/District Office branch

MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE/DISTRICT OFFICE BRANCH

43. Indicate whether the language of a national minority is also used in the meetings of the District Office/District Office branch:

- a) yes
- b) partially

c) no

44. Indicate in which language the District Office/District Office branch meeting is conducted:

- a) in the national language
- b) in the language of a national minority
- c) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

45. Indicate whether the materials for the meeting of the District Office/District Office branch are also prepared in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

PUBLIC INFORMATION

GENERALLY BINDING LEGISLATION

46. Indicate whether the District Office/District Office branch received *requests for information on generally binding legislation* in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

47. If you marked answer a) in question 46, please indicate the number of requests during the reference period:

48. If you marked answer a) in question 46, please indicate whether the District Office/District Office branch *provided information on generally binding legislation* in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

INFORMATION RELATING TO THREATS TO THE LIFE, HEALTH, SAFETY OR PROPERTY OF CITIZENS

49. Indicate whether information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens is also provided in the language of a national minority in places open to the public that are under the administration of the District Office/District Office branch:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

SIGNS AND NOTICES

50. Indicate whether the signs and notices intended for public information that are in the administration of the District Office/District Office branch are also in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

51. If you marked answer a) in question 50, please indicate where the District Office/District Office branch also publishes notices intended to inform the public in the language of a national minority (note: multiple answers may be given):

- a) on the website
- b) on an official notice board
- b) on an information board
- g) in the application
- h) in SMS
- i) elsewhere (*please specify*):

.....

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

52. Indicate whether the important information is (*how the obliged entity is established, its powers and competences and a description of its organisational structure, the place, time and manner in which the information can be obtained; information on where to lodge an application, request, suggestion, complaint or other submission, the place, time limit and method of lodging a remedy and the possibility of judicial review of the decision of the obliged entity, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the obliged entity in dealing with all applications, suggestions and other submissions, including the relevant time limits, to be complied with, a summary of the regulations, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the obliged entity acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the obliged entity, the schedule of administrative fees which the obliged entity collects for administrative acts and the schedule of fees for making information available*) **published also in the language of a national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

FINAL QUESTIONS

53. Indicate whether the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication is for the District Office/District Office branch is:

- a) seamless
- b) partly problematic
- c) problematic

54. If you marked answer b) or c) in question 53, please give the reason (note: multiple answers are possible):

- a) insufficient number of qualified employees
- b) insufficient funding
- c) insufficient professional support
- d) other factors (please specify)

.....

55. Indicate whether the District Office/District Office branch received complaints for violation of the Act the Use of Languages of National Minorities during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

56. If you marked answer a) in question 55, please indicate the total number of such complaints during the reference period:

57. If you marked answer a) in question 55, please indicate what was the subject of such complaints:

.....

58. If you marked answer a) in question 55, please indicate how these complaints were addressed:

.....

Date:

The questionnaire was completed by
(name, surname, function and signature):

.....

Date:

The questionnaire was approved by
(name, surname, function and signature of the head of the District Office):

.....

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE
for public authority bodies¹ on the use of languages of national minorities

Dear Respondent,

we would like to ask for your cooperation **in surveying the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 and 2022 (until 1 July 2022)** by filling in the following questionnaire. The data is collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purpose of preparing the Report on the State of Use of the Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is entitled, pursuant to Sec. 7a(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter "Act No. 184/1999 Coll."), to request information and written documents from public administration bodies on the use of the languages of national minorities in the area of their competence. If a public administration body fails to provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it commits an administrative offence pursuant to Sec. 7b(1)(h) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

Please read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill in the** relevant data.

Please **complete the answers for the period 2021 to 1 July 2022** (hereafter the **“reference period”**).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

DESIGNATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF A MINORITY

1. Indicate for which national minority you are filling in the questionnaire (*note: if there are several national minorities in the municipality, the questionnaire is filled in separately for each national minority*):

.....

2. Indicate the name of the public authority in the national language:

.....

3. Indicate the name of the public authority in the language of a national minority:

.....

4. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is displayed alongside the designation of the municipality in the national language on public authority buildings:

a) yes

b) partially

These are: customs offices, tax offices, Labour, Social Affairs and Family Offices, Regional Public Health Authorities, Regional Veterinary and Food Administrations and state archives. All entities were asked identical questions and the name of the entity was used throughout the questionnaire.

c) no

5. Indicate how *the designation of public authority is displayed on buildings*:

a) in the national language only

b) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

6. Indicate whether the *designation of the public authority in the language of a national minority is displayed on buildings alongside the equivalent in the national language*:

a) in the same font size b) in smaller font size

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

EMPLOYEES OF CUSTOMS OFFICE/BRANCH OF CUSTOMS OFFICE

7. Indicate the total number of employees

Customs Office:.....

Your branch:.....

8. Indicate the number of employees who have a command of the language of a national minority:

	Public authority	Your branch
a) in spoken and in written form		
b) in spoken form only		

9. Indicate whether your employees would be interested in language competency training aimed at maintaining and 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:

a) yes

b) no

ENSURING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY

10. Indicate how the public authority ensures the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication (note: multiple answers may be given):

a) through its own employees

b) through interpretation or translation services

c) in any other way (please specify):

.....

11. Indicate whether the public authority sets a time slot for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) no

INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY

12. Indicate whether the public authority provides in a visible place information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority - in spoken and written form in official communication in the seat of the public authority in accordance with Sec. 1 of Government Regulation No. 535/2011 Coll. implementing certain provisions of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.:

- a) yes
- b) no

13. If you marked answer a) in question 12, please indicate in which language this information is given:

- a) in the national language
- b) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

14. If you marked answer a) in question 12, how is the information given (note: multiple answers may be given):

- a) on an official notice board
- b) on an information board
- c) on the website
- d) in any other way (please specify):.....

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

15. Indicate whether *written submissions* from citizens in the language of a national minority were registered with the public authority during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

16. If you marked answer a) in question 15, what was the total number of such submissions during the reference period:

17. If you marked answer a) in question 15, what areas were covered by such submissions:

18. If you marked answer a) in question 15, please indicate whether *responses to submissions* written in a minority language other than the national language were provided by the public authority bodies during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

OFFICIAL AGENDA

19. Indicate whether the public authority also uses the language of a national minority in its official agenda - e.g. in minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

20. If you marked answer a) or b) in question 19, please indicate in which areas:

.....

BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS

OFFICIAL FORMS

21. Indicate whether the public authority provides *bilingual official forms* for citizens within its scope of competence:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

22. If you marked answer a) or b) in question 21, please indicate in which areas they are provided:

.....

23. Indicate whether the public authority received *requests for the issuance of official forms bilingually*, namely in the national language and in the language of a minority , during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

24. Indicate whether the public authority issued *official forms* upon request *bilingually*, namely in the national language and in the language of a minority, during the reference period:

- a) yes

b) no

25. If you marked answer a) in question 24, what was the total number of bilingual official forms issued in the reference period:

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

26. Indicate whether the public authority received requests for *bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) during the reference period:

a) yes

b) no

27. If you marked answer a) in question 26, please indicate the number in the reference period:

- the number of applications for permits:
- the number of applications for authorisations:
- the number of requests for certificates:
- the number of requests for statements:
- the number of requests for declarations:

28. If you marked answer a) in question 26, please indicate whether *bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) were issued during the reference period?

a) yes

b) no

29. If you marked answer a) in question 28, please indicate the number in the reference period:

- the number of permits:
- the number of authorisations:
- the number of certificates:
- the number of statements:
- the number of declarations:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

30. Indicate whether the public authority received *submissions that initiated administrative proceedings* in the language of a national minority during the reference period?

a) yes

b) no

31. If you marked answer a) in question 30, please indicate the number of submissions during the reference period:

32. Indicate whether the public authority received *requests for bilingual decisions* during the reference period?

- a) yes
- b) no

33. If you marked answer a) in question 32, please indicate the number of requests during the reference period:

34. Indicate whether *decisions in administrative proceedings were issued* by the public authority in the language of a national minority during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

35. If you marked answer a) in question 34, please indicate the total number of such decisions in the reference period:

36. If you marked answer a) in question 34, please indicate which areas were affected by such decisions:

.....

37. If the public authority issues decisions in the language of a national minority, please indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is indicated alongside the designation of the municipality in the national language *on decisions* issued in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) does not apply to the public authority

MEETING OF THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY
--

38. Indicate whether the language of a national minority is also used in the meetings of the public authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

39. Indicate in which language the meetings of the public authority are conducted:

- a) in the national language
- b) in the language of a national minority
- c) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

40. Indicate whether materials for the meetings of the public authority are also prepared in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

GENERALLY BINDING LEGISLATION

41. Indicate whether the public authority received *requests for information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language during the reference period:*

- a) yes
- b) no

42. If you marked answer a) in question 41, please indicate the number of requests during the reference period:

43. If you marked answer a) in question 41, please indicate whether the public authority *provided information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language:*

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

INFORMATION RELATING TO THREATS TO THE LIFE, HEALTH, SAFETY OR PROPERTY OF CITIZENS

44. Indicate whether information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens is also provided in the language of a national minority in places open to the public that are under the administration of the public authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

SIGNS AND NOTICES

45. Indicate whether the signs and notices intended for public information that are in the administration of the public authority are also in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

46. If you marked answer a) in question 45, please indicate where the public authority also publishes notices intended to inform the public in the language of a national minority (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) on the website
- b) on an official notice board
- b) on an information board
- d) in the application
- e) in SMS

f) elsewhere (*please specify*):

.....

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

47. Indicate whether the important information is (*how the obliged entity is established, its powers and competences and a description of its organisational structure, the place, time and manner in which the information can be obtained; information on where to lodge an application, request, suggestion, complaint or other submission, the place, time limit and method of lodging a remedy and the possibility of judicial review of the decision of the obliged entity, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the obliged entity in dealing with all applications, suggestions and other submissions, including the relevant time limits, to be complied with, a summary of the regulations, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the obliged entity acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the obliged entity, the schedule of administrative fees which the obliged entity collects for administrative acts and the schedule of fees for making information available*) **published also in the language of a national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

FINAL QUESTIONS

48. Indicate whether creating conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication is for the public authority:

- a) seamless
- b) partly problematic
- c) problematic

49. If you marked answer b) or c) in question 48, please give the reason (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) insufficient number of qualified employees
- b) insufficient funding
- c) insufficient professional support
- d) other factors (*please specify*)

.....

50. Indicate whether the public authority received complaints for violation of the Act the Use of Languages of National Minorities during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

51. If you marked answer a) in question 50, please indicate the total number of such complaints during the reference period:

52. If you marked answer a) in question 50, please indicate what was the subject of such complaints:

.....

53. If you marked answer a) in question 50, please indicate how these complaints were addressed:

.....

Date:
The questionnaire was completed by
(name, surname, function and signature):

.....

Date:
The questionnaire was approved by
(name, surname, function and signature of the director of the public authority):

.....

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE
for the organisational components of the Fire and Rescue Corps
on the use of languages of national minorities

Dear Respondent,

we would like to ask for your cooperation **in surveying the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 and 2022 (until 1 July 2022)** by filling in the following questionnaire. The data is collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purpose of preparing the Report on the State of Use of the Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is entitled, pursuant to Sec. 7a(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter "Act No. 184/1999 Coll."), to request information and written documents from public administration bodies on the use of the languages of national minorities in the area of their competence. If a public administration body fails to provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it commits an administrative offence pursuant to Sec. 7b(1)(h) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

Please read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill in the** relevant data.

Please **complete the answers for the period 2021 to 1 July 2022** (hereafter the **“reference period”**).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

DESIGNATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF A MINORITY

1. Indicate for which national minority you are filling in the questionnaire (*note: if there are several national minorities in the municipality, the questionnaire is filled in separately for each national minority*):

.....

2. Indicate the name of the organisational unit of the Fire and Rescue Corps in the national language:

.....

3. Indicate the designation of the organisational unit in the language of a national minority:

.....

4. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is displayed alongside the designation of the municipality in the national language *on organisational unit buildings*:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

5. Indicate how *the designation of organisational unit is displayed on buildings:*

- a) in the national language only
- b) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

6. Indicate whether the *designation of the organisational unit in the language of a national minority is displayed on buildings alongside the equivalent in the national language:*

- a) in the same font size
- b) in smaller font size

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

EMPLOYEES OF FIRE AND RESCUE CORPS

7. Indicate the total number of employees in the organisational unit:

.....

8. Indicate the number of employees who have a command of the language of a national minority:

- a) in spoken and written form
- b) in spoken form only

9. Indicate whether the organisational unit uses the language of a national minority in addition to the national language in the performance of official duties:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

10. Do members of the organisational unit who have a command of the language of a national minority use this language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority?

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

ENSURING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY

11. Indicate how the organisational unit ensures the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) through its own employees

- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in any other way (*please specify*):

12. Indicate whether the organisational unit sets a time limit for dealing with matters in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) no

INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY

13. Indicate whether the organisational unit provides in a visible place information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority - in spoken and written form in official communication in the seat of the public authority in accordance with Sec. 1 of Government Regulation No. 535/2011 Coll. implementing certain provisions of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.:

- a) yes
- b) no

14. If you marked answer a) in question 13, please indicate in which language this information is given:

- a) in the national language
- b) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

15. If you marked answer a) in question 13, how is the information given (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) on an official notice board
- b) on an information board
- c) on the website
- d) in any other way (please specify):.....

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

16. Indicate whether any written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority were registered with your office during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

17. If you marked answer a) in question 16, what was the total number of such submissions during the reference period:

18. If you marked answer a) in question 16, what areas were covered by such submissions:

19. If you marked answer a) in question 16, please indicate whether *responses to submissions* written in a minority language other than the national language were provided by the organisational unit during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

OFFICIAL AGENDA

20. Indicate whether the organisational unit also uses the language of a national minority in its official agenda - e.g. in minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

21. If you marked answer a) or b) in question 20, please indicate in which areas:
.....

BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS

OFFICIAL FORMS

22. Indicate whether the organisational unit provides *bilingual official forms* (e.g. *applications*) for citizens within its scope of competence:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

23. If you marked answer a) or b) in question 22, please indicate in which areas they are provided:
.....

24. Indicate whether the organisational unit received *requests for the issuance of official forms bilingually*, namely in the national language and in the language of a minority, during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

25. Indicate whether the organisational unit issued *official forms* upon request *bilingually*, namely in the national language and in the language of a minority, during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

26. If you marked answer a) in question 25, what was the total number of bilingual official forms issued during the reference period:

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

27. Indicate whether the organisational unit received requests for *bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

28. If you marked answer a) in question 27, please indicate the number in the reference period:

- the number of applications for permits:
- the number of applications for authorisations:
- the number of requests for certificates:
- the number of requests for statements:
- the number of requests for declarations:

29. If you marked answer a) in question 27, please indicate whether bilingual public documents (permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations) were issued during the reference period?

- a) yes
- b) no

30. If you marked answer a) in question 29, please indicate the number in the reference period:

- the number of permits:
- the number of authorisations:
- the number of certificates:
- the number of statements:
- the number of declarations:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

31. Indicate whether the organisational unit received *submissions initiating administrative proceedings* in the language of a national minority during the reference period?

- a) yes
- b) no

32. If you marked answer a) in question 31, please indicate the number of submissions during the reference period:

33. Indicate whether the organisational unit received *requests for bilingual decisions* during the reference period?

- a) yes

b) no

34. If you marked answer a) in question 33, please indicate the number of requests during the reference period:

35. Indicate whether *decisions in administrative proceedings* were issued by the organisational unit in the language of a national minority during the reference period:

a) yes

b) no

36. If you marked answer a) in question 35, please indicate the total number of such decisions in the reference period:

37. If you marked answer a) in question 35, please indicate which areas were affected by such decisions:

.....

38. If the organisational unit issues decisions in the language of a national minority, please indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is indicated alongside the designation of the municipality in the national language *on decisions* issued in the language of a national minority:

a) yes

b) partially

c) no d) not applicable to a local authority body/organisational unit

MEETINGS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL UNIT OF THE RESCUE CORPS
--

39. Indicate whether the language of a national minority is also used in the meetings of the organisational unit:

a) yes

b) partially

c) no

40. Indicate in which language the meetings of the organisational unit are conducted:

a) in the national language

b) in the language of a national minority

c) in the national language and in the language of a national minority

41. Indicate whether the materials for the meeting of the organisational unit of the Fire and Rescue Corps are also prepared in the language of a national minority:

a) yes

b) partially

c) no

PUBLIC INFORMATION

GENERALLY BINDING LEGISLATION

42. Indicate whether the organisational unit has received *requests for information on generally binding legislation* in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

43. If you marked answer a) in question 42, please indicate the number of requests during the reference period:

44. If you marked answer a) in question 42, please indicate whether the organisational unit provided information on generally binding legislation in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

INFORMATION RELATING TO THREATS TO THE LIFE, HEALTH, SAFETY OR PROPERTY OF CITIZENS

45. Indicate whether information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens is also provided in the language of a national minority in places open to the public that are under the administration of the organisational unit:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

SIGNS AND NOTICES

46. Indicate whether the signs and notices intended for public information that are in the administration of the organisational unit are also in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes b) partially c) no

47. Indicate where the organisational unit publishes announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of a national minority (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) on the website
- b) on an official notice board
- b) on an information board
- d) in the application
- e) in SMS
- f) elsewhere (*please specify*):

.....

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

48. Indicate whether the important information is (*how the obliged entity is established, its powers and competences and a description of its organisational structure, the place, time and manner in which the information can be obtained; information on where to lodge an application, request, suggestion, complaint or other submission, the place, time limit and method of lodging a remedy and the possibility of judicial review of the decision of the obliged entity, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the obliged entity in dealing with all applications, suggestions and other submissions, including the relevant time limits, to be complied with, a summary of the regulations, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the obliged entity acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the obliged entity, the schedule of administrative fees which the obliged entity collects for administrative acts and the schedule of fees for making information available*) **published also in the language of a national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) partially

FINAL QUESTIONS

- c) no

49. Indicate whether creating conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication is for the organisational unit:

- a) seamless
- b) partly problematic
- c) problematic

50. If you marked answer b) or c) in question 49, please give the reason (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) insufficient number of qualified employees
- b) insufficient funding
- c) insufficient professional support
- d) other factors (*please specify*)

.....
.....

51. Indicate whether the organisational unit received complaints for violation of the Act the Use of Languages of National Minorities during the reference period:

- a) yes
- b) no

52. If you marked answer a) in question 51, please indicate the total number of such complaints during the reference period:

53. If you marked answer a) in question 51, please indicate what was the subject of such complaints:

.....
.....

54. If you marked answer a) in question 51, please indicate how these complaints were addressed:

.....

Date:

The questionnaire was completed by (name, surname, function and signature):

.....

Date:

The questionnaire was approved by (name, surname, function and signature of the head of the organisational unit of the Fire and Rescue Corps):

.....

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE**

**for organisational components of the Armed Forces and the Prison and Judicial Guard of
the Slovak Republic on the use of languages of national minorities**

Dear Respondent,

we would like to ask for your cooperation **in surveying the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 and 2022 (until 1 July 2022)** by filling in the following questionnaire. The data is collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purpose of preparing the Report on the State of Use of the Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is entitled, pursuant to Sec. 7a(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter "Act No. 184/1999 Coll."), to request information and written documents from public administration bodies on the use of the languages of national minorities in the area of their competence. If a public administration body fails to provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it commits an administrative offence pursuant to Sec. 7b(1)(h) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

Please read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill in the** relevant data.

Please **complete the answers for the period 2021 to 1 July 2022** (hereafter the **“reference period”**).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

1. Indicate the name of the organisational unit of the Armed Forces in the national language:

.....

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

2. Indicate the total number of members in the organisational unit of the Armed Forces:

.....

3. Indicate the number of members of the organisational unit of the Armed Forces who have a command of the language of a national minority:

a) in spoken and written form

b) in spoken form only

4. Do members of the organisational unit of the Armed Forces who have a command of the language of a national minority use this language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority in your municipality?

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

PUBLIC INFORMATION

5. Indicate whether in places open to the public which are under the administration of the organisational unit of the Armed Forces (e.g. fences separating a public space from an armed forces area) information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic is also provided in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

6. Indicate whether the signs and notices intended for public information that are in the administration of the organisational unit of the Armed Forces are also in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

7. Indicate whether the important information is (how the obliged entity is established, its powers and competences and a description of its organisational structure, the place, time and manner in which the information can be obtained; information on where to lodge an application, request, suggestion, complaint or other submission, the place, time limit and method of lodging a remedy and the possibility of judicial review of the decision of the obliged entity, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the obliged entity in dealing with all applications, suggestions and other submissions, including the relevant time limits, to be complied with, a summary of the regulations, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the obliged entity acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the obliged entity, the schedule of administrative fees which the obliged entity collects for administrative acts and the schedule of fees for making information available) published also in the language of a national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

FINAL QUESTIONS

8. Indicate whether the organisational unit of the Armed Forces received *complaints for violation of the Act the Use of Languages of National Minorities* during the reference period:

- a) yes

b) no

9. If you marked answer a) in question 8, please indicate the total number of such complaints during the reference period:

10. If you marked answer a) in question 8, please indicate what was the subject of such complaints:

.....

11. If you marked answer a) in question 8, please indicate how these complaints were addressed:

.....

Date:

The questionnaire was completed by (name, surname, function and signature):

.....

Date:

The questionnaire was approved by (name, surname, function and signature of the head of the organisational unit of the Armed Forces):

.....

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE
for District Courts/District Prosecutor's Offices on the use of languages of national minorities

Dear Respondent,

we would like to ask for your cooperation **in surveying the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021 and 2022 (until 1 July)** by filling in the following questionnaire. The data is collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purpose of preparing the Report on the State of Use of the Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic.

Please read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill in the** relevant data.

Please **complete the answers for the period 2021 to 1 July 2022** (hereafter the **“reference period”**).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

DESIGNATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF A MINORITY

1. Indicate the *name of the District Courts/District Prosecutor's Office* in the national language:

.....

2. Do you indicate *the designation of the District Courts/District Prosecutor's Office on the building of the District Courts/District Prosecutor's Office* also in the language of a national minority?

a) Yes (*specify the form in the language of a national minority*):.....

b) no

3. In addition to the designation of the municipality in the national language, do you also include *the designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority* in the designation of the District Courts/District Prosecutor's Office?

a) yes

b) no

4. Do you provide *office hours* for the District Courts/District Prosecutor's Office also in the language of a national minority?

- a) yes
- b) no

5. Do you also provide general information in the language of a national minority on the *information board* in the District Courts/District Prosecutor's Office building?

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) we do not have an information board

6. Do you provide information in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the District Courts/District Prosecutor's Office, concerning the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens also in the language of a national minority (e.g. escape exit, signage of the CCTV system, no smoking, etc.)?

- a) yes
- c) partially
- b) no

CONTACT WITH CITIZENS

EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT COURT

7. Indicate the total number of employees in the District Courts/District Prosecutor's Office of the court:

8. Indicate the number of employees of the District Courts/District Prosecutor's Office who have a command of the language of a national minority:

- a) in spoken and written form
- b) in written form only (*note: they do not have a command of the written form of the language*)
.....

INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF A NATIONAL MINORITY

9. Indicate whether the District Court/District Prosecutor's Office visibly displays information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority - both spoken and written form in contact with citizens at the seat of the District Court:

- a) yes
- b) no

10. If you marked answer a) in question 9, please indicate in which language this information is given (*note: multiple answers may be given*):

- a) in the national language
- b) in the language of a national minority

11. Indicate how the District Court/District Prosecutor's Office ensures the right to use the language of a national minority in contact with citizens:

- a) through district court employees communicating in the language of a national minority
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (please specify):

12. Indicate whether written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority were registered with the District Court/District Prosecutor's Office :

- a) yes
- b) no

13. If you marked answer a) in question 12, what was the total number of such submissions during the reference period:

14. If you marked answer a) in question 12, please indicate which areas were covered by these submissions/suggestions (note: multiple answers may be given):

- a) civil law
- b) criminal law
- d) commercial law
- e) administrative law

15. If you marked answer a) in question 12, please indicate whether decisions on submissions written in the language of a national minority, in addition to the national language, were issued by the District Court/District Prosecutor's Office during the reference period :

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

16. If you marked a) or b) in question 15, what was the total number of decisions issued on submissions during the reference period:

.....

Date:

The questionnaire was completed by
(name, surname, function and signature):

.....

Date:

The questionnaire was approved by
(name, surname, function and signature of the President of the District Court/Vice-President of the District Court):

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**List of public authority bodies and their organisational units,
where, in accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the language of a national minority is
used in official written communication in addition to the national language**

Order No.:	District offices	minority language
1.	District Office in Senec	Hungarian language
2.	District Office in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
3.	District Office in Galanta	Hungarian language
4.	District Office in Komárno	Hungarian language
5.	District Office in Levice, branch in Šahy, branch in Želiezovce	Hungarian language
6.	District Office in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
6.1	District Office in Nové Zámky, branch in Štúrovo	Hungarian language
7.	District Office in Šaľa	Hungarian language
8.	District Office in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
9.	District Office in Košice – okolie, branch in Moldava nad Bodvou	Hungarian language
10.	District Office in Michalovce, branch in Veľké Kapušany	Hungarian language
11.	District Office in Rožňava	Hungarian language
12.	District Office in Trebišov, branch in Kráľovský Chlmec	Hungarian language
13.	District Office in Medzilaborce	Ruthenian language
14.	District Office in Humenné, branch in Medzilaborce	Ruthenian language

Order No.:	Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic	minority language
1.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
2.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Dunajská Streda, branch in Šamorín	Hungarian language
3.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Dunajská Streda, branch in Veľký Meder	Hungarian language

4.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Galanta	Hungarian language
5.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Komárno	Hungarian language
6.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Komárno, branch in Hurbanovo	Hungarian language
7.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Komárno, branch in Kolárovo	Hungarian language
8.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Košice, branch in Moldava nad Bodvou	Hungarian language
9.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Levice, branch in Šahy	Hungarian language
10.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Levice, branch in Želiezovce	Hungarian language
11.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Lučenec, branch in Filákov	Hungarian language
12.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Michalovce, branch in Veľké Kapušany	Hungarian language
13.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
14.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Nové Zámky, branch in Šaľa	Hungarian language
15.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Nové Zámky, branch in Štúrovo	Hungarian language
16.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Pezinok, branch in Senec	Hungarian language
17.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Revúca, branch in Tornaľa	Hungarian language
18.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
19.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Rimavská Sobota, branch in Hajnáčka	Hungarian language
20.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Rimavská Sobota, branch in Bátka	Hungarian language
21.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Rožňava	Hungarian language
22.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Rožňava, branch in Plešivec	Hungarian language
23.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Stropkov, branch in Medzilaborce	Ruthenian language
24.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Trebišov, branch in Kráľovský Chlmec	Hungarian language
25.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Trebišov, branch in Streda nad Bodrogom	Hungarian language
26.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Trebišov, branch in Čierna nad Tisou	Hungarian language
27.	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Veľký Krtíš, branch in Vinica	Hungarian language
Order No.:	Tax Offices	minority language

1.	Tax Office in Bratislava, branch in Senec	Hungarian language
2.	Tax Office in Trnava, branch in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
3.	Tax Office in Trnava, branch in Galanta	Hungarian language
4.	Tax Office in Trnava, contact point in Šamorín	Hungarian language
5.	Tax Office in Nitra, branch in Komárno	Hungarian language
6.	Tax Office in Nitra, branch in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
7.	Tax Office in Nitra, branch in Štúrovo	Hungarian language
8.	Tax Office in Nitra, contact point in Šaľa	Hungarian language
9.	Tax Office in Nitra, contact point in Hurbanovo	Hungarian language
10.	Tax Office in Nitra, contact point in Kolárovo	Hungarian language
11.	Tax Office in Nitra, contact point in Šahy	Hungarian language
12.	Tax office in Banská Bystrica, branch in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
13.	Tax Office in Košice, branch in Rožňava	Hungarian language
14.	Tax Office in Košice, contact point in Moldava nad Bodvou	Hungarian language
15.	Tax Office in Košice, contact point in Veľké Kapušany	Hungarian language
16.	Tax Office in Košice, contact point in Kráľovský Chlmec	Hungarian language

Order No.:	Customs Offices	minority language
1.	Customs Office in Trnava, branch in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
2.	Customs Office in Trnava, branch in Galanta	Hungarian language
3.	Customs office in Trnava, station in Veľký Meder	Hungarian language
4.	Customs Office in Nitra, branch in Štúrovo	Hungarian language
5.	Customs Office in Nitra, branch in Komárno	Hungarian language
6.	Customs Office in Nitra, branch in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
7.	Customs office in Nitra, station in Štúrovo	Hungarian language

8.	Customs office in Banská Bystrica, branch in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
9.	Customs Office in Košice, branch in Rožňava	Hungarian language
10.	Customs Office in Michalovce, branch in Čierna nad Tisou	Hungarian language
11.	Customs Office in Michalovce, branch in Uľča	Ruthenian language
12.	Customs Office in Michalovce, branch in Veľké Slemence	Hungarian language
13.	Customs Office in Michalovce, branch in Dobrá	Hungarian language

Order No.:	State Archives	minority language
1.	State Archive in Banská Bystrica, branch Archive in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
2.	State Archive in Košice, branch Archive in Rožňava	Hungarian language
3.	State Archive in Nitra, branch Archive in Komárno	Hungarian language
4.	State Archive in Nitra, branch Archive in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
5.	State Archives in Trnava, branch Archive in Galanta (based in Šaľa)	Hungarian language

Order No.:	Regional Veterinary and Food Administrations	minority language
1.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Senec	Hungarian language
2.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
3.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Galanta	Hungarian language
4.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Komárno	Hungarian language
5.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
6.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Šaľa	Hungarian language
7.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
8.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Rožňava	Hungarian language
Order No.:	Regional Public Health Authorities	minority language

1.	Regional Public Health Authority based in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
2.	Regional Public Health Authority based in Galanta	Hungarian language
3.	Regional Public Health Authority based in Komárno	Hungarian language
4.	Regional Office of Public Health based in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
5.	Regional Public Health Authority based in Rimavska Sobota	Hungarian language
6.	Regional Public Health Authority based in Rožňava	Hungarian language

List of organisational units of the Fire and Rescue Corps, the Armed Security Corps, the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and other armed forces which, in accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll., in addition to the national language also use the language of a national minority when communicating

Order No.:	Organisational units of the Fire and Rescue Corps	Minority language
	Name of the District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps	
1.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
2.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps in Galanta	Hungarian language
3.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps in Komárno	Hungarian language
4.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
5.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
6.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps in Rožňava	Hungarian language

Order No.:	Organisational units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic	minority language
1.	Operational Unit Kolíňanský vrch/Aircraft Rocket Brigade/Air Force of the Slovak Armed Forces	Hungarian language
2.	Military unit 3030 Zvolen/Mierovo/Air Force of the Slovak Armed Forces	Hungarian language
3.	Military unit 3030 Zvolen/Ožd'any/Air Force of the Slovak Armed Forces	Hungarian language
4.	Military unit 3030 Zvolen/Veľká Ida/Air Force of the Slovak Armed Forces	Hungarian language
5.	Military unit 8024 Rožňava/Land Forces of the Slovak Armed Forces	Hungarian language
6.	Military unit 7945 Rožňava/Land Forces of the Slovak Armed Forces	Hungarian language

Order No.:	Organisational unit of the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps	minority language
1.	Institute for the execution of imprisonment sentences Želiezovce	Hungarian language

List of competent District Courts and competent District Prosecutor's Offices that have their seat in the municipality according to Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

Order No.:	District Courts	minority language
1.	District Court in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
2.	District Court in Galanta	Hungarian language
3.	District Court in Komárno	Hungarian language
4.	District Court in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
5.	District Court in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
6.	District Court in Rožňava	Hungarian language

Order No.:	District Prosecutor's Offices	minority language
1.	District Prosecutor's Office in Galanta	Hungarian language
2.	District Prosecutor's Office in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
3.	District Prosecutor's Office in Komárno	Hungarian language
4.	District Prosecutor's Office in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
5.	District Prosecutor's Office in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
6.	District Prosecutor's Office in Rožňava	Hungarian language

**List and number of specific shortcomings in the application practice of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
identified on the basis of the questionnaire survey**

a) Language rights, compliance with which is mandatory and non-compliance with which is an administrative offence

Number of shortcomings	Type of shortcoming for local authorities (municipalities)	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
17	failed to allow a citizen of the Slovak Republic who is a person belonging to a national minority to communicate in spoken and written form in the language of a minority	Sec. 7b(1)(a)
145	failed to inform about the possibility to communicate in spoken and written form in the language of a minority	Sec. 7b(1)(a)
1	failed to issue a copy of the decision and a birth certificate, marriage certificate or death certificate also in the language of a minority at the request of a citizen of the Slovak Republic who is a person belonging to a national minority	Sec. 7b(1)(b)
2	failed to issue a copy of the decision also in the language of a minority at the request of a citizen of the Slovak Republic who is a person belonging to a national minority	Sec. 7b(1)(b)
55	failed to ensure that the building in which they are located is marked in the language of a minority	Sec. 7b(1)(c)
11	failed to provide, upon request, an official form issued within the scope of its competence also in the language of a minority	Sec. 7b(1)(d)
15	failed to ensure that the municipality is marked in the language of a minority on road signs marking the beginning and end of the municipality	Sec. 7b(1)(e)
25	failed to ensure that the municipality's public administration buildings are marked in the language of a minority	Sec. 7b(1)(e)
1	failed to ensure that the municipality designation on the decisions in their territory in the national language is indicated also in the language of a minority	Sec. 7b(1)(e)
277	failed to ensure that information relating to threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic is displayed in places accessible to the public in the language of a minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 7b(1)(f)
15	failed to provide the Office of the Government with information and written documentation for the purpose of the Report on the State of Use of the Language of a Minorities in the Slovak Republic	Sec. 7b(1)(h)
Total: 564		

Number of shortcomings	Type of shortcoming in the case of legal entities established by the municipality	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
29 ¹²⁵	failed to inform about the possibility to communicate in spoken and written form in the language of a national minority	Sec. 7b(1)(a)
16 ¹²⁶	failed to ensure that the building in which they are located is marked in the language of a national minority	Sec. 7b(1)(c)
23	failed to ensure that the municipality's public administration buildings are marked in the language of a national minority	Sec. 7b(1)(e)
18 ¹²⁷	failed to ensure that information relating to threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic is displayed in places accessible to the public in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 7b(1)(f)
Total: 89		

Number of shortcomings	Type of shortcoming in the case of legal entities established by a self-governing region	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
29 ¹²⁸	failed to inform about the possibility to communicate in spoken and written form in the language of a national minority	Sec. 7b(1)(a)
15 ¹²⁹	failed to ensure that the building in which they are located is marked in the language of a national minority	Sec. 7b(1)(c)
17 ¹³⁰	failed to ensure that the municipality's public administration buildings are marked in the language of a national minority	Sec. 7b(1)(e)
21 ¹³¹	failed to ensure that information relating to threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic is displayed in places accessible to the public in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 7b(1)(f)
Total: 82		

Number of shortcomings	Type of shortcoming in the case of public authority bodies	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
15 ¹³²	failed to inform about the possibility to communicate in spoken and written form in the language of a minority	Sec. 7b(1)(a)
1 ¹³³	failed to ensure that the municipality's public administration buildings are marked in the language of a minority	Sec. 7b(1)(e)
42 ¹³⁴	failed to ensure that information relating to threats to	Sec. 7b(1)(f)

¹²⁵ 3 legal entities established by municipalities did not answer the question.

¹²⁶ 1 legal entity established by the municipality did not answer the question.

¹²⁷ 2 legal entities established by municipalities did not answer the question.

¹²⁸ 1 legal entity established by the higher territorial unit did not answer the question.

¹²⁹ 2 legal entities established by the higher territorial unit did not answer the question.

¹³⁰ 1 legal entity established by the higher territorial unit did not answer the question.

¹³¹ 2 legal entities established by the higher territorial unit did not answer the question.

¹³² 4 district offices (Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic), 11 Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Slovak Republic)

¹³³ 1 district office (Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic)

	the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic is displayed in places accessible to the public in the language of a minority in addition to the national language	
Total: 58		

b) Language rights, compliance with which is mandatory and non-compliance with which is not an administrative offence

Number of shortcomings	Type of shortcoming for local authorities (municipalities)	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
23	failed to provide a response to a submission written in a the language of a minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 2(3)
6	failed to issue bilingual permits, authorisations, certificates, statements and declarations in the national language and the language of a national minority upon request	Sec. 2(5)
2	failed to issue a decision of a public administration authority in administrative proceedings in addition to the national language in a copy in the language of a minority where the proceedings were initiated by a submission in the language of a minority	Sec. 2(4)
90	failed to provide interpretation for participants in the municipal council meeting	Sec. 3(2)
413	failed to publish important information on the municipality's official notice board, on the municipality's website and in the periodical press, in addition to the national language, also in the language of a minority	Sec. 5a(2)
Total: 534		

Number of shortcomings	Type of shortcoming in the case of legal entities established by the municipality	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
21 ¹³⁵	failed to publish important information on the municipality's official notice board, on the municipality's website and in the periodical press, in addition to the national language, also in the language of a national minority	211/2000 Coll. Sec. 6(5)
1	failed to provide a response to a submission written in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 2(3)
Total: 22		

¹³⁴ 3 district offices (Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic), 11 tax offices (Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic), 13 customs offices (Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic), one Regional Public Health Authority (Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic), 13 Central Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Slovak Republic), one District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps (Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic)

¹³⁵ 10 legal entities established by municipalities did not answer the question

Number of shortcomings	Type of shortcoming in the case of legal entities established by a self-governing region	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
30 ¹³⁶	failed to publish important information on the municipality's official notice board, on the municipality's website and in the periodical press, in addition to the national language, also in the language of a national minority	211/2000 Coll. Sec. 6(5)
1	failed to provide a response to a submission written in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 2(3)
Total: 31		

Number of shortcomings	Type of shortcoming in the case of public authority bodies	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
3 ¹³⁷	failed to provide a response to a submission written in a the language of a minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 2(3)
Total: 3		

c) Language rights, the exercise of which is provided for in Act No. 184/1999 Coll. as an option

use the option	partly use the option	do not use the option	Type of option for local authorities (municipalities)	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
233	6	107	the designation of the municipality in the language of a minority shall also be indicated in the municipality in the designation of the railway station, bus station, airport and port	Sec. 4(4)
120	0	38	the municipality also marks streets in the language of a minority in its territory	Sec. 4(5)
58	0	59	the municipality also marks geographical signs in the language of a minority in its territory	Sec. 4(5)
73	232	336	the official agenda, in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information for the public and the agenda of churches and religious societies for the public, except for the civil registry, is kept in the language of a minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 3(4)

¹³⁶ 2 legal entities established by the higher territorial unit did not answer the question.

¹³⁷ 3 Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Slovak Republic)

181	52	178	the chronicle of the municipality is also kept in the language of a minority	Sec. 3(3)
40	7	4	members of the municipal police use the language of a minority in addition to the national language in their official communication	Sec. 7(3)
43	5	3	members of the municipal police who have a command of the language of a minority use the language of a minority when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority	Sec. 7(4)
372	124	136	members of the municipal council use the language of a minority in the meetings of the public authority	Sec. 3(2)
122	319	193	the meetings of the public authority are also held in the language of a minority	Sec. 3(1)
23	69	542	the municipality issues generally binding regulations within its competence in addition to the text in the national language also in the language of a minority	Sec. 4(9)
168	82	350	the use of information road signs to guide road users with the names of designated destinations also in the language of a minority	Sec. 4(3)
326	136	166	signs and notices intended for information, which are under the administration of the municipality, are also provided in the language of a national minority	Sec. 4(7)
508	38	88	announcements intended to inform the public by means of local radio or other technical devices are also published in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 5a(1)
289	81	75	inscriptions on memorials, monuments and commemorative plaques shall be in the language of a minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 4(8)
Total: 2556	Total: 1151	Total: 2275		

use the option	partly use the option	do not use the option	Type of option in the case of legal entities established by the municipality	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
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2	12	42 ¹³⁸	the official agenda, in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information for the public and the agenda of churches and religious societies for the public, except for the civil registry, is kept in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 3(4)
10	26	18 ¹³⁹	the meetings of the public authority are also held in the language of a national minority	Sec. 3(1)
28	16	11 ¹⁴⁰	announcements intended to inform the public are published in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 5a(1)
Total: 40	Total: 54	Total: 71		

use the option	partly use the option	do not use the option	Type of option in the case of legal entities established by a self-governing region	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
1	11	42	the official agenda, in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information for the public and the agenda of churches and religious societies for the public, except for the civil registry, is kept in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 3(4)
3	23	26 ¹⁴¹	the meetings of the public authority are also held in the language of a national minority	Sec. 3(1)
20	18	13 ¹⁴²	announcements intended to inform the public are published in the language of a national minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 5a(1)
Total: 24	Total: 52	Total: 81		

use the option	partly use the option	do not use the option	Type of option for public authority bodies	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
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¹³⁸ 2 legal entities established by municipalities did not answer the question.

¹³⁹ 4 legal entities established by municipalities did not answer the question.

¹⁴⁰ 3 legal entities established by municipalities did not answer the question.

¹⁴¹ 2 legal entities established by the local authority did not answer the question.

¹⁴² 3 legal entities established by the higher territorial unit did not answer the question.

1	5	82 ¹⁴³	the official agenda, in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information for the public and the agenda of churches and religious societies for the public, except for the civil registry, is kept in the language of a minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 3(4)
10	24	57 ¹⁴⁴	the meetings of the public authority are also held in the language of a minority	Sec. 3(1)
39	34	13 ¹⁴⁵	announcements intended to inform the public are published in the language of a minority in addition to the national language	Sec. 5a(1)
Total: 50	Total: 63	Total: 152		

use the option	partly use the option	do not use the option	Type of option in the case of organisational units of the Armed Security Forces and Rescue Corps	The relevant provision of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.
3	3	1	members of the Armed Security Forces who have a command of the language of a national minority use the language of a national minority when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority	Sec. 7(4)
2	4	0	members of the Fire and Rescue Corps who are proficient in the language of a national minority use the language of a national minority when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority	Sec. 7(4)
Total: 5	Total: 7	Total: 1		

¹⁴³ 2 public authority bodies did not respond to the question.

¹⁴⁴ 1 public authority body identified all 3 options, each of its organisational units meets separately

¹⁴⁵ 3 public authority bodies did not respond to the question.