

**Report on the Situation of National  
Minorities  
in the Czech Republic  
in 2019**

Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2019  
Issued by: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic  
narodnostni.mensiny@vlada.cz

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## 1. Introduction

Based on the Statute of the Government Council for National Minorities approved by Government Resolution No 1034 of 10 October 2001, as amended, the Government of the Czech Republic receives the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic (the “Report”) each year. The text of the submitted Report has been drawn up by the Office of the Government Council for the Roma Minority and the Secretariat of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic for National Minorities, which is part of the Department of Human Rights and Protection of Minorities of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, based on the supporting documentation provided by ministries, local and regional governments and the representatives of national minorities who are members of the Government Council for National Minorities (the “Council”).

The basic rights of national minorities stem from the Constitution of the Czech Republic, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, by which the Czech Republic is bound, and Act No. 273/2001 Coll., on the rights of national minorities and on amendments to some related acts, as amended by later versions and some other acts. Act No. 198/2009 Coll., on equal treatment and legal means of protection against discrimination and on amendments to some acts (the Antidiscrimination Act), is another important legal instrument that provides protection to national minorities.

The objective of the Report is the same as in previous years: to map the activities and changes that occurred in the past year and that directly pertain to the situation of national minorities living in the Czech Republic. The 2019 Report has not identified any fundamental changes to the status of national minorities. As in previous years, 14 national minorities were represented in the Council: Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Rusyn, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. In 2019, the Czech Republic continued discussions with international bodies, particularly within the Council of Europe, which monitor the Czech Republic’s observance of its commitments in this area. These commitments are described in Chapter 1.10. Current national minority issues, drawn up based on the experience of the national minority members represented in the Council, are set out in Chapter 2. The other chapters provide information about the institutional framework in place to uphold the rights of national minorities and about possible and already executed legislative changes related to the rights of national minorities. The use of national minority languages, including education in these languages, and the issuance of national minority publications are addressed in Chapters 5, 6 and 7. In line with Section 12 of Government Regulation No .98/2002 Coll., establishing the conditions and methods of provision of subsidies from the state budget for the activities national minorities and for promotion of integration of the Roma community, as amended, the Report also contains an overview of the evaluation of the use of the grants and subsidies provided from the state budget for the activities of national minorities in 2019. Chapter 8 looks at the financing of activities benefiting national minorities.

Each year, the Office of the Public Defender of Rights (the Ombudswoman) responds to complaints of possible discrimination against national minorities. In 2019, the ombudswoman responded to 58 complaints of discrimination due to race or ethnicity (43 complaints) or nationality (15 complaints).

Each year, the Office of the President of the Republic (the “Office of the President”) also makes a statement on the rights of national minorities in the Report. One of the many activities of the Office of the President is to respond to letters from citizens; it is of course not possible to identify from the correspondence or communication whether the writer is a member of a national minority. An explicit declaration that the writer belongs to a minority appears rarely, and if it does, then it is usually a member of the Roma community who is contacting the Office of the President with social problems, or a member of the Russian community with business issues or visa issues related to family members entering the

country. As regards the president himself, in 2019 he met occasionally with representatives of national minorities and individuals, especially in connection with his visits to the various regions of the Czech Republic. The president also dealt with the status of national minorities in the Czech Republic during discussions with new ambassadors, meetings with public administrators (ministers and communal politicians), during regular meetings of the expert team in Lány and at bilateral meetings with representatives of those countries whose nationals live in the Czech Republic as a minority.

### **1.1. International commitments**

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

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (the “Convention”) is a binding international agreement that codifies comprehensively the rights of national minorities and their members. The Convention was signed in the name of the Czech Republic in Strasbourg on 28 April 1995, entered into force based on its Article 28(1) on 1 February 1998 and entered into force for the Czech Republic pursuant to Article 28(2) on 1 April 1998. By acceding to the Convention, the Czech Republic committed itself to submitting regular monitoring reports on compliance of its obligations as a party to the Convention. In 2019, the fifth monitoring cycle took place, and by Resolution No. 471 of the Government of the Czech Republic of 1 July 2019, the Fifth Periodic Report on Implementation of the Principles Laid Down in the Convention was approved and then submitted to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The wording of the Fifth Period Report on Implementation of the Principles Laid Down in the Report is available on the Czech Government website.<sup>1</sup>

The Convention is the most extensive legal instrument pertaining to the status and rights of minorities. It also integrates a relatively detailed regulation on the language rights of members of national minorities. In terms of regional protection of language minorities and languages, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages plays a key role (see below).

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

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (the “Charter”) entered into force for the Czech Republic on 1 March 2007 and pertains to these languages: German, Moravian Croatian, Polish, Roma and Slovak. The Charter regulates the control mechanisms for assessing implementation of the principles in Member States and, if needed, for formulating recommendations for improving national legislation and the procedures implemented in practice. The Expert Committee established according to Article 17 of the Charter plays a central role. The committee’s mission to submit to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe evaluation reports about how the respective country is meeting its commitments verify the actual situation of regional and minority languages in the respective state and adopt recommendations. In order to fulfil this task, the Committee of Ministers adopted in line with Article 15(1) of the Charter a schedule where, originally, reports were to be submitted once every three years. In November 2018, the Committee of Ministers modified the report submission timetable and extended the monitoring cycle to five years. In the interim, a party may be asked to respond to urgent issues.

On 19 June 2019, the Czech Republic adopted recommendations from the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe based on which a fifth periodical report will be prepared. The complete wording of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers is available on the Czech government website.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vlada.cz:8443/assets/ppov/rnm/dokumenty/mezinarodni-dokumenty/Pata-periodicka-zprava-cela.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rnm/dokumenty/mezinarodni-dokumenty/Doporuceni-CJ\\_2.pdf](http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rnm/dokumenty/mezinarodni-dokumenty/Doporuceni-CJ_2.pdf)

## 2. New findings in the field of support for the rights of national minorities and current issues pertaining to national minorities

### 2.1. Research and professional publications in 2019

In 2019, a number of professional publications on the topic of national minorities in the Czech Republic were published<sup>3</sup>.

The way national minorities in the Czech Republic are viewed by the Czech media was the topic of the study by Petr Bednařík<sup>4</sup>. The author analyses public surveys conducted in 2018 on national minorities and foreigners living in the Czech Republic. He observes in detail mainly changes in the way Roma and Vietnamese minorities are stereotyped. He also analyses in detail the broadcasts of Czech Television in relation to national minorities. The author calls attention to how the media is one of the factors contributing to the creation of public opinion on national minorities.

A number of studies pertain to individual national minorities or subtopics. Helena Nosková<sup>5</sup>, for example, conducted a study in which she analysed the association- and club-related activities and cultural activities of the Russian national minority, descendants of immigrants during the interwar years, living in the Czech Republic. These are Czech citizens identifying as Russian nationals who are increasingly being surrounded by a large number of new immigrants from Russia and Ukraine. The study includes an extensive historical excursion to the beginnings of Russian immigration after the October Revolution of 1917 to then Czechoslovakia and tracks the lives of the descendants of these Russian immigrants until 1989.

A collective of authors from the Institute of Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences ("CAS") published a specialised map of the historical development of national settlement in the Tachov region between 1945 and 2000<sup>6</sup>. Both the text and the specialised map are published on the website of the Institute of Contemporary History of CAS.<sup>7</sup>

Two articles on the topic of national minorities were published in 2019 in the proceedings *Česká republika a diaspora: Co bylo a co bude?* [*The Czech Republic and the Diaspora: What Was and What Will Be?*] The first pertains to national minorities in the Czech Republic in the context of compatriotic diaspora<sup>8</sup>; the second pertains to Czech-German relations<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> This chapter does not aim to provide an exhaustive overview of the literature published on the topic in 2019. We only present the publication activities of experts working with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.

<sup>4</sup> Bednařík, Petr: *Obraz národnostních menšin v českých médiích na začátku 21. století*, pp 177 - 189. In: *Stredoeurópske súvislosti národnostného vývoja na začiatku 21. storočia*, Jana Šutajová – Štefan Šutaj – Barbara Kacerová (eds.). Prešov, UNIVERSUM 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Nosková, Helena: *Rusové a ruská národnostní menšina v českých zemích ve 20. a 21. století*, pp 189 - 203. In: *Stredoeurópske súvislosti národnostného vývoja na začiatku 21. storočia*, Jana Šutajová – Štefan Šutaj – Barbara Kacerová (eds.). Prešov, UNIVERSUM 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Vaishar A., Nosková H., Nováková E.: *Historický vývoj národnostního osídlení v regionu Tachovsku v letech 1945-2000*. Specialised map certified by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

<sup>7</sup> [www.usd.cas.cz/pravni-historicke-a-spolecensko-aspekty-novych-a-tradicnych-mensin-v-ceske-republice](http://www.usd.cas.cz/pravni-historicke-a-spolecensko-aspekty-novych-a-tradicnych-mensin-v-ceske-republice)

<sup>8</sup> Sulitka A.: *Národnostní menšiny v České republice v kontextu krajanské diaspor*. In: Stanislav Brouček et al., *Česká republika a diaspora: Co bylo a co bude?* Praha – Pelhřimov: Etnologický ústav AV ČR, v.v.i., a Nová tiskárna Pelhřimov, 2019, pp 191–203.

<sup>9</sup> Horáček M., *Blížkost hranic česko-německého sblížení*. In: Stanislav Brouček et al., *Česká republika a diaspora: Co bylo a co bude?* Praha – Pelhřimov: Etnologický ústav AV ČR, v.v.i., a Nová tiskárna Pelhřimov, 2019, pp 247–250.

A study was presented by Andrej Sulitka on the Ruthenian minority in the structure of national minorities in the Czech Republic after 1989. On 4 December 2019 at a round table meeting was held on the topic *Carpathian Ruthenia and Ruthenians in the Czech Lands*<sup>10</sup> at the House of National Minorities in Prague.

Two Czech-Vietnamese dictionaries were published in 2019. The first is *Velký učební česko-vietnamský slovník – 6. díl V-Ž*; the second is *Česko-vietnamský ilustrovaný slovník 2*.

## **2.2. Life of national minorities in the Czech Republic in 2019 (successes, current challenges, problems)**

The representatives of the clubs and associations of national minorities living in the Czech Republic are given the chance to respond to important events of the past year. Chapter 2.2. lists the successes, new challenges and possible problems faced by the fourteen national minorities represented in the Council.

### **Belarusian minority<sup>11</sup>**

Members of the Belarusian nationality minority in the Czech Republic registered a positive change in 2019 with the conclusion of a bilateral agreement on social security between the Czech Republic and the Belarusian Republic. The new international agreement also guarantees the principle of adding together the social security periods in each state and the payment of pensions to the other contractual state.

Thanks to the efforts of Belarusian physician Olga Žernosek, *Doktor Čechov*, an association of physicians with a foreign education, was established in Prague in October 2019. This non-commercial organisation provides assistance mainly to Russian-speaking physicians, pharmacists and nurses who aim to continue to have successful professional careers in the Czech Republic. Andrej Ramašeuski (a former political refugee), a member of the Belarusian national minority, was elected in the last elections to the municipal council of Radhošť in the Pardubice district, where he holds the office of Chairman of the Financial Committee.

Various creative efforts also help promote the Belarusian national minority. Musician Ales Yasinski gained popularity thanks to his virtuoso accordion concerts. Nastassia Aleinikava, holder of the 2017 Grand Designer title, designed her collection of artistic glasses in 2019 for the Slovak company IOKO. Painter Anna Karan exhibited her *Moje překrásná Praha* [My Beautiful Prague] series at Galerie Písecká brána. At least two participants of the popular television competition *Československo hledá talent* [Czechoslovakia's Got Talent] mentioned their Belarusian heritage.

Members of the Belarusian national minority enjoy problem-free coexistence with other national minorities and majority society; nevertheless, in day-to-day life they do face certain problems regarding language rights. When arranging translation or interpretation for persons of Belarusian nationality, the public authorities often give preference to court-appointed translators of Russian. Representatives of the Belarusian minority would welcome it if the authorities would first contact Belarusian interpreters, as Belarusian is the primary language of this national minority and is perceived by them as an important identifier.

Another problem faced by the Belarusian national minority is entries into registers. In the case of Belarusian nationals, including children born in the Czech Republic, the father's name (patronymic) is often added automatically to the name and surname although it is

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<sup>10</sup> Rusíni ve skladbě národnostních menšin České republiky po roce 1989. In: Podkarpatská Rus. Časopis Společnosti přátel Podkarpatské Rusi, 1/2020, pp 8 – 9.

<sup>11</sup> Materials for drafting the text were provided by Alena Kovářová, Council Member.



typical in the Soviet/Russian tradition, not the Belarusian. The patronymic should be entered only at the request of the respective person, not automatically.

Persons of Belarusian nationality who received Czech citizen and wish to exercise their right to register their name and surname in the language of the national minority are often forced to also provided an expert (linguistic) opinion on the correct spelling of their name and surname. It stems from the methodology valid for registries as of 2018 that registries should first try to ascertain the correct form using their own resources first. Investigations never take into account the existence of the “Belarusian Latin alphabet” and are restricted to transcription of Belarusian names from the Cyrillic alphabet. The entire procedure could be simplified and expert opinions avoided if the members of the national minority could chose to have their names and surnames registered in the Belarusian Latin alphabet, which has a system of diacritics almost identical to the Czech alphabet. Certified philologists from the ranks of the Belarusian national minority are willing to draw up in cooperation with linguistic institutions in the Belarusian Republic recommendations for registries about the use of the “Belarusian Latin alphabet” for transcription of Belarusian names.

### **Bulgarian minority<sup>12</sup>**

Bulgarian associations and clubs enjoyed universal development in 2019. The Bulgarian community in the Czech Republic is highly diverse and varied. Thanks to the tradition of the Bulgarian national minority in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia spanning many years, there are associations and clubs operating in almost all large towns and even in some small ones.<sup>13</sup>

An important association and club effort in 2019 was the establishment of a Sunday school in Brno taught in Bulgarian. The Bulgarian orthodox community in Prague participated successfully in a cultural programme that accompanied the “Zažit Americkou jinak” (“Experience Americká Street Differently”) event. It helped decorate the space in Americká Street in Prague 2 where the community headquarters are located, and organised a photography exhibition on the topic of life of the Bulgarian diaspora in Prague in the 1950s to the 1970s as well as a music programme in the form a concert by the choir Lira and the band Bosilek. The community also introduced eventgoers to traditional Bulgarian cuisine. The same organisation also mentions participation in the fifth annual “Víra, Naděje, Láska a Moudrost – vše co nás sblízuje” (“Faith, Hope, Love and Wisdom – Everything That Brings Us Closer Together”) festival, where it set up a charity workshop to sell products made by children in sheltered workshops. The proceeds were donated to support talented children, socially vulnerable families and seniors of Bulgarian heritage living in Prague.

One of the biggest events organised by the Bulgarian Club Brno in cooperation with the Association of Bulgarian Clubs in the Czech Republic was the international compatriot gathering on the occasion of the Bulgarian national holiday of “May 24 – Day of Slavonic Alphabet, Bulgarian Enlightenment and Culture”. The gathering took place in its traditional venue at the monument to Saints Cyril and Methodius in Mikulčice and included an accompanying cultural and music programme with about 500 people in attendance. In February 2019, the Zaedno club organised the 17<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the winemakers’

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<sup>12</sup> Materials for drafting the text were provided by Georgi Bečev, Council Member.

<sup>13</sup> At this time, it operates ten clubs in Prague and other cities in the Czech Republic (Brno, Ostrava, Plzeň, Ústí nad Labem, Olomouc, Mladá Boleslav, Hořovice, Kladno, Most) under Asociace bulharských spolků v ČR, z.s., an association with its registered office in Prague. All these clubs are independently registered. After 1989, club focused on other aspects of minority life were created mainly in large towns. Such clubs include Zaedno, Vazražďane, Bulharská pravoslavná obec (Bulgarian Orthodox Community), Bulharská kulturně osvětová organizace sv. Cyrila a Metoděje (Bulgarian Cultural and Education Organisation of St Cyril and Methodius), Bulharská beseda v Praze (Bulgarian Chat in Prague) and sdružení Pirin in Brno.

patron Trifon Zarezan. This Bulgarian dance evening with traditional Bulgarian dance ensembles and musical groups was held in 2019 in the Ladví Cultural Building in Prague and was attended by 80 performers and about 450 guests from the Bulgarian community, other minorities and many Czechs. The Vazražďane club organised the already traditional Bulgarian Culture Day, which included folklore concerts, a literary and film night in the House of National Minorities, and a Christmas Concert in Suk Hall at the Rudolfinum, where instrumentalists and opera singers from the ranks of national minorities and majority society performed. About 480 people visited Bulgarian Culture Day.

A chronic problem faced mainly by the clubs under the Association of Bulgarian Clubs is an aging membership base. The Bulgarian clubs in Brno, Ústí nad Labem and Most all expressly called attention to this issue. The Zaedno club mentioned not having an office or place to meet and work as its main problem. Despite many years of negotiations with the House of National Minorities, the association has been unable to agree on a solution to this unfortunate situation, and so it has to pay market rent, which is a factor negatively affecting its activities and efforts. The Bulgarian orthodox community mentions problems with obtaining additional funding for the events it organises and for staffing these events, thus relying heavily on volunteers.

Some Bulgarian clubs and associations consider the acquisition of young members to be a great challenge. This relates to the problem mentioned in the previous paragraph. The Bulgarian clubs and association in Brno and Most, for example, explicitly call attention to this fact. Member of local clubs and associations, and not only in North Bohemia, have been observing a lack of interest by the younger generation in taking part in club and association activities. The Zaedno clubs lists passing on culture and traditions to children and youth as one of its main goals. Another goal is supporting language courses, thereby preserving the diversity of national cultures and language in the Czech Republic. In this day and age, it sees popularising multiculturalism among the public in the Czech Republic and fighting ethnic and racial intolerance and racism as a major challenge. Zaedno club members also came up with a proposal to organise a larger festival of national minorities in the Czech Republic that could be organised based on cooperation of the clubs of all national minorities represented in this country. The festival would introduce the life, traditions and cultures of national minorities and their contribution to the Czech Republic.

An important topic that resonates across Bulgarian clubs although it does not fall into their purview is the issue of the unclear status of citizens of the Bulgarian Republic who have in recent years been coming to the Czech Republic to work. It happens often that these people become victims of sinister practices or exploitation on the part of employment agencies and find no support in the local authorities. Another hotly discussed topic which to a certain extent complicates club and association activities is the growing red tape tied to submitted grant applications and getting a response. This could lead to the clubs being forced to curtail their activities

There is growing effort on the part of Bulgarian clubs to overcome certain historical antipathies. This effort is manifesting itself in greater mutual cooperation on some projects. On the other hand, there is a great deal of work to be done in this respect. Clubs are aware, however, of their integral role in civil society and some of their representatives are calling for greater cooperation among national minorities, e.g., in presenting the clear benefits that national minorities living in the Czech Republic bring to majority society and to the overall development of the Czech Republic. It can generally be said that the Bulgarian community in the Czech Republic is highly active all-round and each of its clubs and associations focus on social, cultural and educational activities. They make use of both the legislative enshrinement of national minorities in the Czech legal framework and the fact that they can assert themselves in a free society.

## **Croatian minority<sup>14</sup>**

In 2019, the representatives of the Croatian national minority registered continual growth of awareness among the Czech public about Moravian Croats, a situation the minority appreciates highly. Contributing to this are several factors, chiefly, however, that the work minority members carried out in recent years on documenting the Croatian minority has become easily accessible to the public and received substantial exposure in the media. At the same time, progress has been made on the construction of the Museum of Moravian Croats in Jevišovice in South Moravia.

A major challenge for the Croatian national minority continues to be completion of the Museum of Moravian Croats, especially the funding of its operations, including cooperation with the municipality.

## **Hungarian minority<sup>15</sup>**

All organisations of the Hungarian national minority<sup>16</sup> in the Czech Republic organised commemorative events in March 2019 on the occasion of the 171<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the 1848/49 Hungarian Revolution. The already traditional reverent event to the Artur Görgey commemorative plaque took place and wreaths were laid at the János Esterházy commemorative plaque at Motol Cemetery. The reverent event in honour of Hungarian students and professors of the Budapest University of Technology who died tragically on 11 April 1945 took place in Hazlov. The 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the national minority took place in Prague in November 2019. It was devoted to the issue of national minorities in Czechoslovakia in the period 1948 – 1989. As is tradition, the conference was attended by representatives of the Association of Hungarians Living in the Czech Republic, the Artur Görgey Society, the János Esterházy Society and the Association of Hungarian Physicians and Natural Scientists in the Czech Republic. The Association of Hungarian Physicians and Natural Scientists organised a conference in Prague in cooperation with KMTA (Kárpát-medencei Tehetségkutató Alapítvány – Foundation for the Search for Talent in the Carpathian Basin), The Pharmacological Institute of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Medical Faculty of Charles University in Prague and the Hungarian Institute in Prague.

The Association of Hungarians, with its national remit, continued its activities in 2019 with the same intensity as in previous years. The annual Hungarian Culture Days, which take place in several Czech towns and cities (Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Teplice and Lovosice) with the aim of presenting and disseminating Hungarian culture, is one of the most important projects. It strives to strengthen the identity of the Hungarian minority, maintain cultural traditions, and present and disseminate Hungarian culture in the Czech environment. Cultural, informational and documentary efforts of the Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic – aimed at preserving the language and national culture, satisfying specific cultural needs, getting to know and developing mutual Czech-Hungarian cultural relationships and raising awareness of the cultural values of the Hungarian nationality among fellow Czech citizens – continued.

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<sup>14</sup> Materials for drafting the text were provided by Lenka Kopřivová, Council Member.

<sup>15</sup> Materials for drafting the text were provided by Anna Rákóczi, Council Member.

<sup>16</sup> In 2019, the Hungarian minority was represented by the Association of Hungarians Living in the Czech Republic (Svaz Maďarů žijících v českých zemích, z. s.), the Iglice Group, the Association of Hungarian Physicians and Natural Scientists in the Czech Republic, the Artur Görgey Society, the János Esterházy Association, the Rákóczi Foundation, the political-civic movement Coexistencia-Soužití – Hungarian Section, the Czech-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, the Hungarian Catholic Priory in Prague and the Prague community of the Hungarian Reformed Church. In addition to these organisations, two Hungarian student groups are active: the Endre Ady Association in Prague (AED) and the Ferenc Kazinczy (KAFEDIK) Association in Brno. These groups associate university students of Hungarian nationality in the mentioned cities; in most cases they are Slovak citizens. The student groups work with the other aforementioned Hungarian organisations.

An important moment in the life of the Association of Hungarians Living in the Czech Republic is the traditional, three-day education camp held in the last week of August. This year, there were many foreign guest speakers from Hungary, Transylvania and Carpatho-Ukraine. An important event boosting Czech-Hungarian relations is the traditional Prague Hungarian Ball, which is highly attended even by Czechs. *Vzpomínky (Memories)*, an exhibition of world-renowned photographer Robert Vano, and the discussion that followed were very well received. The exhibition was organised by the Association of Hungarians in cooperation with the Hungarian Institute in Prague. Visitors to the exhibition and discussion filled the main hall of the Hungarian Institute. In 2019, Catholic mass took place weekly at St Henry Church and reformed service at Klimentská 18 in Prague.

Children's Days, organised every two months by the Ostrava club (Carnival celebrations, Christmas party, Children's Day, Advent customs) continued successfully in 2019. Weekly Hungarian language courses for children and adults took place at the Lovosice club. Work with pre-school and school children on mastering and perfecting Hungarian, which is organised by the Iglice Group, is going extremely well. Iglice Group organises regular programmes – such as puppet shows, readings with children's authors, non-traditional history and language courses, mobile phone photography workshops for juniors, Carnival parties, summer camps, concerts, family weekends etc. - for pre-school and school children. The traditional Operetta Evening in Lovosice took place in Lovosice and was attended by not only locals and club members, but also the Prague, Plzen and Teplice members of the Association of Hungarians Living in the Czech Republic.

The Hungarian national minority constitutes a traditional and consolidated minority in the Czech Republic. Nevertheless, in 2019 it encountered certain problems in grant/subsidy proceedings. In the first months of 2019, the Hungarian national minority suffered significant financial problems due to delayed grant/subsidy allocation.

### **German minority<sup>17</sup>**

In 2019, the Assembly of German Clubs and Associations in the Czech Republic implemented 110 larger and smaller projects that contributed to the development of the national minority and improvement of Czech-German relations generally. Elections to the Assembly of German Clubs and Associations for the 2019-2022 electoral term were held successfully in 2019. Representatives of the German national minority took active part in the ongoing project aiming to protect abandoned German graves in Czech cemeteries and initiated a pilot German language project in two basic school classes in Jablonec nad Nisou and Cheb, all in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. A Working Group for the Possibilities of Expanding Protection of the German Language in Part Three of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (connected to the Council) was also created in 2019.

Strengthening the identity of the middle and young generation, something that was forcefully suppressed because of historical developments between 1945 and 1989, is considered the current challenge for the German national minority. The German national minority will continue to strive to strengthen the middle and young generation membership of its groups and to have German language lessons introduced in basic schools as the first foreign language.

The Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture in the Czech Republic created a positive hub for spreading cultural traditions and refurbishing German monuments and

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<sup>17</sup> Materials for drafting the text were provided by Martin Dzingel, Council Member. The second part of the text was drafted based on materials sent by Petr Rojík, the other representative for the German minority in the Council.

records and reconnected often broken ties to the traditions of families with German roots as well as social and community ties. Over the years, it managed to build good relationships with the majority Czech society, schools, museums, municipalities and regions. The main event in 2019 was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the association. It took place on 22 June 2019 in the Strahov Monastery in Prague and was attended by important guests from the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria. In 2019, the association resolved an issue around the new Republic Chairman. Jiří Vidím from Prague was elected to replace Irena Nováková. He visited all local clubs and associations in person, familiarised himself with their specific issues, helped resolve some communication problems and took a positive stance to other German minority organisations in the Czech Republic.

The Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture in the Czech Republic sees as long-term problems the dispersion of members, the increasing average age and diminishing identification with the German minority. Another problem is that the leadership of local clubs and associations have warranted fears of projects and the related administration, as their work is voluntary and carried out after work and often at night. Ministers and government clerks represented in the Council should do more to simplify and ease subsidy rules, especially in the area of funding and accounting.

### **Polish minority<sup>18</sup>**

The Polish minority is very well organised. The body responsible for voicing Polish interests in this country is the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic (Kongres Poláků v ČR, z.s.), which brings almost 30 clubs and associations under one roof. During 2019, the Polish minority implemented dozens of projects. The largest Polish organisation, the Polish Cultural and Educational Federation in the Czech Republic (Polský kulturně-osvětový svaz v ČR, z.s.), focuses on cultural projects; Matica školská and Harcerstwo on projects related to children and youth; and the Polish hiking and sporting society "Beskid Śląski" on sport projects.

As in previous years, the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic (Kongres Poláků v ČR, z.s.) successfully organised the *Nature School by the Baltic (Školu v přírodě nad Baltem)*. This event makes it possible for 200 grade 7 pupils from Polish basic schools to travel to the Baltic. Accommodation is in the modern Vis resort in the village of Jastrzębia Góra. The programme is extremely diverse. There is a daily fieldtrip (Westerplatte, Gdaňsk, Hel, Łeba, Słowiński Park Narodowy, Rozewie, and the like). The pupils master the living Polish language and have the chance to get to know the natural and cultural riches of northern Poland. Two-thirds of the costs are covered by contributions and donations, especially from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Polish association of compatriots Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Polska.

Another important event in 2019 was the *Package for First Graders (Balíček pro prvňáčky)*, where all first-year pupils of Polish basic schools received a package containing a school bag, school supplies and meaningful books in Polish. This is a joint project of Kongres Poláků v ČR, z.s., Matica školská, Pedagogického centra pro polské národnostní školství (Education Centre for Polish National Schools), Sdružení polských učitelů (Association of Polish Teachers) and the Polish foundation Fundacja "Pomoc Polakom na Wschodzie".

The Document Centre of Kongres Poláků v ČR, z.s. organised about 10 exhibition in 2019. The centre's Collection Fund was used in many regional publications and in dozens of articles in regional newspapers. During the year, the centre had almost 300 visitors.

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<sup>18</sup> Material for drafting the text was provided by Dariusz Branny, Council Member.

Kongres Poláků v ČR, z.s. has been supporting the Polish bookshop in Český Těšín for almost 20 years. The bookshop, located on premises owned by the Congress, is able to exist only thanks to the exceptional and huge involvement of spouses Dana and Zenon Wirth, who run the bookshop. Polish schools use its services extensively. The bookshop is well-stocked and, as an ambassador of Polish readership culture, is the pride of Polish literature in the Czech Republic.

For several years already, it has not been possible according to the Ministry of Interior to have wedding ceremonies for members of the Polish minority held in Polish. Representative of the Polish minority have called attention to this problem repeatedly at Council meetings. In the Polish minority representatives' opinion, the respective legal regulations should be amended to allow municipalities where ten percent of the inhabitants are of Polish nationality to hold ceremonies in the language of this national minority.

Based on a public instigation, Kongres Poláků v ČR, z.s. is discussing the possibility of implementing a single designation for schools where the teaching language is Polish. The instigation is in response to the fact that to date there is no unified system for naming Polish schools, which is why each school has a different name (Polish basic school, schools taught in Polish, and so on). A part of this instigation was an extensive analysis. The topic is thus in the first stage of preparations and consultations. Kongres Poláků v ČR, z.s. will continue to address this issues even with support from the Council.

### **Roma minority**

No materials have been submitted for drafting this report. The status of the Roma minority is addressed comprehensively in the Annual Report on the Status of the Roma Minority, which is published on the Government's website.<sup>19</sup>

### **Ruthenian minority<sup>20</sup>**

2019 was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Carpathian Ruthenia joining Czechoslovakia. The Ruthenian national minority commemorated this anniversary by numerous cultural and other events and strived to accent the historical link with the present in all its activities.

Important events included the ending exhibition *Spřízněni volbou (Kindred by Choice)* held at the National Library in Prague in January 2019, with content focusing on Carpathian Ruthenian and Ruthenian inspiration in Czech art and culture. The responses in the exhibition's visitor book were published in the 1/2019 issue of the magazine *Carpathian Ruthenia*. Another event was the exhibition of the landscapes of Ruthenian printer Jurij Firjak, who lives in the Czech Republic, at the House of National Minorities in Prague. The vernissage took place on 15 May 2019. Attendance at the vernissage was high. There was also an accompanying cultural programme, with performances by the groups Skejušan and Kantar. J. Firjak's works were presented by painter Filip Kudrnáč. The book *Czechoslovak World in the Carpathians* by Vladimír Kuštek was also presented at the House of National Minorities, with the author in attendance.

On 1 July 2019, the regular meeting of the members of the Society of Friends of Carpathian Ruthenia (Společnost přátel Podkarpatské Rusi – "SPPR") took place. At the event, the activities of the past year were discussed and a new executive committee and audit committee board were elected. In 2019, SPPR published *Má rusínská vyšívanka (My Ruthenian Embroidery)*. Barbora Zavadilová, a young author with Ruthenian roots, gained inspiration for her book from her several months' stay in Carpathian Ruthenia. The book is an engrossing literary report on present-day life in Carpathian Ruthenia, interspersed with

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<sup>19</sup> Reports from previous years are available on <http://www.vlada.cz/scripts/detail.php?pgid=85>.

<sup>20</sup> The materials for drafting the text was provided by Dagmar Březinová, Council Member.

stories of the life of the author's Ruthenian grandmother. Another book was added to SPPR publications at the end of the year: the memoirs of Antonín Mořovič entitled *Za našimi zády tekla řeka. Dněstr (The Dniester Flowed Behind Us)*. The physician, who was born in Chust, survived the holocaust, studied medicine in Prague, worked for years in Thomayer Hospital in Krč and then emigrated to Israel. Both the above publications can be considered a success, not only for their excellent literary level, but also for the authors' Carpathian-Ruthenian roots, which are revelatory in a way. Bára Zavadilová debuts with this book as a writer, as does MUDr. Mořovič having never had his memoirs published before. Together with the Academy of National Minorities, SPPR organised a round table on the topic of *Carpathian Ruthenia and Rusyns in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Lands (Podkarpatská Rus a Rusíni v Československu a v českých zemích)*, which was held on 4 December 2019. During the year, SPPR took part in various activities, such as: the expert seminar prepared by the National Archives on the topic of Carpathian Ruthenia; the festivities on the occasion of the accession of Carpathian Ruthenia to the Czechoslovak Republic in Bratislava organised by the Society of the Ruthenian Intelligentsia of Slovakia; a similar event in Uzhhorod (together with the Masaryk Democratic Movement); and the exhibition on Ruthenia at the Museum of Hodonín. As part of SPPR's publishing activities, mention should be made of the magazine it has been publishing for thirty years: *Carpathian Ruthenia (Podkarpatská Rus)*, which focuses not only on current events, but also on history and culture.

The Ruthenian national minority and the Society of Friends of Carpathian Ruthenia (Společnost přátel Podkarpatské Rusi) are, unfortunately, facing generational issues. The original Ruthenian population living in the Czech Republic is growing old and disappearing, and only a few young people are filling their spot. Nevertheless, it is possible to observe that some young people actively consider themselves to be of Ruthenian nationality. These are mainly university students and Ruthenians from the eastern part of Slovakia. In this connection it should be noted, however, that the many, maybe tens of thousands, of Rusyns from Carpathian Ukraine living, working and studying in the Czech Republic consider themselves to be Ukrainian. These people do not have Czech citizenship, however, and, in terms of the Act on Minorities, cannot be considered part of the Ruthenian minority.

### **Russian minority**

In 2019, the various Russian clubs and associations did not cooperate as they did in previous years. This was manifested in the nature of the materials sent for drafting the 2019 Report. The Council secretariat received feedback that is characteristic mainly for its different interpretation of history and different depiction of Russian historical figures. The materials were sent by the following associations: Ruská tradice, z.s.; Kozácké sdružení VSČZS, z.s.; Ruský kulturní a osvětový spolek na Moravě, z.s.; Kulturus, z.s.; K2e, z.s.; Česko-ruské divadlo KS, z.s.; Dědictví a tradice, z.s. and SAMBO, z.s.

In 2019, members of Ruské tradice, z.s. leased gravesites at the Olšanské hřbitovy cemetery in Prague for an additional ten years. These are the graves of important figures in the necropolis of Russian immigration, i.e., those who came to Czechoslovakia at the invitation of Masaryk as part of an assistance programme for Russia, and the graves are in the care of Ruská tradice, z.s. From remaining funds, it was possible to restore and repair, at the same cemetery, several graves that showed signs of deterioration. In the village of Osov, the group used its funds to build a second monument to the soldiers of the Russian Liberation Army who fell trying to liberate this village at the end of the World War II.

In 2019, the Kozak association VSČZS, z.s. successfully carried out various historical and cultural activities. The biggest and most important annual events of 2019 included: the Christmas Meeting with the Kozaks; the Kozak Ball; Master Class – Kozak Martial Arts; Kozak Summer Bivouacs; the exhibition "The 1917 Revolution and the Fate of the Kozaks"; Kozak Culture days in Slovakia; the International Pokrova na Vltavě festival; and Atamanská

Jolka. In addition to the above events, the association organised many events for its members and with other partners. In 2019, the association also successfully opened a new office and began work on a CD of its folk ensemble.

For the association Ruský kulturní a osvětový spolek na Moravě, z.s. ("RKOSM"), 2019 was all about the 11<sup>th</sup> annual cultural festival Ruské jaro na Moravě (Russian Spring in Moravia). Of traditional activities, a lecture on Russian holidays took place in the municipal libraries of Valtice a Sedlec. RKOSM took part in several international festivals for youth with Russian heritage from all over the world organised by the Russian Federation. In the summer, children from Brno went to Artek, an international summer resort for children on the Black Sea. On the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Dukla Pass, the group published the book *Cesta k Dukle, plná potu, bláta a krve... (The Road to Dukla, Full of Sweat, Mud and Blood...)*, which was christened on 17 September 2019 at the Russian embassy building in Brno. RKOSM is successfully continuing with its implementation of the education project *Škola ruského jazyka a kultury (School of Russian Language and Culture)* for the children of compatriots and children from Czech families. The official award ceremony for the international *Stříbrný lukostřelec/Silver Archer prize* was held on 31 October 2019. RKOSM received a diploma for the fourth time in this prestigious competition. In November 2019, RKOSM teamed up with the Brno conservatory and organised a gala concert on the occasion of the *Russian National Unity Day*. Czech Television Ostrava filmed a report on RKOSM, which was broadcast on the programme *Sousedé (Neighbours)* on 31 January 2019.

In 2019, the association Kulturus, z.s. focused on the remembrance of important historical events. It organised 14 well-attended cultural events focusing on the role of individuals in historical events and on a sobering interpretation of Russian's own past.

In 2019, a new Russian association, K2e, z.s., which runs the theatre studio *Škola* year round was formed. *Škola* is a children's Russian language theatre studio. The ensemble preserves the tradition of the K. S. Stanislavský's drama school and promotes literature. Children learn acting techniques, singing and movement under the leadership of theatre professionals. The studio has in its repertoire several plays it has performed in Prague theatres. Children have the chance to familiarise themselves with the works of Czech and Russian poets and writers.

A Russian children and youth theatre is also run by the association Česko-ruské divadlo KS, z.s. - Krásnyj Sarafán. Krásnyj Sarafán was founded in Prague in 2004 and carries out its activities under the association Ruská tradice, z.s. In 2019, the theatre became independent and was registered as ČESKO-RUSKÉ DIVADLO KS. In 2020, the theatre is planning the premiere of *Zlatý klíč aneb dobrodružství Buratina (The Golden Key, or the Adventures of Buratino)* based on a story by Russian writer A. N. Tolstoy, which is in turn based on the novel *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, for the younger members of the group.

The association Dědictví a tradice, z.s. was established in 2018 by Elena Sorokina, who is the organiser of the prize for development of Czech-Russian relations *Stříbrný Lukostřelec – Česká republika (Silver Archer – Czech Republic)*, Deputy-Chair of the *Coordination Council of Russian Compatriots* in the Czech Republic, and Editor-in-Chief of *Pramen, a magazine* for citizens of and visitors to the Czech Republic. In 2019, the fourth annual award ceremony was held in the Theresian Hall of Břevnov Monastery. The primary objective of the competition is to support and promote projects that help improve communication between the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation. Each year in Mariánské Lázně, the association Dědictví a tradice, z.s. holds the traditional *Christmas Tree* event with presents for children of both the Czech majority and Russian minority. The event took place on 7 January 2019 along with a morning service at the St Vladimír Orthodox church.



The Russian sport club Sambo, z.s. and its members are celebrating victories in Europe and around the world. In February, the samba martial arts club organised the tournament *Stráž paměti 2019: Memoriál Nikolaje Koblikova (Guardians of Memory 2019: Memorial to Nikolaj Koblikov)*. This is a tournament, held in May 2019, was dedicated to Victory Day. This was followed by the *Memorial to Nikolaj Martynov* in September 2019. These events, during which Russian was spoken, was attended mainly by families with children. The participants also laid flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers at Olšanské hřbitovy cemetery and at the Prague Chodov cemetery.

### **Greek minority<sup>21</sup>**

In 2019, the association Asociaci řeckých obcí v ČR, z.s. continued to organise Greek lessons for children with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture and the South Moravian Region. The dance ensembles Antigoni (Krnov), Evros (Javorník), Kaliopi (Šumperk), Nea Elpida (Karviná) and Prometheus (Brno) also gave excellent performances at dozens of events in the Czech Republic and Poland. The screening of the documentary *Dva životy, dvě kultury, dvě země. Řekové na českém území od 2. poloviny 20. století do současnosti (Two Lives, Two Cultures, Two Countries. Greeks on Czech Lands from the Second Half of the Twentieth Century to the Present Day)* met with great success. The film was created by Hellenika Fund in cooperation with the Ethnographic Institute of the Moravian Regional Museum. This film received the main prize ČERNÝ JANEK for its revelatory look at the stories of the Greek minority. On 1 September 2019, the documentary was screened in Kyoto, Japan, at the 25<sup>th</sup> General Conference of ICOM (International Council of Museums), which took place under the name *The Future of Tradition*. The film was created for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Greeks to Czechoslovakia as an accompanying documentary for an eponymous exhibition with financial support from the South Moravian Region and the Statutory City of Brno. *Lyceum Řekyň v České republice (Lyceum Club of Greek Women in the Czech Republic)* received the Annual Award of the Hellenika Fund for preserving and promoting the tradition and folklore art of the Greek minority living in the Czech Republic in 2000–2019. The prize was awarded to the Lyceum Řekyň v České republice for existing everywhere where Hellenism exists, and not only for bringing the atmosphere of Greece to every, albeit educated, corner of the world, and also for playing a leading role in spreading Greek traditions. The lyceum, together with the Hellenika Fund, realised the ten-year series *Regiony Řecka (Regions of Greece)* and now the programme *Tradice Řecka (Greek Traditions)*. It also works closely on the programme *Vzdělávání a pohybu pro jednotlivce i rodinu Athéna (Athena - Education and Movement for Individuals and Families)*. Last but not least, the Chair of the Lyceum is the co-author of the story behind the documentary film *Dva životy, dvě kultury, dvě země (Two Lives, Two Cultures, Two Countries)* mentioned above.

A major challenge for the Greek national minority continues to be organising Greek language courses for children, specifically maintaining and expanding existing grant programmes. The same challenge applies to obtaining funding and maintaining grant programmes for, e.g., folklore activities, promoting modern culture, supporting periodicals, minority media and information sources. Another challenge is getting new Greeks involved in the activities of minority organisations.

The Greek minority would welcome the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic arranging training seminars focused on grant proceedings, fundraising, project management etc. The aim of this training is to add an element of professionalism to the associations or their representatives. Remuneration of the activities of minority clubs should be paid for from subsidy headings.

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<sup>21</sup> Materials for drafting the text were provided by Adriano Mandilas, Council Member.

## Slovak minority<sup>22</sup>

In 2019, all major projects of the Slovak national minority, including operation of Slovak House in Prague, which was established with the support of the Czech and Slovak Republics, continued. Integration of Slovak national magazines was also successful. The magazine *Korene* was published as a supplement to the magazine *Slovenské dotyky*. The magazine *Listy* continued to be published separately.

Some of the main problems the Slovak national minority is contending with is the gradual deterioration of Slovak comprehension in the case of the youngest generation in the Czech Republic, especially in the west of the country. The reason can be found in the insufficient representation of Slovak in the media, especially public media, and in the setup of the education system in Czech schools. Another reason is the lack of Slovak education, which, although formally addressed in legislation, is not of course actively offered by schools and the state. The last basic school with Slovak as the teaching language was closed in Karviná-Mizerov in 2000 due to a lack of interest on the part of children and their parents. However, representatives of the Slovak national minority have seen evidence that there is renewed interest in Czech-Slovak schools. There is specific interest in Slovak preschools. Last but not least, there is the problem of low and ever deteriorating funding of minority activities, especially in the area of support for information being provided and received in the languages of national minorities. Persistent dialogue with the public media, minor changes in the content of Czech language and literature classes, perhaps even other classes, active identification of interest in education in Slovak, especially preschool education and increasing grants, the latter already being planned, are some solutions.

The main challenge for the Slovak national minority is ensuring generational transfer in minority life, i.e., attracting young people to work for the minority and slow the loss of comprehension of Slovak. The academic association Detvan, z.s. also proposes supporting student exchanges beginning in secondary school.

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Slovak clubs and associations involved in the cultural, educational, social and other needs of the Slovak minority in the Czech Republic continued their work without interruption, which in a way can be considered a success, but is also their natural need and reason for existence.

Polarisation of the Slovak minority continues. This was manifested also in connection with the election of representatives of the Slovak Minority to the Council. The Slovak minority has been divided into two groups since 2005. The first belongs to the original Fórum slovenských aktivít (FOSA): Limbora, Etnica, KSK, DOMUS SM v SR, Detvan, Evanjelická cirka, BONA FIDE, Slovensko - česká spoločnosť, Zväz Slovákov v ČR, Čierna labuť and Obec Slovákov v Prahe. This group supports Som v Prahe.cz, Slovensko-česká scéna, ROS Brno, Hradec Králové. These clubs and associations work together on cultural programmes and share space<sup>23</sup>. The second group relates to Slovenský dom (Slovak House). It opened in 2014 and a large portion of grants was transferred from the Slovak and Czech side to Slovensko-český klub. This club is the main organisation of the new Slovak Forum, to which the following in particular belong: Slovensko-český klub, Obec Slovákov v ČR, Spolok M. R. Štefánika, Skupina priamych účastníkov SNP and others. These two groups refuse to work together. This support has not helped the situation in the Slovak minority; in fact, the dispute continues unabated and has even intensified. This space is owned by the one entity of Slovensko-Český klub. The claim that the building is the home of all Slovak clubs and associations is

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<sup>22</sup> Materials for drafting the first part of the text was provided by Vladimír Skalský, Council Member. The second part of the text was drafted based on materials sent by Jaroslav Miň, the second representative of the Slovak minority at the Council.

<sup>23</sup> Author's note: The premises are shared in the House of National Minorities in Prague.

absurd in this context. The activities in SD practically copy or build on the efforts and activities of the long-existing Slovenský inštitút (Slovak Institute). The creators of the SD project claimed during its creation that its financing has been arranged and will not in any way compete with existing Slovak clubs and associations. The opposite is true: no financing has been arranged and Slovenský dom is requesting subsidies for its overhead and other expenses from all sorts of grant sources. The method of communication and cooperation between FOSA and the groups around SD is practically non-existent.

The challenge now is better communication and cooperation among all clubs and associations, especially in connection with activities benefiting all members of the Slovak national minority. Support from the Office of the Government would be extremely useful in this regard. We anticipate assistance from the Council with more broadcasting opportunities at Czech Radio for the Slovak minority and help with executing TV programmes intended for national minorities in general.

### **Serbian minority<sup>24</sup>**

One of the major objectives of the Serbian cultural association Radost was to prepare and organise a major anniversary event each year. The event in 2019 had about 350 spectators in attendance. They had the chance to listen to the best Serbian national songs and watch traditional dances. The association Iso Spolek also traditionally organises a public rehearsal where all its folklore ensemble and all children from the Serbian language school perform. In 2019, the membership of the Serbian cultural association Radost also grew.

In March 2019, the association Rodoljub, z.s. was also established. During 2019, it shot the documentary/live-action film *SEDM TISÍC DUŠÍ (SEVEN THOUSAND SOULS)*. The film takes place during World War I and captures the history of the Czech Republic and the Serbian Republic. Fifteen Czech amateur actors and about 30 Serbian citizens who are living permanently in the Czech Republic took part in the filming along with several members of the Serbian cultural association Radost. The film was completed in February 2020. The Prague premiere was planned for March 2020. In 2019, the association Luka Praha focused on translating important Serbian authors into Czech. It also organised two important cultural events. The first was a concert of the most famous Serbian rock band *Momčilo Bajagić a jeho kapela*. The second was an exhibition at the Charles Bridge Museum entitled *Promocije města Novi Sad*. (Novi Sad is the 2020 European City of Culture). The association Vidovdan from Karlovy Vary organised the annual event honouring Serbian World War I prisoners of war. It was attended by Serbian military and political representatives. The reverent event was held at the location of an internment camp at the monument in the mausoleum in Jindřichov near Sokolov. The huge internment camp was one of the biggest in the former Austro-Hungarian empire.

The association Spolek sv. Sáva, z.s. organised *IX. Dny srbské kultury (9<sup>th</sup> Annual Days of Serbian Culture) at Nostitz Palace in Prague* on 4 – 30 November 2019. Two exhibitions were held as part of the Days of Serbian Culture. The first exhibition comprised the paintings of Vladan Randjelović at Nostitz Palace; the second, entitled *Válečná cesta Moravské divize (War Path of the Moravian Division)* was held at Prague's New Town Hall. The Days of Serbian Culture also included a host of lectures and literary programmes.

A major challenge for the Serbian national minority is obtaining more rehearsal space for dance ensembles. The Office of the Serbian Minority at the House of National Minorities is also insufficient for all Serbian activities. Finding adequate space for the current and future activities of Serbian clubs and associations is considered to be very important. Distribution of the *Srpska reč*, a magazine published by the association Spolek sv. Sava is not satisfactory, and the vast majority of members of the Serbian national minority living in the Czech

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<sup>24</sup> Materials for drafting the text were provided by Jovan Mitrović, Council Member.

Republic does not have access to it. Young people are no longer interested in printed magazines and prefer electronic media instead.

### **Ukrainian minority<sup>25</sup>**

An important event in the life of the Ukrainian national minority in 2017 was the registration of Evropský kongres Ukrajinců, z.s. (EKU) in Prague. Minority representatives continue to feel that it is worth continuing cooperation with Ukrainian diaspora in Europe and have the goal of communicating via the EKU with the European Community as well. The transfer of EKU from Budapest to Prague is confirmation of the excellent organisational abilities of the clubs and associations of the Ukrainian national minorities in the Czech Republic.

Each association coordinates extracurricular educational activities of pupils of Ukrainian heritage. Maintaining several Saturday schools (two in Prague with about 100 students, one in Brno with about 30 students, one in Hradec Králové with about 20 students, and other clubs with Ukrainian language and music lessons in, e.g., Mladá Boleslav and Mělník, with about 40 children in total) is considered a success. All the associations communicate with one another, co-organise events with other non-profit organisations, districts and regions, and take part in presenting Ukrainian culture in the Czech Republic and in helping to integrate new Ukrainian arrivals to the Czech Republic. Communication among organisations takes place through usual communication channels, including social networks (numerous profiles exist). The activities of Ukrainian organisations was affected in 2019 by the continuing conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Emphasis was placed on humanitarian help for the Ukraine and volunteer efforts. Various minority cultural events – concerts, performances and peace demonstrations – were devoted to this topic.

The financing of each organisation varies. The minority utilises grants from central and local authorities. It is also able to arrange financing from its own sources. Thanks to resources from the Ukrainian Embassy in the Czech Republic, the project for the refurbishment of some important Ukrainian graves in the Czech Republic continued (e.g., at Olšanské hřbitovy cemetery in Prague, the central cemetery in Brno, the cemeteries in Poděbrady, Liberec and so on). Other cultural projects were organised by Ukrainian organisations, such as the Ukrainian Film Festival. In this connection, the great increase in Ukrainian-themed events (debates, concerts, public performances etc.) organised by the Czech non-profit sector – indubitably due to the current situation in Ukraine – should be mentioned.

Cooperation with the House of National Minorities in Prague and with the association Limbora on the *Praha srdce národů* (*Prague – Heart of Nations*) – e.g., the performances of the Džerelo dance ensemble, children from the clubs Berehynja (Svitoč), Krok, Erudyt, and the music groups Ignis, Marolja and others – was very good. The biggest events organised in cooperation with municipalities was Easter in Prague 4, *Zažít město jinak*, etc. Continuation of the Czech Radio Plus programme *Mezi námi* or the programmes about national minorities on Czech Television can be considered the joint projects and successful cooperation efforts of all national minorities, the Council, various ministries and public institutions.

The Ukrainian national minority views positively the long-term process of improving the status of Ukrainians in the Czech Republic and the general perception of the minority as a natural part of the majority. Improvement is apparent in the area of awareness of the majority and the area of employing foreigners. The Ukrainian national minority cannot avoid questions regarding this area, i.e., complaints and disputes that can burden the groups in question. National minority representatives registered occasional displays of xenophobia against Ukrainians living in the Czech Republic. Efforts that, among other things, highlight the positives of Czech-Ukrainian solidarity, including specific examples of good practice with the

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<sup>25</sup> Materials for drafting the text were provided by Bohdan Rajčinec, Council Member.

minority, and the reason why it is beneficial for the majority to support the life and culture of national minorities, should, therefore, continue.

The Ukrainian national minority sees potential in the establishment of a Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre in Prague. Such a complex project cannot, however, be implemented without support from the Government of the Czech Republic. Ukrainian associations see such a centre as propitious also with regard to the current potential of the minority, activities of Saturday schools and clubs that are active not only in Prague but in other regions of the Czech Republic as well. No progress has been made at negotiations concerning the above project on various levels in the past few years; nevertheless, the Ukrainian minority, after the first constructive meetings in early 2020, places trust in dialogue with the Government of the Czech Republic. Testifying to this were the preparatory steps and discussions with the Council in early February 2020.

### **Vietnamese minority<sup>26</sup>**

In the last few years, positive developments could be seen in the life of the Vietnamese national minority in terms of stabilisation of business and new job opportunities. The Vietnamese in the Czech Republic have been able, on the one hand, to adjust to changes resulting from the introduction of EET (electronic sales record) and, on the other, to start finding new fields of business or began doing business on a higher level. The main challenges resulting from the changes were falling incomes due to the fact that established business practices were outdated. The major move of entrepreneurs/businesses to food and services has resolved some problems. Some began working on a larger scale, including building wholesale stores or smaller chains, and some left business and found employment in shops and factories. Some young people began taking part in their parents' business. Others took regular jobs in administration, including working in public offices and institutions and the media. Still others began attempting technology start-ups. The diversification of fields of business and entering into appealing economic fields of the digital era represent a promising future and important start for the further development of the Vietnamese minority.

Many also see as positive the fact that representatives of the Vietnamese national minority registered a new stage in the integration of their minority. First generation Vietnamese travelled to the Czech Republic only for work, and life here was only supposed to be temporary. Now, most first generation Vietnamese expect to stay in the Czech Republic for the rest of their lives and only travel to Vietnam to visit. With this new trend, the way they view the Czech Republic has changed; moreover, they have come to the realisation that they have a moral obligation to their "second home". They take a more active part in life here and organise joint events with the locals, and so on. The extent of participation of Vietnamese groups and individuals in "Czech" charity events is much higher than in previous years. The difficulty that the Vietnamese had with integration into Czech society mainly due to not knowing the Czech language and environment (residence legislation, Czech education system, health and social system etc.) has long been apparent. Despite efforts of various private entities,<sup>27</sup> there is no effective tool for imparting information to the Vietnamese community. Efforts to create a digital information platform for the Vietnamese community should be considered.

Another topic of discussion pertains to the first generation of the Vietnamese minority living in the Czech Republic, which is getting older and will require ever more care. The issue of nursing homes for Vietnamese seniors will soon be an urgent one, as the older generation of Vietnamese face a language barrier and are used to a completely different diet. Placement in

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<sup>26</sup> Materials for drafting text was provided by Huu Uyen Pham, Council Member.

<sup>27</sup> E.g. sangu.eu (<https://www.facebook.com/sangu.eu/>), association of food businesses (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hiephoipotravinycz/>), Lam cha me CZ (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lamchamecz/about/>) etc.

ordinary nursing homes can constitute a huge problem for many people. The issue of building a “Vietnamese” cemetery remains. Seniors are considering this in connection with their Buddhist faith.

Another potential future problem appears to be that part of the Vietnamese minority have insufficient security for old age. Most first generation Vietnamese are close to retirement age, and despite the non-existent of official statistics, it can be said that a not insignificant number of members of the community paid insurance only to the extent demanded by law, and in the case of serious illness or retirement, there may be a problem securing medical care and covering living expenses. The community has dealt with various urgent problems related to the health of seniors by starting a charity collection. This is, however, difficult to apply cross the board.

Another problem that is being monitored by representatives of the Vietnamese minority is the lack of support for Czech language for Vietnamese students.<sup>28</sup> According to the Czech Statistical Office, children of Vietnamese nationality are the second most prevalent group of children in Czech preschools behind children of Czech nationality in the 2017/2018 school year. At basic and secondary schools in the same school year, children from Vietnam comprise the third most numerous group. However, support for children other than of Czech nationality is minimal. Clearly missing is system-wide language support, which is the basis for scholastic achievement and integration in adulthood. The lack of language support means a greater chance of being failed, lack of interest in school subjects and education generally, mental health issues and feelings of isolation from peers and even majority society in adulthood. A possible solution would be the provision of system-wide language support that should be available to anyone who needs it.

### **Jewish Community**

The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic (“FŽO”) has not requested Jewish minority community status. Nevertheless, its representatives are invited as permanent guests to Council meetings. More information about the life of the Jewish community can be found in the annual reports of FŽO.<sup>29</sup>

## **3. Institutional guarantees ensuring enforcement of the rights of national minorities and participation of national minority members in resolving national minority affairs in 2019**

### **3.1. Government Council for National Minorities**

According to its Statute, the Council is a permanent advisory and initiative body of the government for issues pertaining to national minorities and their members. As part of its remit, it monitors observance of the Constitution of the Czech Republic, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, international agreements on human rights and fundamental freedoms that the Czech Republic is bound by, and laws and other legal norms pertaining to national minorities. The powers of the Council are set out in Act No. 273/2001 Coll., on the rights of members of national minorities and on changes to some laws, as amended, Government Regulation No. 98/2002 Coll., establishing the conditions and methods of provision of grants and subsidies from the state budget for the activities of

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<sup>28</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports or, more precisely, the National Institute for Further Education, provides interpretation and translation services even for the area of education of children/pupils of foreigners. These services are even provided in Vietnamese. See <https://cizinci.npicr.cz/tlumoceni-a-preklady>

<sup>29</sup> For more information see [www.fzo.cz](http://www.fzo.cz). Materials for drafting the text provided by Tomáš Kraus, permanent guest of the Council.

minorities and for promotion of integration of the Roma community, as amended, the Statute, Rules of Procedure and Government resolutions.

The role of the Council secretariat is fulfilled by the *Department of the Government Council for Roma Affairs and the Secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities*, which, in 2019, was part of the *Section for Human Rights of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic*.

In 2019, some of public administration representatives, specifically representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Association of the Regions of the Czech Republic and Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, were appointed to the Council. Prof. JUDr. Helena Válková, CSc., Government Commissioner for Human Rights, became the new Council Chairwoman on 6 May 2019. At the same time, after her taking office, the nomination process of representatives of national minorities was completed after almost two years. In 2019, all 18 national minority representatives were thus appointed to the council, with some of them having been Council members in the previous period as well. All Council members are listed in the *Annual Report on the Activities of the Government Council for National Minorities for 2019*<sup>30</sup> and on the government's website<sup>31</sup>.

The Council met twice in 2019.<sup>32</sup> The first meeting took place on 28 March 2019<sup>33</sup>. The Council took note of information about the view of national minorities on Czech citizenship, which was presented by A. Kellin. The Ministry of Interior mentioned, however, that the process of awarding Czech citizenship was not in the purview of the Council, as it concerns foreigners, not members of national minorities according to the Act on National Minorities. A systemic solution to the care of German and other minority graves was also discussed. A proposal for financing the pilot project for mapping and documenting graves and cemeteries of importance to the life of national minorities in the Czech Republic was approved as part of the subsidy programme Support for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The Council also approved the text of the Fifth Periodical Report on Fulfilment of the Principles Set Out in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Traditionally, up to date information of subsidy/grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and Office of the Government of the Czech Republic aimed at the projects of national minorities. At the end of the first meeting of the Council, a representative of Kongres Poláků ČR, z.s. (Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic) informed the Council about the procedure it developed for providing information at train stations in Polish according to the amended Railway Decree.

The second Council meeting took place on 22 October 2019.<sup>34</sup> The key points of the meeting included discussion of the request of the German national minority to expand protection of the German language in Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the possibility to introduce announcements in Polish at train stations and stops. The Council was also informed about the activities of the Working Group for National Minority Broadcasting and the Working Group for Resolving the Situation of German (and Other) Graves and Cemeteries in the Czech Republic. The Council was also acquainted with information about subsidy/grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic aimed at the national minority projects, approval of the Report on the Status of National Minorities in the

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/aktuality/vyrocní-zprava-o-cinnosti-rady-vlady-pro-narodnostni-mensiny-za-rok-2019-181548/>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/scripts/detail.php?pgid=125>

<sup>32</sup> Minutes from the Council meetings are published on the government's website at <http://www.vlada.cz/scripts/detail.php?pgid=509>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/jednani-rady-dne-28--brezna-2019-173281/>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/jednani-rady-178156/>

Czech Republic for 2018 and the amendment of the Statute of the Council for National Minorities, which was implemented by Government Resolution No. 692 of 30 September 2019.

### **Council Committees / Working Groups**

No already-existing working group was dissolved in 2019, but a new ad hoc working group was created: *Working Group for the Possibility of Extending Protection of the German Language in Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* (the “WG”). The first meeting of this new WG took place on 16 December 2019. The result of the meeting was a request by WG members for more details about the reasons for the request of the German minority representatives for greater protection of the German language. The details should be provided by the end of February 2020.

#### *Working Group for National Minority Broadcasting*

The Working Group for National Minority Broadcasting met twice in 2019. The first meeting took place on 22 May 2019<sup>35</sup>. At the meeting, the Working Group agreed to submit to the Government Council for National Minorities a draft resolution in the following wording: “The Government Council for National Minorities appreciates the cooperation it has enjoyed to date with selected editorial offices of Czech Radio and Czech Television, whose programmes for national minorities – namely *Stretnutie, O Roma vakeren, Wydarzenia, Sousedé, My a oni, Mezi námi* (Czech Radio), *Wiadomości, Babylon and Sousedé* (Czech Television) – are broadcast regularly and are watched by the population with interest. As regards the public media’s mission, the Council voices its support for the hitherto activities of Czech Radio and Czech Television and for improvement of the quality of programming”.

The second meeting of the Working Group took place on 4 December 2019. The meeting agenda was based on Resolution No. 228/2019 from the meeting of the Council on 4 December 2019, by which the Working Group was asked to expand the hitherto activities of Czech Radio and Czech Television in favour of national minorities, including increasing the quality of programming. Based on this challenge, the working group drew up eight proposals for improving the visibility of national minorities in the media. At the same time, national minority representatives appealed for the possibility of funding electronic multimedia, preferably as part of the Ministry of Culture’s Programme *Promoting Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities*.

#### *Working Group for Resolving the Situation of German (and Other) Graves in the Czech Republic*

The Working Group for Resolving the Situation of German (and Other) Graves in the Czech Republic (“GWG”) organised an outing to the Liberec region<sup>36</sup> on 7 August 2019. First a visit was made to the Regional Office of the Liberec Region and then to two municipal offices, one in Jablonec nad Nisou and the other in Lučany nad Nisou. The publications *Caring for Abandoned German and Other Graves in the Czech Republic* and *Guide to the Rights of National Minorities in the Czech Republic II* were handed out to all offices visited. The itinerary of the GWG outing included visits to local cemeteries with German graves. Specifically, the GWG visited the cemetery in the Vesec neighbourhood of Liberec, the municipal cemetery in Jablonec nad Nisou, the municipal cemetery in Lučany nad Nisou and the cemetery in Horní Maxov, which is a part of Lučany nad Nisou.

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/aktuality/zapis-z-jednani-pracovni-skupiny-pro-narodnostne-mensinove-vysilani-dne-22-5-2019-174423/>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/aktuality/zapis-z-vyjezdu-pracovni-skupiny-pro-reseni-situace-nemeckych-a-dalsich-hrobu-na-hrbitovech-v-ceske-republice-do-libereckeho-kraje-dne-7--srpna-2019-175600/>



GWG members also took active part in a seminar on “Operating Public Graveyards and the Issue of Abandoned German Graves” organised by the Regional Office of the Liberec Region on 9 December 2019. The *Department of Office of the Government Council for Roma Affairs* and the *secretariate of the Government Council for National Minorities* helped organise this seminar as well.

*Project Evaluation Committee under the subsidy/grant programme Supporting the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*

The Committee is composed of members of the public administration, experts and national minority representatives. Their languages are protected by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The Committee meeting took place on 20 November under the chairmanship of Mgr. Klára Jůnová.

## **Materials and publications**

In 2019, the following documents were drafted:

- *Report on the Status of National Minorities in the Czech Republic for 2018*

Report on the Status of National Minorities in the Czech Republic for 2018 was reviewed by the government and approved by its Resolution No. 659 of 16 September 2019<sup>37</sup>.

- *The Annual Report on the Activities of the Government Council for National Minorities for 2018*<sup>38</sup> was published on the Office of the Government website on 27 May 2019.
- *Fifth Periodical Report on Compliance with the Principles Set Out in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Czech Republic* was approved by the Government by its Resolution No. 471 of 1 July 2019<sup>39</sup>.
- An amendment to the *Statute of the Council for National Minorities* was approved by Government Resolution No. 692 of 30 September 2019 on amendment of the Statute of the Government Council for Equality of Women and Men, Statute of the Government Council Human Rights, Statute of the Government Council for National Minorities and Statute of the Government for Roma Minority Affairs.<sup>40</sup>

## **Other Council activities**

On 20 to 21 August 2019, the traditional seminar for applicants for the subsidy/grant programmes of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic in the field of human rights took place in Lichtenstein Palace.

In October 2019, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic and Chairman of the Council for National Minorities Andrej Babiš met with President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (“FUEN”) Loránt Vincze. The delegation for the most part comprised representatives of the Czech minority abroad, but also Tomasz Pustówka from Kongres Poláků v ČR, z.s. The objective of FUEN is to obtain support in Europe for the creation of a framework for better protection of members of national or language minorities in Europe.

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<sup>37</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/aktuality/zprava-o-situaci-narodnostnich-mensin-v-ceske-republice-za-rok-2018-177492/>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/dokumenty/dokumenty-rady/vyrocnni-zprava-o-cinnosti-rady-vlady-pro-narodnostni-mensiny-v-roce-2018-176280/>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rnm/dokumenty/mezinarodni-dokumenty/Pata-periodicka-zprava-cela.pdf>

<sup>40</sup> [http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rnm/Statut-Rady-vlady-pro-narodnostni-mensiny\\_1.pdf](http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rnm/Statut-Rady-vlady-pro-narodnostni-mensiny_1.pdf)

Organisation President L. Vincze gave a positive evaluation of the existing framework for protection of national minorities in the Czech Republic, as it provides greater protection for minorities in the Czech Republic than is usual in other EU countries. Deputy Minister of Culture Petra Smolíková also met with the president of the Federal Union of European Nationalities.

On 26 November 2019, a workshop on the topic *Current Problems with the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages* took place in collaboration with the Law Faculty of Charles University and the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. The event took place as part of the project NAKI II Legal, Historical and Social Science Aspects of New and Traditional Minorities in the Czech Republic DG18P02OVV064 (primary promoter Prof. JUDr. Jan Kuklík, DrSc., project secretary JUDr. et PhDr. René Petráš, Ph.D.). The project promoter provided the *Department of the Office of the Government for Roma Affairs and Secretariate of the Government Council for National Minorities* with a detailed analysis for a meeting of the *Working Group for the Possibility of Expanding Protection of the German Language in Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*, which took place on 16 March 2019.

In 2019, representatives of the German national minority initiated a pilot project of German lessons in two classes in a basic school in Jablonec nad Nisou and Cheb, all in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. The outing to meetings in Jablonec nad Nisou and Cheb took place in the attendance of Government Commissioner for Human Rights Prof. JUDr. Helena Válková, CSc. On 28 November 2019, the Government Commissioner for Human Rights also took part in the official opening of the conference “National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 1948 – 1989”, which was held on the occasion of the 19<sup>th</sup> Convention of National Minorities in the New Building of the National Museum. The event was organised by the House of National Minorities in close cooperation with the City of Prague and the National Museum.

### **3.2. Government Council for Roma Affairs**

The Government Council for Roma Affairs (the “Roma Council”) was established by Government Resolution No. 581 of 17 September 1997 as a *Departmental Committee for Roma Community Affairs*. The Roma Council acts as an interdepartmental body, whose mission is to unify integration efforts of the ministries, state institutions, regions and other public institutions in relation to the Roma. For this purpose, it initiates system-wide changes and removes barriers that prevent the Roma living fully and with dignity in society.

The Report on the Status of the Roma Minority in the Czech Republic is prepared each year by the *Department of the Office of the Government Council for Roma Affairs and Secretariate of the Government Council for National Minorities*. All the reports are available on the Office of the Government website.<sup>41</sup>

### **3.3. Committees for National Minorities in the Regions, including Prague, in 2019**

The table below describes the institutions responsible for guaranteeing the rights of national minorities in the regions and lists the consultation mechanisms used for communicating between national minorities and the public administration. Of the total of five existing committees, four were established in 2019 based on Section 78 of Act No. 129/2000, on regions (establishment of the regions), as amended, and one was outside this act. A similar situation in each region is set out below.

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<sup>41</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/scripts/detail.php?pgid=490>

Table 1 Committees, commissions and working groups in the regions

Region	Consultation mechanism (Committee, Commission, Working Group)	Under the law
South Bohemia	---	
South Moravia	<b>Committee for National Minorities</b>	<b>YES</b>
Karlovy Vary	<b>Committee for National Minorities</b>	<b>YES</b>
Hradec Králové	Human Rights Commission	NO
Liberec	Liberec Regional Council Commission for National Minorities and Social Integration	NO
Moravian-Silesian	<b>Committee for National Minorities</b>	<b>YES</b>
Olomouc	Working Group for Ethnic Minorities and Foreigners	NO
Pardubice	Commission for Integration of the Roma Community and Other Ethnic Groups	NO
Plzeň	Commission for Social Affairs and National Minorities	NO
Prague	<b>Committee for National Minorities</b>	<b>YES</b>
	Advisory Body for Roma Affairs	NO
Central Bohemia	---	
Ústí	<b>Committee for National Minorities</b>	<b>NO</b>
Vysočina	Working Group of Providers of Services for National and Ethnic Minorities, the Homeless and Victims of Crime	NO
Zlín	---	

### South Bohemian Region

The South Bohemian region did not establish a Committee for National Minorities based on Section 78(2) of Act No., on regions (establishment of regions), as amended. During the last census, the condition that at least 5% of citizens of the region claim a different nationality than Czech was not met. No association representing the interests of national minorities requested the establishment of a committee either.

### South Moravian Region

In line with Section 78(2) of Act No., on regions (establishment of regions), as amended, and Section 8(1) of the Election Rules of the South Moravian Regional Council for the 2016/2020 election period, the South Moravian Region Council established a Committee for National Minorities.

The Committee for National Minorities of the South Moravian Regional Council comprises 13 people: the chairman, 2 vice chairmen and 10 members, of which 6 represent political clubs and 7 national minorities (Slovak, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Russian, Hungarian, Roma and Greek). These were elected on 15 December 2016 at the second meeting of the Committee for National Minorities of the South Moravian Regional Council by Resolution by Resolution No. 41/16/Z2.

The Committee meets seven times a year. Of these seven meetings, two are open to invitees from subsidy/grant programmes for the support of the activities of national minorities and to other important guests. Basic themes for the meetings of the Committee for National Minorities include: implementation of a subsidy/grant programme for the activities of national minorities, information about the activities of each club or association, National Minority Day, Report on the Status of National Minorities, evaluation of the activities of the past year, draft budget for subsidies/grants for projects and activities carried out by entities involved in the area of national minorities and for the benefit of national minorities.

## Karlovy Vary Region

The Committee for National Minorities of the Karlovy Vary Regional Council (the “Committee”) has been operating in line with Section 78(2) of Act No. 129/2000 Coll., on regions (establishment of regions), as amended, since 2005. The position of the minutes taker in the Committee is carried out by Mgr. Pavel Vaculík, Coordinator for Roma Affairs, National Minorities and Integration of Foreigners.

The Committee appointed by the Karlovy Vary Region comprises 15 people. The most numerous national minorities in the Karlovy Vary Region are represented in it. Each national minority is represented by one person. There are a total of 8 representatives of national minorities (Vietnamese, German, Ukrainian, Russian, Slovak, Roma, Mongolian and Hungarian). There are also 7 political party representatives in the Committee (ANO, ODS, KSČM, STAN, HNHRM and ČSSD). Two representatives of the Police of the Czech Republic are invited to the Committee meetings regularly (including the National Minority Liaison Officer) and one representative of the Serbian national minority. These representatives are approved by Committee resolution as permanent guests.

In 2019, a total of seven Committee meetings were held. During 2019, the Committee continued to support the effort to preserve the national and cultural traditions of minorities and organised cultural and social gatherings. The Committee regularly submits information and suggestions from the national minorities to members of the Karlovy Vary Regional Council.

In 2019, the Committee focused on preparing and executing these events:

- *Stories of Our Neighbours* – a two-day event with readings of stories and performances from neighbouring countries for children from Karlovy Vary schools. National minority representatives themselves read from the book of national fairy tales published by the Committee in 2018 to excited and curious pupils in the Karlovy Vary Library hall. The children also learned interesting facts about the lives, culture and customs of our neighbours. The event was held on 30 and 31 May 2019 and was received enthusiastically by pupils and teachers.
- *National Minority Day* – this one-day event was held in conjunction with the International Folklore Festival in Karlovy Vary. Samples of music, singing, handicrafts, culinary art and dancing of national minorities was on the programme. Roma, Mongolian and Vietnamese performances were hugely successful. During the event, a Mongolian yurt was set up for the public to view. The event took place on 7 September 2019. The National Minority Day is organised each year (this year for the 11<sup>th</sup> time) because of its popularity.
- *Calendar of Food of Nationalities Living in the Karlovy Vary Region* – the Committee managed to prepare the publication of a wall calendar for 2020. The calendar has photos and recipes of traditional dishes of each national minority. It also has folk sayings of each nationality. The calendar contributed to raising awareness about national minorities. According to feedback received by the Committee, the publication of the calendar was an inspiration for other committees and commissions throughout the Czech Republic. All minutes and resolutions from Committee meetings are available for review on website of the Karlovy Vary Region<sup>42</sup>.

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<sup>42</sup> <http://www.kr-karlovarsky.cz/samosprava/dokumenty/Stranky/usn-vybory/vyb-19/Vyb-mensiny19.aspx>

## **Hradec Králové Region**

Based on the 2011 census, the Hradec Králové Region was not obliged to establish a Committee for National Minorities. The conditions for establishing such committee did not change in 2019. For this reason, the Region does not have a Committee for National Minorities. In 2010, the Hradec Králové Regional Council decided to change the name of the original Committee for National Minorities to the Human Rights Committee. In 2013, this committee was replaced by the Human Rights Commission, which is responsible for supporting the cultural and national identity of members of national minorities in the Hradec Králové Region. In 2019, as part of the Hradec Králové Regional Office, the Coordinator for Roma Minority was responsible for the issues of national and ethnical minorities. In the reference period, he was in direct contact with Roma and pro-Roma organisations, to which he provided up-to-date information in the field of the respective agenda.

In 2019, the Human Rights Commission comprises ten members of which three were from the Roma minority. This body met five times in the past year. The following points were on the agenda:

- Integration of the Roma into society and the issue of socially excluded localities in the Hradec Králové Region
- Reasons leading to termination of the general measure on declaration of an area with a greater occurrence of adverse events in Úpice
- The issue of home births – parental's choice; a child's right to life
- The right to die at home
- Civilian holding of firearms as a guarantee of human rights.

## **Liberec Region**

By Resolution No. 132/13/RK of 22 January 2013, the Liberec Region set up the Commission for National Minorities and Social Integration of the Liberec Regional Council. The commission's remit was expanded to include foreigners by Resolution No. 325/17/RK of 7 March 2017. This is an initiative and advisory body of the Regional Council for the integration of national minorities and people vulnerable to social exclusion. This commission was set up over and above the framework of Section 78 (2) of Act No. 129/2000 Coll., on regions, as amended.

In the reference period, the commission had 14 members and a secretary. The chairman of the commission was the Deputy Governor for Managing Social Affairs, who is responsible for the agenda. The commission comprises 3 representatives of national minorities (1 representative of the Vietnamese minority and 2 representatives of the Roma minority), 9 experts (Labour Office of the Czech Republic, Regional Branch; Agency for Social Integration – Office of the Government of the Czech Republic; Centre for the Support of Integration of Foreigners in the Liberec Region – Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic; NNO; Liberec Regional Headquarters of the Police of the Czech Republic, local government representatives) and 1 employee of the Liberec Regional Office (Department of Social Affairs and Department of Education, Youth, Physical Education and Sport). The Commission Secretary was the Regional Coordinator for the Affairs of National Minorities and Foreigners.

During 2019, the Commission had four regular meetings.

In addition to exchanging information about current problems tied, for example, to adverse developments in some locations in the Liberec Region, the Commission discussed in particular the draft conceptual and strategic documents in the area of social integration, minority policies, projects and programmes supporting social integration, planning social services, and applications for project financing from the European Structural Funds, Subsidy

Fund of the Liberec Region and other subsidy programmes for this target group. The topics discussed are recorded in detail in the minutes and published on the region's website<sup>43</sup>.

### **Moravian-Silesian Region**

The historically first Committee for National Minorities of the Moravian-Silesian Regional Council was established at the second meeting of the Council by Resolution No. 6/2 of 12 February 2001. The Committee is set up based on Section 78 of Act No. 129/2000 Coll., on regions (establishment of regions), as amended.

The main task of the Committee is to address the issue of national minorities living in the region, to defend their rights and to create a space to promote the interests and needs of national minorities. Due to the numerous national minorities represented in the Moravian-Silesian Region, the Moravian-Silesian Regional Council establishes a Committee for National Minorities for each election term.

The Committee for National Minorities of the Moravian-Silesian Regional Council was established at a meeting of the Moravian-Silesian Regional Council by Resolution No. 1/20 of 10 November 2016. The Chair of the Committee is Ing. Dana Forišková, Ph.D. The number of members of the Committee is 17.

In 2019, the Committee held a total of ten meetings. The Committee comprises political club representatives who are involved in national minority issues or who are themselves members of some of the minorities living in the region. In terms of nationality, the Polish national minority has the most representatives, but the Greek and Vietnamese minorities also have their representatives on the committee.

In 2019, the Committee recommended for approval to the regional authorities applications for financial support of organisations carrying out activities benefiting national minorities as part of the subsidy/grant program announced by the Moravian-Silesian Region aimed at supporting the activities of national minorities living in the region. It also discussed the preparation of a subsidy/grant programme to support the activities of national minority members living in the Moravian-Silesian Region for 2020

### **Olomouc Region**

The Olomouc Regional Council did not set up a Committee for National Minorities in the Olomouc Region based on Section 78(2) of Act 129/2000 Coll., on regions (establishment of regions), as amended, because, according to the last census, the condition that at least 5% of the region's citizens claim a nationality other than Czech was not met and no association representing the interests of a national minority requested the establishment of a committee. As part of the development and implementation of the Medium-Term Plan for the Development of Social Services in the Olomouc Region for 2018-2020, the Working Group on Ethnic Minorities and Foreigners was established. It comprises 12 members, of which, in 2019, 4 were Roma (two men and two women) from localities with a higher number of members of the Roma minority. The Working Party discusses not only social services, but also other optional activities, information on cultural activities and the current situation at the various municipalities with extended powers. It also monitors the coexistence of the majority society with members of the Roma minority. In 2019, the Roma actively worked with the regional coordinator of Roma advisors to prevent interethnic conflicts in Kojetín and Lipník nad Bečvou.

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<sup>43</sup> <https://liberecky-kraj.kraj-lbc.cz/rada/komise-rady-libereckeho-kraje/pro-narodnostni-mensiny-cizince-a-socialni-zaclenovani>

## **Pardubice Region**

In 2019, no Committee for National Minorities was established under Section 78(2) of Act No. 129/2000 Coll., on regions, as amended. The Commission for the Integration of the Roma Community and Other Ethnic Groups, established by the Pardubice Regional Council, has been active since 2002. In 2019, the 13-member commission comprised a member of the Pardubice Regional Council responsible for social care and the non-profit sector, a member of the Pardubice Regional Council responsible for education, the head of the Department of Social Affairs, the head of the Department of Education, experts from local authorities, representatives of social service providers whose target group is citizens from national and ethnic minorities, and a liaison officer for national minorities from the Pardubice Regional Headquarters of the Police of the Czech Republic. In 2019, the Coordinator for Roma Affairs at the Pardubice Regional Office was responsible for national and ethnic minorities. As part of her agenda, she worked most actively with the Centre for the Support of Integration of Foreigners for the Pardubice Region, Most pro, o.p.s. and the Liaison Officer for Minorities of the Police of the Czech Republic. In 2019, the Commission of the Pardubice Regional Council for the Integration of the Roma Community and Other Ethnic Groups met twice. In addition to dealing with the latest information provided by the Regional Coordinator for Roma Affairs and various members, it also dealt with topics related to the growing number of foreigners in the Pardubice Region, the activities of the Agency for Social Inclusion and the preparation of the Strategy for the Integration of Socially Excluded Roma Localities in the Pardubice Region for the next period. As the current document was created for the period of 2016-2020, a new one will have to be created in 2020. None of the members of the commission publicly subscribes to a national minority.

## **Plzeň Region**

The Plzeň Regional Council did not establish a Committee for National Minorities in the Plzeň Region based on Section 78(2) of Act 129/2000 Coll., on regions (establishment of regions), as amended. Over and above this legislation, the Commission for National Minorities was established based on Resolution of the Pilsen Regional Council No 4252/15 of 30 December 2015, effective 1 January 2016. The Commission ceased its activities on 31 December 2016. National minority issues are currently being addressed by the Commission for Social Affairs and National Minorities. In 2019, this Commission mainly dealt with the representation of foreigners in the Plzeň Region. It addressed issues related to the temporary employment of foreigners, the availability of medical care, housing, education, organisations focused on helping foreigners, etc.

## **Prague**

The Committee for National Minorities of the Prague Municipal Council was established by Resolution of Prague City Council No. 1/2 of 15 November 2018, based on Act No. 131/2000 Coll., on the Capital City of Prague, as amended. On 28 February 2019, external members of the Committee – representatives of national minorities and other members nominated by the political clubs of the Prague City Council – were appointed. Jiří Knitl, a representative of the Prague City Assembly, was appointed Chairman of the Committee, and Jana Hajná, an employee of Prague City Hall (Head of the Department of National Minorities and Foreigners) as the Secretary. The Committee was staffed by 19 members (including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee). The composition of the Committee in 2019 was as follows: 4 members of the Prague City Assembly, 2 external members nominated by the political clubs of Prague City Council, and 13 representatives of national minorities. The national minorities represented in the Committee were as follows: Bulgarian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese, along with representatives of the Jewish community. As the Croatian and Belarusian national

minorities have not yet submitted their nominations for a candidate, neither of these minorities is currently represented in the Committee. Once the two national minorities submit their nominations during the electoral term, the proposal for appointment will be forward to the Prague City Assembly. The permanent guests of the Committee include: the Deputy Director of Prague City Hall for the Public Service Section, the representative of the Department of the Office of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs and Secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities, Director of the House of National Minorities, and the Roma Coordinator for Prague.

In 2019, the Committee met five times and dealt with the following topics:

- Action plan for 2019 and 2020 (including timetable)
- Grant procedure for the area of national minorities (during 2019, preparations for 2020)
- Preparation and commencement of the evaluation process of the grant programme focused on the area of national minorities (in particular for the future targeting of programmes on activities most needed in the area).
- Support for sports and leisure activities of national minorities (especially by the City of Prague)
- Regular presentations by representatives of national minorities about the events of the various national minority organisations, current problems, proposals on how Prague can help national minorities and information about the goals of the various national minorities
- Preparation of the structure and content of website of the City of Prague for national minorities; finalisation for possible launch of the website.
- Important events of national minorities (e.g. festivals – World Roma Festival Khamoro 2019 and International Folklore Festival Prague Heart of Nations 2019).
- House of National Minorities – regular presentation of its activities, information and discussion about important events [especially those intended for the public, such as the World of Books fare (stand of the House of National Minorities), Museum Night, Experience the City Differently, etc.], complete Report on Activities and regular information about work carried out, including those involving the Academy of National Minorities
- 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of National Minorities (event carried out in cooperation with the City of Prague and the National Museum) – the "National Minorities in Czechoslovakia in 1948 – 1989" conference and the subsequent social event associated with the tour of the historical building of the National Museum.
- Information from the meeting of the Government Council for National Minorities.
- Cooperation with the Committee for National Minorities of the Moravian-Silesian Region – receipt of the Committee, exchange of experience of both committees and of the regions regarding work on the national minority issues, participation of representatives of the Committee for National Minorities of the Moravian-Silesian Region at the 3rd annual meeting of the Committee at the House of National Minorities
- Shortage of blood donors in relation to national minorities (cooperation with a specialised workplace at the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine/IKEM).

The Commission of the Prague City Council for Awarding Grants in the Area of National Minorities and Integration of Foreigners deals with grant management separately. In 2019, the Commission addressed issues related to grants for programmes related to national minorities and the integration of foreigners. The programmes for national minorities included "Programmes in the field of support for the activities of national minorities in Prague for 2019", "Multi-year programmes in the field of support of activities of national minorities in Prague (2019 - 2022)", and drafting of the announcement of "Programmes in the field of



support of activities of national minorities in Prague for 2020 (one-year and multi-year)". It also addressed funding efforts organised or co-organised by the City of Prague in the respective areas. The Commission discussed proposals for grant allocation, which were then submitted to Prague City Council for approval. It also evaluated the effectiveness of the use of grant funds provided to the various projects and to events organised or co-organised by the City of Prague directly.

Roma national minority issues are also dealt with by the Advisory Council of the City of Prague for Roma Minority Affairs, whose members include representatives of the municipal districts of Prague 1 –22, representatives of Roma and pro-Roma organisations and representatives of selected institutions (Prague Regional Headquarters of the Police of the Czech Republic). This platform is an advisory group of the Roma Coordinator. It enables the sharing of experience or examples of good practice in working with the Roma minority and develops possibilities for cooperation between the City of Prague and the various municipal districts. The Advisory Council deals mainly with social issues, housing, employment, education and cultural development as these relate to the Roma community.

Table 2 Overview of advisory bodies in the area of national minorities at municipal districts Prague 1 – 22

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Advisory body</b>	<b>Note</b>
Prague 1	---	---
Prague 2	---	---
Prague 3	Commission of the Prague City Council for Social Policies	National minority issues fall within the remit of the Social Policy Commission of the Prague City Council. The theme is also addressed by the <i>Socially and Culturally Disadvantaged Citizens</i> , working group, which operates within community planning for the development of social and follow-up services. The municipal district also has an Advisor for National Minorities at its Department of Social Affairs.
Prague 4	---	---
Prague 5	Social and Health Commission	As part of the community planning of social services, the <i>Persons at Risk of Social Exclusion, Persons in Crisis, Ethnic Groups and National Minorities</i> working group (comprising NGO representatives, officials, representatives/councillors, the public) meets regularly.
Prague 6	---	---
Prague 7	---	The topic is dealt with across the various commissions or committees as needed (e.g. the Social Affairs and Education Commission, Housing Commission). The agenda is partially taken into account in the preparation of conceptual documents, such as the social housing strategy, social services strategy, local action plans for schools, etc.
Prague 8	Commission for Social Affairs, Seniors and National Minorities	This is a commission of the Prague 8 Municipal Council and functions as an initiative and advisory body. The commission meets once per month, has 13 members comprising representative and citizens of Prague 8.
Prague 9	---	---
Prague 10	---	The issue of foreigners and national minorities is addressed in the framework of community planning of social and follow-up services under the working group for persons at risk of social exclusion (marginally, only as one of the possible groups at risk of social exclusion)
Prague 11	Commission for	

	Education, Training and National Minorities	
Prague 12	---	---
Prague 13	---	The topic can be discussed, if necessary, via the Social Affairs Committee of the Prague 13 Municipal Council. The <i>Integration Working Group</i> , which focuses exclusively on the topic of integration of foreigners, exists under the "Common Address – Prague 13" project.
Prague 14	---	The <i>Foreigners and Minorities</i> working group, which ensures cooperation with organisations dealing with this issue, exists under the Prague 14 Municipal Office and helps the social services planning process.
Prague 15	---	National minority affairs are dealt with on an ongoing basis with the respective departments and as part of other committees and commissions.
Prague 16	---	Matters related to this topic is dealt with by experts at the Social Department of the Prague 16 Municipal Office.
Prague 17	---	---
Prague 18	---	---
Prague 19	---	---
Prague 20	---	---
Prague 21	---	---
Prague 22	---	---

### Central Bohemian Region

The Central Bohemian Regional Council has not set up a Committee for National Minorities. Its establishment is not yet under consideration, as the condition for its establishment, i.e., 5% of citizens claiming non-Czech nationality, provided for in Section 78(2) of Act No. 129/2000 Coll., on regions (establishment of regions), as amended, has not been fulfilled. In the area of subsidy policy for national minorities, the Central Bohemian Region focuses its activities mainly on supporting the Roma national minority. The activities of NGOs bringing together other members of national minorities are closely monitored but considered to be minimal.

### Ústí Region

The Committee for National Minorities of the Ústí Regional Council ("Committee for National Minorities") was established at the first meeting of the Ústí Regional Council – fourth electoral term 2012 - 2016 held on 20 November 2012. The committees to be established under the Ústí Regional Council and the functions that council members will be appointed to are set Resolution No 21/1Z/2012.

The Committee for National Minorities was also established in the follow-up fifth electoral term 2016 - 2020 by Resolution No 25/1Z/2016 at the meeting of the Ústí Regional Council on 21 November 2016. The results of the last census show that less than 5% of the population living in Ústí Region claims nationality other than Czech. As such, the Ústí Region is not obliged under Section 78(2) of Act No. 129/2000 Coll., on regions (establishment of regions), as amended, to set up a Committee for National Minorities.

The Committee for National Minorities is composed of representatives of political parties and national minorities. The total number of members is 16, 9 of whom are representatives of national minorities living in the Ústí Region. They are representatives of the Ukrainian national minority, the Slovak Community, the Association of Hungarians, the Association of

Vietnamese, the Jewish Community of Teplice, the Bulgarian Association of Cyril and Methodius, the Cultural Association of Citizens of German Nationality, Russian national minority and Roma national minority. In addition to full members, regular guests, including: First Deputy Governor and Member of the Ústí Regional Council for Finance and Project Preparation and Implementation Strategy PhDr. Martin Klika, MBA, DBA; Coordinator for Roma Affairs of the Ústí Region Mgr. Štefan Lukáč; and Director of the Ústí branch of the non-profit organisation Integration Advisory Council Jan Kubíček.

In 2019, the Committee for National Minorities focused on promoting the cultural and social activities of national minorities living in the Ústí Region and creating opportunities for joint meetings of national minorities, with a view to greater understanding and tolerance of one another and good relations. The Committee for National Minorities meets once a month.

### **Vysočina Region**

Because the conditions laid down in Section 78(2) of Act No. 129/2000 Coll., on regions (establishment of regions), as amended, were not met even in 2019, the Vysočina Region did not set up a Committee for National Minorities. The Vysočina Regional Office does, however, have a Coordinator for Roma Affairs. Throughout 2019, the *Providers of Services for National and Ethnic Minorities, the Homeless and Victims of Crime* working group under the Vysočina Regional Council helped update the Medium-Term Plan for the Development of Social Services in the Vysočina Region for 2016 – 2020.

### **Zlín Region**

The Committee on National Minorities was not established in 2019 because the condition under Act No. 129/2000 Coll., on regions (establishment of regions), as amended, for setting up such a committee was not met in the Zlín Region. No other platform was established over above this legislation. The Zlín Regional Office has, however, established the position of Coordinator for Roma Advisors, which has national minorities in its remit. This position has been part of the Department of the Office of the Governor since 2000. The regional coordinator works with Roma and pro-Roma non-profit organisations that deal with the integration of the Roma community, as well as with organisations that deal with other national minorities, if such organisations are active in the region.

### **3.4. Committees for National Minorities at the Statutory Cities and Municipality Level**

The table below describes the institutional guarantee of the rights of national minorities in statutory cities. It lists the consultation mechanisms used for communication between national minorities and public administration. Of the four committees, two (Karviná and Třinec) were set up in 2019 based on Section 117(3) of Act No. 128/2000 Coll., on municipalities (establishment of municipalities), as amended, and two (Brno and Chomutov) over and above this legislation. Some other chartered towns set up consultation mechanisms labelled otherwise, e.g. commissions or councils.

Table 3 Committees, commission and working groups in statutory cities

<b>Town</b>	<b>Consultation Mechanism (Committee, Commission, Council, Working Group)</b>	<b>By law</b>
Brno	Committee for National Minorities	NO
České Budějovice	---	
Děčín	---	
Frýdek-Místek	---	
Havířov	---	
Hradec Králové	Social, Health and Family Policy Commission	NO
Chomutov	Committee for National Minorities	NO

Jablonec nad Nisou	--	
Jihlava	---	
Karlovy Vary	---	
Karviná	Committee for National Minorities	YES
Kladno	---	
Liberec	Council for Foreigners, National Minorities and Other Ethnicities	NO
Mladá Boleslav	Commission for Integration of Ethnic and National Minorities	NO
Most	Commission for Social Affairs and National Minorities	NO
Olomouc	Community Planning and Ethnic Minorities Working Group	NO
Opava	---	
Ostrava	---	
Pardubice	Foreigners, National and Ethnic Minorities community planning working group	NO
Plzeň	Commission for Integration of Ethnic Minorities and Foreigners	NO
Prostějov	Nation Minorities and Foreigners community planning working group	NO
Přerov	---	
Teplice	---	
Třinec	Committee for National Minorities	YES
Ústí nad Labem	---	
Zlín	---	

### Committees for National Minorities at the Municipal Level

The table below provides an overview of the municipalities that in 2019 established a Committee for National Minorities (or other body, e.g., a commission or working group) both based on Section 117(3) of Act No. 128/2000 Coll., on municipalities (establishment of municipalities), as amended, and over and above this piece of legislation. The table was created based on data provided by the Regional Offices.

Table 4 Committees for National Minorities or other advisory bodies at the municipal level in 2019

Municipality	Advisory body set up based on the law
Cheb	YES
Aš	YES
Česká Lípa	NO
Bukovec	YES
Bystřice	YES
Český Těšín	YES
Dolní Lomná	YES
Hnojník	YES
Horní Suchá	YES
Hrádek	YES
Chotěbuz	YES
Jablunkov	YES
Košařiska	YES
Milíkov	YES
Mosty u Jablunkova	YES
Návsí	YES
Nýdek	YES
Petrovice u Karviné	YES
Písečná	YES
Smilovice	YES
Stonava	YES
Střítež	YES
Těrlicko	YES

Třanovice	YES
Vendryně	YES
Kobylá nad Vidnávkou	YES
Bílá Voda	YES
Vysoké Mýto	NO

According to the results of the last Census from 2011 and pursuant to Section 117(3) of Act No. 128/2000 Coll., on municipalities (establishment of municipalities), as amended, Committees for National Minorities should also be set up in other municipalities. In the Moravian-Silesian Region, this applies to the municipalities of Bocanovice, Ropice, Horní Lomná, Albrechtice, Vělopolí, Písek, Komorní Lhotka, River, Hermanovice and Bílá; in the Olomouc region to Vikantice, Měrovice nad Hanou and Šléglov; in the Karlovy Vary region to Josefov, Stara Sedlo, Nové Sedlo, Lead, Abertamy, Horní Blatná and Tatrovice; in the Ústí Region to Lipová, Copper and Vejprty; in the South Bohemian region to Světlík, Radějovice and Probulov; in the Hradec Králové Region to Stanovice; in the Central Bohemian Region to Okoř; in the Zlín Region to Střelná and in the Plzeň region to Horní Kvilda. According to the results of the last census in 2011, all of the above municipalities had more than 10% of its citizens claiming a nationality other than Czech. The reasons vary as to why committees are not set up. Most often the minority members in the locality show little interest in the establishment of a committee or there are no nationally minority associations that would apply for the establishment of a committee. Another reason may also be the rapidly changing national composition of the population as a result of migration, with a decrease in the number of members of national minorities in the locality.

### **3.5. Participation of national minority members in the activities of central government bodies and other forms of cooperation**

In 2019, members of national minorities were also represented in the advisory bodies of individual departments of central government bodies, e.g., in selection grant committees, working groups, etc. Below is an overview of the national minorities whose representatives are active on the advisory bodies of the various ministries to which they are nominated through the Council.

#### **Ministry of Culture**

The Grant Selection Committee of the Ministry of Culture for the *Support of the Cultural Activities of Members of National Minorities Living in the Czech Republic* programme is made up of 19 members, of which 13 are representatives of these national minorities: Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Russian, Ruthenian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. The Commission for the Evaluation of Projects under the *Promoting Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities* programme has 15 members, of which 13 are representatives of these minorities: Russian, Roma, Slovak, Hungarian, Rusyn, German, Polish, Bulgarian, Greek, Ukrainian, Serbian, Belarusian and Vietnamese. The Grant Selection Committee for *Integration of the Roma Community* has 10 members, of which 5 are representatives of the Roma national minority.

In 2019, the Council of the *Museum of Roma Culture* (the "MRC")<sup>44</sup> had 7 members, 5 of which were members of the Roma national minority. Of the 40 employees working at the MRC (full- or part-time), 13 belonged to the Roma national minority. The tenant and operator of Café Bengl!, the museum's café, is also of Roma nationality. In 2019, the MRC cooperated with Roma organisations in various localities e.g., on the Ghettofest festival, which is

<sup>44</sup> The Museum of Roma Culture is an organised co-financed from the budget of the Ministry of Culture.

organised annually by Tripitaka, z.s., or on Museum Night and the Week of Roma Culture. The aim of these events was to eliminate prejudice between the majority and minority.

In 2019, other organisations co-financed by the Ministry of Culture cooperated with national minorities to organise cultural and educational events on the rights, history and life of national minorities in the Czech Republic. In particular, the National Museum, the Moravian Museum, the Silesian Regional Museum and the Lidice Memorial helped arrange these events.

### **Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport**

In 2019, the Grant Selection Committee of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, in the grant call for the programme *Support for Educational Activities of National Minorities*, had a total of 18 members, including 8 representatives of national minorities, specifically the Hungarian, Polish, Roma, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Ukrainian and Vietnamese national minorities.

In 2019, the Grant Selection Committee for the assessment of projects in the call for the *Promoting the Integration of the Roma Minority* programme was made up of a total of 19 members, of which 13 were representatives of the Roma minority. The selection committee for the assessment of projects in the call for the *Support for Socially Disadvantaged Roma Pupils of Secondary Schools and Conservatories and Students of Higher Vocational Schools* programme had a total of 9 members in 2019, of which 3 were members of the Roma national minority.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports worked with national minorities in other areas as well.

### **Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs**

In 2019, the *Commission for Social Integration* had 41 members and 1 permanent guest. Representatives of the following bodies and organisations were also members of the Commission:

- Human Rights Section of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic – Human Rights and Minority Protection Department
- Human Rights Section of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic – Social Integration Agency
- Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs (Roma minority guests)
- Union of Roma in Moravia
- IQ Roma servis, z.s.

#### *Programme Partnership for Implementation of PA 2, investment priorities 2.1 and 2.2 of OPE (PROP)*

In 2019, PROP had 24 members, which included representatives from the following bodies and organisations:

- Human Rights Section of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic – Human Rights and Minority Protection Department
- Human Rights Section of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic – Social Integration Agency
- Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs (Roma minority guests)

## **Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**

In 2019, the *Commission for the Evaluation of Projects under the Grant Programme Supporting the Implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages* had 11 members, of which 5 were representatives of these national minorities: Polish, German, Slovak, Roma and Croatian, i.e. those minorities whose language is protected by the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages.

In 2019, there were 10 members, including one representative of the Roma national minority, in the *Grant Commission for the Evaluation of Projects under the Subsidy Programme Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Work*.

There were 10 members in the *Grant Commission for the Evaluation of Projects under the Grant Programme Support for Field Work*, one of them a representative of the Roma national minority.

There were 9 members in the Grant Commission for the Evaluation of Projects under the Grant Programme Support for Roma Affairs Coordinators, one of them a representative of the Roma national minority.

In 2019, the *Working Party on the Possibility of Expanding Protection of the German Language in Part III of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages* had 12 members, including one representative of the German national minority.

In 2019, the *Working Group for National Minority Broadcasting* consisted of 17 members, of which 15 were representatives of the following minorities in particular: Belarusian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Croatian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese, along with one representative from the Jewish community.

In 2019, the *Working Party for Resolving the Situation of German (and Other) Graves in the Czech Republic* consisted of 15 members, of which 5 were representatives for the following minorities: Croatian, German, Russian and Ukrainian national minorities, along with one representative for the Jewish community.

## **4. Legislative and other changes regarding the rights of members of national minorities in 2019**

### **4.1. Legislative changes regarding the rights of members of national minorities**

In 2019, some legislative materials concerning the rights of members of national minorities were created or amended, namely materials that are in the purview of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Other ministries with responsibility in this area prepared additional legislative materials in 2019.

In 2019, the Ministry of Culture is responsible for preparing legislation regarding the rights of national minorities:

- Bill amending Act No. 257/2001 Coll., on libraries and conditions of operation of public library and information services (Library Act), as amended; Act No. 37/1995 Coll., on non-periodical publications, as amended; Act No. 46/2000 Coll., on rights and obligations in the publication of periodical press and on the amendment of certain other regulations (Press Act), as amended.

The proposed legislation expands the existing obligation to hand over mandatory copies of printed non-periodical publications and periodical publications to include selected publications obtained electronically and selected electronic periodicals. It also enshrines web-harvesting regulations.

- Bill amending Act No. 203/2006 Coll., on some kinds of cultural support and on amendment to some related regulations, as amended by Act No. 227/2009 Coll.

The bill introduces a legal instrument to promote the creation of works of art or works of applied art in public space in relation to the award of selected public contracts, regulates the legal instrument for granting support to active performers after the end of their careers, and shortens the length of the procedure under which an agreement is concluded to grant compensation for borrowed items and removes the obligation to convert the insurance values of individual objects into Czech currency, which will promote the international mobility of collection items. The major comments made to this bill by the Ministry of Finance have, however, not yet been addressed; work on the bill has, therefore, been suspended for the time being.

- Bill on the services of video-sharing platforms and on the amendment of Act No. 231/2001 Coll., on the operation of radio and television broadcasting and on the amendment of other laws, as amended, Act No. 132/2010 Coll., on audiovisual media services on demand and on the amendment of certain laws (Act on Audiovisual Media Services on Demand), as amended, and some other laws.

The provisions of Section 7(1) of the bill under which the video-sharing platform service provider shall adopt measures to protect, among other things, “the general public from programmes, videos created by platform users and audiovisual commercial communications containing incitement to violence or hatred directed against a group of persons or individuals on grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, nationality, language, religion or belief, political or other opinions, membership of a national minority, property, birth, ancestry, disability, age or sexual orientation” are important in relation to national minorities. Pursuant to Section 7(2), audiovisual commercial communications which the video-sharing platform service provider itself markets, sells or negotiates “shall not contain or promote discrimination on grounds of gender, race or ethnic origin, nationality, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation”.

In 2019, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports was in charge of drafting these regulations regarding the rights of national minorities, with both listed regulations already being in force.

- Amended of Government Regulation No. 123/2018 Coll., stipulating the maximum number of hours of lessons for primary schools, secondary school and conservatories established by a region, municipality or union of municipalities financed by the national budget (in force as of 1 September 2019).
- Amendment of Decree No. 48/2005 Coll., on basic education and some matters regarding the mandatory fulfilment of mandatory school attendance, as amended (in force as of 1 September 2019).

The amendment to the above decree sets a minimum average number of pupils in the classroom for classes with the language of instruction of a national minority, and the government regulation determines for these classes the scope of lessons financed by the state budget (PHmax) separately from ordinary classes. The PHmax value is significantly higher for classes taught in the language of the national minority than for ordinary classes.



For schools with Polish as the teaching language, the average number of pupils in the classroom is set at a lower level than for ordinary schools. The current average number of pupils in schools with Polish as the teaching language is 13 pupils in the classroom (in the case of incomplete schools) and 16,7 pupils in the classroom in the case of regular schools. Most of these schools are above the average for the number of pupils set for regular schools. It should be noted here that these are not the minimum numbers of pupils in the classroom for establishing a schools taught in the language of a national minority [as provided for in Section 14(2) of the Education Act], but the number of pupils decisive for the purpose of financing educational efforts from the state budget. The minimum number of pupils in the classroom referred to in Section 14(2) of the Education Act applies only to the process of setting up a school taught in the language of a national minority, not to its continued existence with a variable number of pupils at the school and the will of the founder to grant any exceptions.

In 2019, Ministry of Justice was responsible for drafting the following legislation on the rights of national minorities:

- Bill on collective proceedings

The bill on collective proceedings, as a procedural tool enabling claims to be lodge collectively, does not exclude protection from discrimination from its scope. It facilitates access to justice for victims, enables more efficient procedures and the sharing of costs of the proceedings.

- Amendment to the Act on Court Fees

The amendment to Act No. 549/1991 Coll., on court fees, under preparation proposes reducing court fees for appeals against decisions in matters of protection against discrimination.

#### **4.2. Non-legislative changes regarding the rights of national minorities**

##### **Ministry of the Interior**

An important document is the current *"Strategy for the Work of the Police of the Czech Republic in Relation to Minorities for the period 2018-2020"*, which builds on the previous strategies. The objective is to develop the possibilities of adapting the Police of the Czech Republic to the conditions of increasing social diversity and to expand the knowledge and skills of police officers in various social environments to allow them to work effectively and systematically with minorities. This Strategy includes an Action Plan for 2020.

Another important project is *Institutionalisation of the Minority Liaison Officer* (Police Presidium Directive No. 258/2013, amended Police Presidium Directive No. 204/2016). Since 2013, liaison officers of Regional Police Headquarters (the "RPH") have fallen under the Riot Police Service Headquarters ("RPSH"). This internal act defines the position of liaison officer and the provisions of the Working Group on Minorities at each RPH. The liaison officer is a specialist on police work related to minorities. The liaison officer acts as an intermediary and offers members of minorities assistance with solving specific problems falling under the legal jurisdiction of the Police of the Czech Republic. At the same time, the liaison officer acts as a consultant on all matters relating to minority issues from the point of view of the police. The liaison officer also continuously monitors the structures of minorities in the respective locality and participates in preventing and fighting crime. Liaison officers and members of working groups are permanently educated in minority issues in specialised courses, cooperate with non-profit organisations, public administration and local governments and participate in approaching minorities in their localities. In 2019, the liaison officers of RPHs dealt with a total of 11 cases with suspected racial overtones (1x RHP- T Dvorce, 7x RHP- M Lipník n.B.,

Kojetín, Moravský Beroun, Bílá Voda, Javorník, Kojetín, Prostějov, 4x RHP – H Hořice, Nový Bydžov, Dvůr Králové n. L., Hradec Králové). In all cases, except Lipník nad Bečvou, racial overtones were excluded during the investigation.

### **Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs**

As part of other forms of cooperation of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (the “MoLSA”), members of national minorities were contacted with regard to work on the drafting of the Social Inclusion Strategy 2021-2030 (these were members of the Roma Council). As no national minority is favoured in any conceptual or methodological activities in the area of non-insurance social and family benefits, cooperation with other entities has not been established on the grounds of belonging to a particular national minority. Similarly, in the area of family policy and the protection of children's rights, cooperation with members of national minorities does not systematically take place on issues that affect the rights of national minorities, although, of course, the social and legal protection of children (“SLP”) is carried out in accordance with these rights and promotes their fulfilment.

The changes implemented by the amendment to Act No. 359/1999 Coll., on social and legal protection of children, as amended, which was implemented by Act No. 401/2012 Coll., effective 1 January 2013, have contributed to the fulfilment of the rights of children with minority heritage to social and legal protection. Belonging to a national minority is taken into account when evaluating the situation of a child and its family. The individual child protection plan, which is drawn up by the staff of municipalities with expanded powers pursuant to Section 10(3) of the Child Protection Act, must take into account the social-cultural environment the child comes from. Staff of the Department of Social and Legal Protection of Children must take into account the specific needs of children even in connection with the provisions of the SLP standard, which was introduced with effect from 1 January 2015. Pursuant to Section 9a(3) of the Child Protection Act, SLP quality standards must be observed when providing SLP, including Standard 9 – Negotiation, Evaluation and Individual Child Protection Plan. According to criterion 9a), when dealing with a client, social workers must adhere to the basic principles of the performance of the SLP, which includes observing an individual approach and taking into account the individual needs of each client (i.e. also the needs arising from living in a different sociocultural environment), respect for human rights and freedoms, strengthening social inclusion and autonomy of the client, etc. According to criterion 9b), staff should provide the services needed to deal with persons with specific needs, or have cooperation agreed with natural and legal persons to which these services are outsourced.

### **Ministry of Justice**

Statistical yearbooks and statistical sheet overviews are publicly accessible on the ministry website as part of a non-legislative measure. These yearbooks and overviews may serve as information for discrimination-related claim, i.e. not only anti-discrimination legal action, but also, for example, other disputes arising in connection with discrimination.<sup>45</sup>

### **Ministry of Finance**

At the request of Minister of Culture Lubomír Zaorálek, the budget of Heading 334 – Ministry of Culture was exceptionally increased by CZK 4,150,000 in 2019 to support the *dissemination and reception of information in the languages of national minorities*. As the budgetary measure was only implemented in December 2019, the resources will be used to boost expenditure in this area in 2020. The request for additional funding was explained by the long-term underfunding of the publication of periodicals in the languages of national minorities. At the same time, the explanation made reference to the Council meeting of 22

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<sup>45</sup> <https://cslav.justice.cz/InfoData/prehledy-statistickyh-listu.html>

October 2019, where the need to strengthen project financing under this programme was reiterated.

#### **4.3. Compliance with Government resolutions on the rights of members of national minorities**

This section of the Report summarises the information about the fulfilment of some of the ministries' tasks related to national minorities.

In 2019, the Ministry of Culture complied on several levels with the Government resolutions on the rights of national minorities.

##### a) Regional and National Culture Department

Government resolutions on the rights of national minorities, including the Roma national minority, were implemented in the context of grant tendering procedures and through government organisations co-financed by the Ministry of Culture.

According to Specific Objective 4.1 "*Preservation of the cultural heritage of the Roma, including promotion of research into learning more about it*" of the Roma Integration Strategy<sup>46</sup>, the Ministry of Culture (point d) is tasked with supporting the World Roma Festival Khamoro. This task follows the previous Government Resolution No 347 of 7 April 2003 on the promotion of the KHAMORO Prague World Roma Festival.

In 2019, the 21st annual Khamoro Festival was held between 26 May and 1 June under the auspices of Doc. Mgr. Antonín Stanek, Ph.D., Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic, and Mr. MUDr. Zdeněk Hřib, Mayor of Prague. The main media partner has traditionally been Czech Television. As part of the partnership, the television regularly broadcasts teaser spots and records the entire festival.

As usual, the 21st edition of the festival brought a rich programme. During the week-long festival, there were a total of seven evening concerts, where audiences could see 13 music groups from various European countries. The opening concert for the 2019 edition took place at Kasárna Karlín and featured three music groups from the Czech Republic and Slovakia: Gipsy Suno (Czech Republic), Lače Manuša (Czech Republic), and Igor Kmeťo & Band (Slovakia). The festival also offered a rich accompanying programme. There were four exhibitions; three theatre performances (including theatre performances for primary school children); Gavoro, a literary reading given by members of the Club of Roma Writers Paramisara and oral histories of the Roma (so-called Storytelling); traditional parade performers in the centre of Prague; Khamororo children's day in Portheimka Park; and the third year of the football tournament at Cimburkova Primary School.

The following events were organised as part of the professional cultural programme: the International Colloquium on Music, Minorities and Memory for university students; a week-long Roma music school for Czech and international students; a week-long training in Khamoro cultural management (sharing experiences designed for young Roma from all over the Czech Republic with an interest in learning theoretically and practically during the largest festival of Roma culture); and the traditional Khamoro Kher, a 3-day programme for children from children's homes.

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<sup>46</sup> See the *Roma Integration Strategy Until 2020*, approved by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 127 of 23 February 2015, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, Prague 2015, pp 36 - 37.

An estimated 10,000 people took part in the Khamoro Festival in 2019. A print and media campaign was carried out in 2019 via Czech Television, Czech Radio and social networks. The aim of the campaign was not only to attract viewers, but also to highlight the position of Roma culture in society.

b) In 2019, in accordance with Government Regulation No. 288/2002 Coll., laying down the rules for granting subsidies to support libraries, as amended, and with the Concept of Library Development in the Czech Republic for 2017 – 2020, the Department of Literature and Libraries announced the *21st Century Library* grant procedure, intended for libraries registered according to the Library Act. One of its thematic areas is *"Promoting work with national minorities and integration of foreigners"*. Subsidies were provided for the purchase of literature in the languages of national minorities and for events showcasing different cultures.

In 2019, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports complied with a Government resolution on the rights of members of national minorities in the form of subsidy programmes, both for schools and school facilities, as well as for non-state non-profit organisations. The objectives, purposes and scope of the support are set out in the next sections of the report.

In 2019, the Ministry of the Interior complied with a Government resolution on the rights of national minorities at multiple levels. Government Resolution No. 243/2003 provides for *Continuous monitoring, in cooperation with the Deputy Prime Minister for Research and Development, Human Rights and Human Resources, of the performance of tasks relating to Roma integration by regions and municipalities* (Section 6 of Act No. 273/2001 Coll., on the rights of national minorities and on the amendment of some acts).

According to the relevant provisions of the laws on local authorities, the Department of Public Administration, Supervision and Control of the Ministry of the Interior supervises the issuance and content of generally binding regulations of local authorities and resolutions, decisions and other measures of their bodies only in their own jurisdiction and in terms of their legality. In 2019, the staff of the Ministry of the Interior – in the exercise of supervision and control over the independent competence of municipalities, regions and the capital city of Prague – did not encounter a generally binding decree or other legal act of a municipality that would explicitly and concretely interfere with the rights of national minorities or restrict access of minority representatives to committees for national minorities.

Furthermore, based on Resolution No 1573/2005, specifically its Section 6.2, the Ministry of the Interior is obliged *"(i)n the exercise of supervision, to assess the legality of setting conditions of access to the municipal housing stock"*, and on the basis of Resolution No. 1067/2005, to check the legality of the rules for the management of municipal apartments.

As part of its supervision activities, the Department of Public Administration, Supervision and Control of the Ministry of the Interior carries out, in accordance with the above-mentioned Government resolutions, an assessment of the legality of the rules for the allocation of municipal apartments. The rules for allocating municipal apartments, as identified in the framework of the control activities of the Ministry of the Interior, are assessed in terms of content from the point of view of possible discrimination and the possibility of restricting access to the apartments. An important aspect of the whole issue is the fact that municipalities are not obliged to issue rules for the allocation of municipal apartments.

In 2019, 118 checks of the individual powers of municipalities were carried out. During these checks, the rules for the allocation of municipal apartments in 16 municipalities were discovered (20 rules for the allocation of apartments owned by the municipality). In the case of five municipalities (11 rules for the allocation of municipal apartments), the rules for the allocation of municipal apartments are assessed at the initiative of citizens, the Police of the

Czech Republic and opposition representatives of municipalities. Eight proposed rules for the allocation of apartments were sent voluntarily by municipalities for review or for the possible provision of methodological assistance and a further 10 rules for the allocation of apartments were sent to the Ministry of the Interior on the basis of a previous request. If it is found that rules for the allocation of municipal apartments are at variance with the law, the municipalities are provided with methodological assistance, both in updating these rules or in creating completely new rules. There was not a single case where a municipality was found to discriminate against apartment applicants on the basis of nationality or race.

The basic rules for equal, non-discriminatory access to the housing stock of municipalities are set out in the *Recommendations for municipalities and towns for preventing the creation and expansion of socially excluded sites*, with emphasis on ensuring the need for housing. These recommendations are also published on the Ombudsman's website and provide basic information on the issue in an understandable way.

## **5. Use of language of national minorities in regions with regard to the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages**

The fulfilment of the obligations ensuing from the conclusion of this international charter by the Czech Republic concerns these historical and regional languages: Polish, German, Romani, Slovak and, from 1 January 2015, also Moravian Croatian. For more on the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, see chapter 1.1. An overview of the situation on the level of the regions for the fulfilment of the obligations ensuing from the Charter is presented below.

### **South Bohemian Region**

The number of members of national minorities in the South Bohemian Region is relatively low. There are no localities with a higher concentration of members of the individual minorities and associations that would assert or raise demands ensuing from the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. Within the South Bohemian Region, the use of languages of national minorities when submitting information to the public administration or official meetings was not ascertained, nor was the use of traditional and proper forms of local place names in minority languages ascertained.

### **South Moravian Region**

Bilingual place names were not used in the South Moravian Region in the sense of Act No. 273/2001 Coll., on the Rights of Members of National Minorities and on the amendments to some acts, nor did the region record any experiences with the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. The use of minority languages, however, is supported by Brno City Hall, where four intercultural employees with the Ukrainian, Russian, Vietnamese, Romanian and Arab languages have been working since 2017. These languages, however, are not currently under the protection of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages.

### **Karlovy Vary Region**

The Region does not explicitly deal with the issue of the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, since no problem has been noted with the rights ensuing from this document. Information on the region is translated into the English, German and Russian languages on the official *Živý kraj (Living Land)* portal. No other languages are used on the bulletin boards or in the regional *Krajské listy* newsletter. If an official meeting is required with a member of a national minority, an interpreter is hired. Often members of national minorities (usually representatives of the Vietnamese national minority) bring a

person they trust to the meetings who is capable of communicating in the official language. A language of national minorities is not used in the Karlovy Vary Region on entrance and exit signs with the name of municipalities, nor is it used for the designation of state authority and local government buildings. No such request has been raised by members of national minorities.

### **Hradec Králové Region**

The Hradec Králové Region has not yet dealt with the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, since no representatives of national minorities have expressed any interest in it. If the Hradec Králové Region will be approached with a request, or if there will be a significant increase in the number of people using a minority language, it is prepared to satisfy justified requests based on this Charter. The Hradec Králové Region considers the protection of minority languages to be very important and necessary, because it represents a key condition for preserving the rare cultural diversity in the Czech Republic.

### **Liberec Region**

The provisions of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages are currently not implemented in the Liberec Region. No national minority language is traditionally used in the region. No impulse for the application of these provisions has come on the part of associations of national minorities. The Liberec Region has not yet applied the use of a minority language on its website, bulletin boards or regional newsletters. Only a certain part of the information on the region's website can be switched to the English language. A special page for foreigners is currently being prepared on the website on which links to information in various languages will be published.

### **Moravian-Silesian Region**

In 2019, the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages on the territory of the Moravian-Silesian Region was prepared through a grant programme of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. The support applied primarily to the protection of the Polish language, both in the area of education for children and adults and in the area of preserving traditional place names by, for example, introducing bilingual signs.

### **Olomouc Region**

The number of members of national minorities in the Olomouc Region is relatively low. There are no localities with a higher concentration of members of the individual minorities and the existence of associations that would assert or raise demands ensuing from the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. The situation of the German minority was mapped in 2019. Contact was established in 2019 with the Manager of the Svazu Němců Severní Morava – Orlické hory z. s. (Union of Germans of North Moravia - Orlické Mountains), which currently has local groups in the Olomouc Region in Šumperk, Jeseník and Šternberk. Thus, it can be said that in 2019 the use of languages of national minorities when submitting information to the public administration was not ascertained, the use of languages of national minorities during official meetings was not ascertained, and the use of traditional and proper forms of local place names in minority languages was also not ascertained.

### **Pardubice Region**

The Pardubice Region does not have any experience with the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. The local place names are not given in different language mutations. Interpretation for foreigners during meetings with officials,

schools, doctors, etc. are usually provided by non-profit organisations, the Centre for the Integration of Foreigners and in schools interpreters provided through the National Institute for Professional Development. In addition to the Czech language, the Pardubice Region's website [www.pardubickykraj.cz](http://www.pardubickykraj.cz) have been prepared in the English, German, French, Italian and Polish languages. The non-profit organisation Most pro, o. p. s. primarily provides a lot of information in various languages to clients from the ranks of foreigners.

### **Plzeň Region**

The Plzeň Region does not have any experience with the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. In the past year, no case was recorded where an interpreter was present during an official meeting.

### **Capital City of Prague**

The City of Prague does not have any experience with the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. In the case of regular official and the publishing of information on the part of the City of Prague, no special measures were required nor was any request relating to this theme recorded by the Department of National Minorities and Foreigners on the part of other workplaces of the City of Prague.

### **Central Bohemian Region**

In connection with the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, the region did not implement any measures in the past year ensuing from its provisions. Based on experience, it can be said that none of the minority languages in the Central Bohemian Region can be defined in the sense of Article 1 of the Charter, i.e. as a language in the sense of a narrower territorial definition, where it is the mode of expression of a number of people that would justify the adoption of various protective and promotional measures.

### **Ústí nad Labem Region**

The Ústí nad Labem Region has no experience with the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. No language of national minorities is used on the website. This also applies to the region's newsletter, bulletin boards and official notice boards. There is no use of traditional and proper forms of local place names in minority languages.

### **Vysočina Region**

The Vysočina Region does not have any experience with the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages.

### **Zlín Region**

The Zlín Region does not have any experience with the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages.

## **6. Education in national minority languages**

Education in the languages of national minorities is one of the most effective measures for preserving the minority language and for the further cultural development of the national minorities. National minorities usually have great interest in education in their language. (The same applies to Czech compatriots living abroad). In light of the small numbers and

dispersion of national minorities living on the territory of the Czech Republic, however, national minority schools only exist in relation to the Polish minority.

According to Article 25 (2) (a) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, citizens belonging to national and ethnic minorities are also guaranteed the right to an education in their language under the conditions specified by the law. This right is also regulated by Section 11 of the Minorities Act, according to which the members of national minorities that have traditionally lived for a long time in the Czech Republic have the right to be raised and educated in their mother tongue in schools, preschool facilities and school facilities under the conditions specified in a special legal regulation. Members of national minorities can also establish private schools under the conditions specified by special legal regulations with the teaching language of the national minority or with instruction in the language of the national minority as a subject and private preschool facilities and private school facilities.

The provisions of Section 14 of the School Act regulate the special prerequisites for providing the education in the language of the national minority in preschools, elementary schools and high schools by municipalities, regions and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. One of the preconditions is that a committee for the national minority must be established by law in the municipality and the minimum number of children that must apply for education in the language of the national minority are also established by law. In light of the low number of statutory towns and municipalities in which the obligation to establish a committee for a national minority (see table no. 3 and table no. 4 above) is given by law, minority schools financed from public resources are limited to only the Polish national minority education in the Moravian-Silesian Region.

In this part of the Report, the situation regarding education in national minority languages is described in more detail in relation to the Polish, German and Romani minorities, for which this issue is also discussed in relation to the fulfilment of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. In principle, however, the issue of education in a minority language exists in relation to all national minorities. Access to education in the language of the national minority is thus supported on the part of the state through grant programmes, primarily the Support of Educational Activities of national minorities by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports<sup>47</sup>. The associations of members of minorities also actively contribute to education in minority languages. For example, in reports from members of national minorities represented on the Council, the establishment of a Sunday school with teaching in Bulgarian in Brno is mentioned along with Saturday schools established by the Ukrainian or Russian minorities. The Greek minority also presents the provision of teaching in the minority language as a challenge and a problem (see chapter 2.2).

### **6.1. Polish national minority**

Thanks to its size and concentration in the Moravian-Silesian Region, the Polish minority is the sole national minority that can use the possibility of national minority school financing from the public budget. In the Moravian-Silesian Region, there are several schools established in which the education is performed only in the Polish language or bilingually in both the Czech and Polish languages pursuant to the provisions of Section 14 (5) of the School Act.

According to information from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, there are currently 19 preschools taught in the Polish language established in the Czech Republic. All of these preschools are located in the Moravian-Silesian Region. A total of 772 children attended these preschools in the 2019/2020 school year. There are also preschools taught in

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<sup>47</sup> <https://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/zakladni-vzdelavani/programy-na-podporu-vzdelavani-v-jazycich-narodnostnich-mensin-a-multikulturni-vychovy>



Czech and Polish established in the Czech Republic. A total of 5 such preschools were established in the 2019/2020 school year, while some of them are also preschools that are specified as teaching in the Polish language. A total of 54 children attended these preschools.

The number of elementary schools where the teaching language is Polish has remained stable. In the 2019/2020 school year there were 21 schools taught in the Polish language, while all of these schools were located in the Moravian-Silesian Region. The schools in question had 133 forms attended by 2010 students.

High schools that are taught in Polish or where Polish is one of the languages used are also located in the Moravian-Silesian Region. The only high school in which the Polish language is the sole language of instruction is the Polish gymnasium - Polskie Gimnazjum im. Juliusza Słowackiego, Český Těšín, příspěvková organizace. The gymnasium in question had 12 forms attended by 326 students. Other high schools that are listed as having classes taught in Polish in the Register of Schools are Střední průmyslová škola, Karviná, příspěvková organizace, Obchodní akademie, Český Těšín, příspěvková organizace and Střední zdravotnická škola, Karviná, příspěvková organizace.

### **Activity of Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Education in Český Těšín**

The conditions for the fulfilment of the state policy in the area of education in national minority languages, specifically the education of students in the Polish language in these municipalities where the Polish national minority comprises more than 10% of the population, is provided by the Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Education in Český Těšín (hereinafter referred to as the “Pedagogical Centre”). The Pedagogical Centre is a directly managed organisation financed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. In all the schools and school facilities taught in the Polish language, the Pedagogical Centre has long dealt with the issue of the use and support of the mother tongue. This primarily is the arrangement of the needs of the schools and school facilities taught in the Polish language, including support of the students with special educational needs, the preparation of educational aids or schools taught in the Polish language, the issuing and distribution of methodological tools - the monthly *Jutrzenka* and *Ogniwo* magazines.

In 2019, the Pedagogical Centre, in cooperation with methodologists from Poland, looked at the theme of bilingualism, innovation methods and Polish language lessons, especially teaching through the “heritage language” method, which combines elements of a native and foreign language.

With the support of the Pedagogical Centre, in 2019 students in the upper classes of Polish elementary schools participated in the “Getting to know Těšín Silesia by learning and playing” project. Over 200 students took a week-long stay in a partner school in Poland, where they learned with their Polish peers during the mornings and improved their communication skills in the Polish language. In the afternoon hours they got to know the region better.

The Further Education of Pedagogical Workers (hereinafter referred to as “FEPW”) took place with active cooperation with institutes from the Czech Republic and Poland. The educational events provided to teachers are properly accredited. The FEPW also included the professional activity of methodologists for education, who realised several methodical meetings and consultations with teachers in schools with classes taught in Polish. When cooperating with the Polish institutions, the pedagogues were offered education in many areas of leadership and worked on the preparation of reviews for the educative area of *Polish language and literature*.

Each year, the Pedagogical Centre organises competitions in several subjects. Traditionally the most heavily represented were the mathematical competitions Klokan, Pikomat, Mathematical Olympics and Pythagoriada. The competition in the Polish language Master of Grammar for students from grades 4 to 9 of Polish elementary schools was also very popular. The Pedagogical Centre has been contributing for a number of years to the organisation of a prestigious oration competition announced in Poland. In 2019, representatives of schools taught in the Polish language in the Czech Republic made it to the country-wide round in the Polish city of Katowice. The competition's theme in 2019 was: "Good without courage is not that worthwhile". Another competition in which the students participated: FOX – XIX annual international competition in the English language under the auspices of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, a musical competition and show – Display of Těšín folk songs and Display of school choirs. In 2018, the competition was attended by 1600 students.

### **Cross-border Czech/Polish cooperation in the area of education**

The Pedagogical Centre is also active in the area of cross-border Czech/Polish cooperation, especially in the area of joint education. In 2019, the implementation of 2 cross-border projects continued.

1. As part of the INTERREG VA Czech Republic-Poland programme, the Pedagogical Centre is the partner of the flagship project "*Improving language skills of future graduates on cross-border job market*" (main partner – Palacký University in Olomouc, partners – Pedagogical Centre and University of Wrocław). There are workshops prepared for future graduates in the Czech Republic and Poland for the development of communication skills, the promotion of learning with neighbouring languages and the mutual knowledge of both cultures.
2. As part of the INTERREG VA Czech Republic-Poland programme, the Pedagogical Centre of Český Těšín is a partner of the "accent@net" project (main partner - Institut Euroscola in Třinec, University of Silesia in Katowice and the European Grouping of Regional Cooperation NOVUM). Along the entire length of the Czech/Polish border, in all the Euro-regions, events will be held until the year 2021 as part of four main activities: networking – connecting Czech and Polish schools, job-shadowing – exchange programme for teachers, on-line consultation for Czech-Polish cooperation and the creation of the Czech/Polish publication "Mosaic of Cultures".

### **Further activities of Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Education in Český Těšín**

The Pedagogical Centre continues in the coordination of the activities of the Czech/Polish working group for the area of textbooks. In 2019 the international Czech/Polish/Slovak seminar of textbook groups "Balance-Inspiration-Perspectives" was held. Textbook groups working in Central Europe converged on the National Pedagogical Museum of J. A. Comenius in Prague; i.e. Czech/German, Polish/German, Czech/Polish, Polish/Lithuanian, Polish/Ukraine, representatives of Czech/Austrian and Czech/Lichtenstein commissions of historians and representatives of Slovakia. The second day of the seminar with the theme "*Difficult challenges for pedagogues, yesterday and today*" was dedicated to historical figures of the 20th century: Přemysl Pitter and Janusz Korczak. The basic activity of the Czech/Polish working group for the area of textbooks is the effort to pay attention to the issue of mutual Czech/Polish stereotypes and the possibilities to overcome them, especially in the teaching of social science subjects, history and literature. The members of the working group for the Czech side are representatives of the University of Ostrava, Charles University and the Pedagogical Centre, while from the Polish side they are representatives of the universities in Poznań, Wrocław, Kraków and Szczecin. Professors from the Comenius University in Bratislava also actively cooperate with the working group.

## **6.2. German national minority**

The German national minority is spread out through the Czech Republic and thus, unlike the Polish minority, cannot use the possibility of establishing national minority schools according to the provisions of Section 14 of the School Act. Thus, the attention of the German minority has, on a practical level, turned to private schools and to the teaching of some subjects in schools in the German language as a foreign language.

The long-standing operation of the elementary school *Základní škola německo-českého porozumění* and high school *Gymnázium Thomase Manna* in Prague as schools founded in 1991 by the German national minority<sup>48</sup> in the Czech Republic. They are among the schools where German is the language of instruction. It offers education and training of Czech and German children in the 1st to 5th grades with German as a foreign language or a native language. The school prepares students for studies at the *Gymnázium Thomase Manna*, which has eight grades and prepares students for university studies.

German is also the language of instruction at the bilingual high school *Rakouské gymnázium* in Prague, which was founded on the basis of an international agreement.

Pursuant to Section 13 (3) of the School Act and the related Decree No. 9/2013, which modifies the procedure for permitting the teaching of some subjects in a foreign language, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports permits schools to teach some subjects in the German language. It applies to elementary and high schools.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports endeavours to support the teaching of German and education in the German language. It cooperates with the Goethe Institute, supports its events for the development of multilingualism not only in schools, but in society as a whole. Czech/German activities are also extensive in the extracurricular activities of youth, including, for example, the activities of the Coordination Centre of Czech/German Youth Exchanges TANDEM in Plzeň, supported in part from the resources of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The Goethe Institute and coordination centre provides consulting services and supports the organisations of both countries when performing and intensifying Czech/German youth exchanges and international cooperation in the area of working with youth.

In relation to the German language, it is also important to mention that at universities in the Czech Republic there are several fields focused on the German language that concern, for example, the preparation of pedagogical workers or fields oriented on German studies in general.

## **6.3. Roma national minority**

The teaching of the Romani language in schools in the Czech Republic does not take place systematically. On the one hand, this is prevented by legal obstacles concerning national minority schools, similarly to the case of the German minority and other minorities, where the national minority schools can only be used where a committee for national minorities was established (pursuant to the provisions of Section 14 of the School Act) and where the minimum number of children that apply for education in the language of the national minority is fulfilled. Thus, schools also run up against several factors that make the voluntary teaching of the Romani language complicated or impossible. This primarily concerns the lack of interest of the parents of Romani children in this instruction. Parents often adhere to the generally-held stereotypes, according to which a child should primarily learn the majority

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<sup>48</sup> The education authority is the Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia (now the Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic).

Czech language so that it will be easier to integrate into the majority society. The parents often consider Romani to be a language only used in the framework of internal family communication. It should be mentioned, however, that it is possible to take the state exam in the Romani language at a language school in Prague.

Even though there is no systematic teaching of the Romani language in Czech Schools (with the exception of universities, see below), it is possible to name some schools in which the Romani language appears as part of the teaching of thematically-related subjects. They are the Florián Bayer elementary school in Kopřivnice, at which the Romani language was taught as part of the subject of multicultural education, similarly to the Vocational Secondary School of Management and Law in Jihlava and the Medical High School in Český Krumlov. At the Prof. Z. Matějček High School in Ostrava, the teaching of Romani Studies takes place as part of the teaching concerning social activities or it was included in the teaching of the subject “Working with Minorities”.

The teaching of the Romani language is also supported by non-governmental non-profit organisations. For example, the organisation Nová škola, o.p.s. teaches the Romani language for Prague children. The organisation KHER, z.s. also provided courses for children for the support of reading and writing in the Romani language. At the same time, seminars were held supporting the knowledge of the Romani language for teachers and pedagogical workers in Czech schools.

The teaching of the Romani language in several universities, especially as part of the study fields focused on Romani studies:

- Faculty of Arts of Charles University, Department of Central European Studies: Romani Studies
- Faculty of Education of Masaryk University: The Romani language as an elective subject open for students of any field
- Faculty of Education of Charles University: Subject of Integration of Romani in Study Fields of Special Pedagogy
- Faculty of Arts and Education of University of Pardubice: Romani Studies in the offer of the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology
- Faculty of Arts of University of Ostrava - Basics of Romani Studies (lifelong learning)

## **7. National minority press, publications and national minority broadcasting**

Each year, representatives of national minority associations living in the Czech Republic provide information on their publication activities. The following text provides an overview of the publication activities of national minorities in 2019. The Roma and Croatian minorities did not provide materials for this chapter. The situation of the Roma minority is examined comprehensively, however, in the annual Report on the State of the Roma Minority in 2019, which will be published on the government’s website and will also contain information on the minority press, publications and national minority broadcasts.

### **Belarusian minority**

The Belarusian national minority does not have its own printed periodical in the Czech Republic. A significant amount of Belarusian literary texts, research publications and translations originate in Prague, Brno and Olomouc. In 2019, the Slavik Institute of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic issued Mirosław Jankowiak’s publication *Contemporary Belarusian Dialect in Latvia*. This unique publication began its activity in the private publisher Vesna Books (Prague). This first introduced Belarusian readers to the novel

by the writer of Jewish origin Moyshe Kulbak, executed in 1937 in Minsk during the Stalinist purges. It is a translation of the Yiddish original into Belarusian by the Prague reporter and multilinguist Siarhej Šupa.

Interviews with Belarusian personalities in the Czech Republic are regularly included in the broadcast of the *Mezi námi (Between Us)* programme on the station Czech Radio Plus. Eleven contributions were broadcast in 2019. Social media platforms are actively used for internal communication among the members of the Belarusian minority. The *Belarusians in the Czech Republic* group on Facebook has about 1720 members. On other platforms, e.g. Instagram, live conferences and the mutual consultation of professional groups are held. As part of the meeting of the Working Group for National Minority Broadcasting at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic on 4 December 2019, the vision of the Belarusian minority for the introduction of a modern multimedia platform for communication of the members of national minorities with the possibility of financing within the state administration was presented.

### **Bulgarian minority**

Even though the Bulgarian minority ranks among the smaller minorities in the Czech Republic, its activity in the field of publishing periodicals is relatively significant. Two associations publish magazines with a long-lasting tradition. Specifically, this applies to the magazine *Bălgari* published by the association Vazraždane and the magazine *Roden glas* published by the Association of Bulgarian Societies (hereinafter referred to as “ABS”). Both magazines written in Bulgarian are oriented primarily on readers from the ranks of members of national minorities, though each with a slightly different focus. In both cases they are bimonthlies with a print run of 600 issues and their associations draw on grants from the relevant programme of the Ministry of Culture for their publication. In 2019, the Zaedno Association published its eighth annual edition of Kamarádi (Friends), which is published 4 to 6 times a year and is oriented on children that come from mixed-language families, that have foreign roots or are learning to communicate in another language in addition to the Czech language. It is released in the languages of all the national minorities represented on the Council and each text is, in addition to the original language, translated into Czech, the language that all the children have mastered. The publishing of the magazine is financially supported from grants from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the City of Prague and the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. Additionally, the Zaedno Association also used a bilingual Bulgarian/Czech publication aimed at a wider audience, *Čemu se smějí Bulhaři (What Bulgarians Laugh About)*.

The public media Czech Television and Czech Radio informed about the activities of the Bulgarian minority in 2019 through programmes oriented on the theme of national minorities in the Czech Republic. For example, the programme Sousedé (Neighbours) on ČT2 broadcast a report on the Zaedno Association entitled “*Vícejazyčnost je bohatství (Multilingualism is wealth)*” in 2019. Czech Radio brought another report informing about the activities of Bulgarian associations in the Czech Republic in the programme *Mezi námi (Between Us)*, *My a oni (Us and Them)* and *O Roma vakeren*.

### **Hungarian minority**

Publishing activities are among the extraordinarily important activities of Svaz Maďarů (Association of Hungarians): the publication of the *Prágai Tükör* (Prague Mirror) magazine, which maps the cultural and social life of the Hungarian minority, while also intensively looking at Czech/Hungarian relations in various areas of life (culture, history, news, etc.). The contents and a summary in the Czech and English languages are available in each issue. The magazine is very popular among readers, with the number of subscribers increasing each year. The Svaz Maďarů žijících v českých zemích (Association of Hungarians in the

Czech Republic) has been publishing the *Prágai Tükör* magazine without interruption ever since 1993 and the periodical has built a strong position among the lives of the Hungarian national minority in the Czech Republic. The magazine has had a new appearance since 2013 and is published 6 times a year in full colour and in a print run of 1000. *Prágai Tükör* magazine has contributed significantly to the preservation of the national identity and to the development of the cultural life of the Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic. It currently sends out positive impulses on the existence, life and activity of this minority. It is also a unique document for further generations telling of the life of Hungarians living in the Czech Republic and also expands the spectrum of published periodicals with a magazine issued in the Hungarian language.

Czech public media informed about the activities of the Hungarian minority in 2019 through programmes oriented on the theme of national minorities. In 2019, Czech Radio broadcast the following reports and interviews on the station Rádio Plus in the *Mezi námi (Between Us)* programme:

- A report on the exhibition of works of art of Hungarian admirers of Czech author Bohumil Hrabal in Prague – February;
- An interview with Anna Rákóczi, Chairperson of the Association of Hungarians on the life of the Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic - March;
- An interview with Borbála Staněk-Csoma, Chairperson of the Iglice Association in Prague, teacher and translator of Czech literature – September;
- An interview with the artist and founder of the Šance (Chance) project in Prague, László Sümegh - September;
- Report on the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian student's club KAFEDIK in Brno - October;
- An interview with András Halász, a translator of Czech literature - November;
- An interview with János Kokes, the Editor-in-Chief of *Prágai Tükör* on the changes in the regimes in Hungary and Romania with regard to the Hungarian minority. He was at the time of the events a correspondent for the Czech News Agency - November.

Czech Television broadcast the following news reports on the Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic in 2019 in the nationality magazine *Sousedé (Neighbours)*:

- A report on the memorial service for János Esterházy, the leader of the Hungarian minority in the interwar period in Olomouc and Mírov. Esterházy died in Mírov Prison as a political prisoner convicted in a show trial.
- A report on Hungarian Christmas customs recorded in November 2019 in Ostrava was broadcast in January 2020.

The media in Hungary and the Hungarian media in Slovakia also informed of the life of the Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic. Several articles and information on the Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic were published in 2019 by, for example, the public television *Duna Televízió*, the state agency *MTI*, the daily newspaper *Magyar Nemzet*, various Hungarian Internet portals, and, in Slovakia, the radio station *Patria*, daily newspaper *Új Szó* and *Felvidék* portal.

### **German minority**

In 2019, the Shromáždění německých spolků v České republice (Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic) issued these publications:

- *Landesecho*, print run of 2000, country-wide monthly;
- *Egerländer Bladl*, regional monthly, print run of 150, Central Cheb Region;

- *Heimatruf*, regional monthly, print run of 80, South Cheb Region;
- *Mitteilungsblatt Pilsen*, association newsletter for members – quarterly, 50 issues;
- *Hallo Freunde*, Mor. Třebová – association newsletter for members – bimonthly, 100 issues;
- *Mitteilungsblatt Reichenberg* – association newsletter for members – quarterly, 100 issues;
- *Troppauer Nachrichten*, Opava – association newsletter for members – bimonthly, 100 issues;
- *Teschner Nachrichten*, Havířov – association newsletter – quarterly, 100 issues;
- *Mitteilungsblatt Komotau*, Chomutov – newsletter for members – quarterly, 100 issues;
- *Nachrichtendienst*, Brno – association newsletter – bimonthly, 50 issues.

Czech Radio (the regional station Sever) broadcasts the fifteen-minute programme *Sousedé (Neighbours)* for the German national minority every Friday. In addition to this public Czech-German magazine, there is also the association *Radio Hultschin*, which is operated by the local German association in Hlučín.

In 2019, members of *Spolek Němců a přátel německé kultury v ČR (the Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture in the Czech Republic)* issued these publications:

- Rojík P. (2019): Kulturverband: gratulujeme k padesátinám. Pohled zevnitř na život německé menšiny v ČR. – Issued by Spolek Němců a přátel německé kultury v ČR, Prague, 100 p.
- Hošková H. (2019): Kniha minulosti a přítomnosti Königswalde. – Issued by MÚ Šluknov
- Rojík P. (2019): Geologická podmíněnost Soosu. – In: Brabec J. & Velebil J. (eds.): Květena Soosu a okolí, Issued by Muzeum Cheb and ČSOP, pp 10-23, Cheb. The book was awarded the Musei gloriolis prize.

Spolek Němců a přátel německé kultury v ČR regularly update their website <http://www.kulturverband.org> and Facebook profile. It also publishes a quarterly circular entitled *Infoblatt*.

In 2019, the following television shows were broadcast in cooperation with Spolek Němců a přátel německé kultury v ČR:

- TV Sirius (Germany): The Ore Mountains - Border Tales of Germans and Czechs / Das Erzgebirge - Grenzgeschichten von Deutschen und Tschechen. Parts I and II. Both parts had a Czech and German language version.
- Czech Television – Toulavá kamera (the episode on the Ore Mountains - Bublava, Nancy, Špičák).
- TV War – Po stopách války (filmed at the Rolava/Sauersack tin ore processing plant).

## Polish minority

In 2019 these materials and publications were issued for the Polish national minority:

- *Głos* – published twice a week, on Tuesday and Friday, 3500 issues, 3000 subscribers;
- *Zwrot* – monthly, 1600 issues, 1200 subscribers;
- *Merkuriusz Klubu Polskiego w Pradze* – association bulletin, monthly.

In 2019, Kongres Poláků v ČR, z.s. issued the following publications:

- Branny, Janusz: *Opowiadania gwarowe* - a book of short stories in a dialect

- Piegza, Karol: *Sękaci ludzie* - a book of short stories from the Těšín region (supported in a grant programme of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic Support of the Implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages)
- *Śladami Polaków w Pradze* – published by Klub Polski w Pradze, it is a popular science publication.

The Polish cultural/education association is the publisher of an annual calendar in which texts related to the annual festivals are published. "*Kalendarz Śląski*" is based on a theme and enjoys great popularity. Print run of 1400.

The editors of Polish periodicals try to address the assumed part of the Polish community living not only in the Těšín region, but throughout the Czech Republic. It also manages to appeal to younger readers through the Internet portals *www.glos.live* and *www.zwrot.cz*, and also through profiles on Facebook and other social networks. So far, unfortunately, it is lacking financial support on the part of the state for these modern initiatives. The Polish national minority continues to be burdened by the method of financing the activities of the Polish minority, especially with regards to the publication of the newspaper *Głos* and magazine *Zwrot*. The state's grant policy continues to compare the publishers of these titles, which have been published for several decades, with headings that have not yet been published or have been, but only briefly, and forces them to submit requests for grants each year and to wait several months to see whether the heading will be supported. For several years, the Polish minority has proposed that these established projects could ask for grants in a longer cycle, e.g. 5 or 10 years.

The Czech public media informed about the life of the Polish national minority in 2019 through these programmes:

- *Wydarzenia* – broadcast by Czech Radio, 25 minutes 5 times a week
- *Wiadomości w języku polskim* – broadcast by Czech Television, 5 minutes a week

### Rusyn minority

The Rusyn national minority issues the periodical *Podkarpatská Rus* 4 times a year. In 2019, two publications were released that touch on the theme of the Rusyn minority. They are the books *Má rusínská vyšívanka (My Rusyn Embroidery)* by Barbora Zavadilová and *Za našimi zády tekla řeka Dněstr (The Dniester River Flowed behind our Backs)* by Antonín Mořovič. Both publications were published by Společnost přátel Podkarpatské Rusi (Society of Friends of the Subcarpathian Rus).

It was possible to hear about the lives of the Rusyn national minority in the Czech Republic thanks to the regular radio programme on minorities *Mezi námi (Between Us)* on the Czech Radio station ČRoPlus. In 2019 this radio weekly broadcast about 10 - 12 contributions dedicated to the Rusyn minority. In the programme *Sousedé (Neighbours)*, Czech Television broadcast a report on the launch of the book *Má rusínská vyšívanka* and it also broadcast a programme on the *Skejušan* folklore group and others. The organisation *Post Bellum - Paměť národa (Post Bellum - Memory of Nations)* recorded an extensive audiovisual portrait of Kateřina Romaňáková and Agáta Pilátová. It is also possible to find Rusyn themes on the Internet in the programme *Příběhy našich sousedů (Stories of our Neighbours)* recorded by students.

### Russian minority

In 2019, the Russian national minority published these magazines through the organisation *Ruská tradice, z.s.:*

- *Russkoje slovo (Русское слово)*, print run: 750 per issue, 12 times a year;



- A separate insert to the magazine *Ruskoje slovo* under the name *Slovo molodym* (Слово молодым), print run of 500 per issue, 6 times a year.

Reports on the Russian national minority are regularly broadcast by Czech Radio Plus in the programme *Mezi námi* (*Between Us*). Czech Television broadcast a report from the *Ruské tradice* (*Russian Traditions*) event at the Olšany Cemetery on the anniversary of the start of the Prague uprising on 5 May 2019, where the participation of the soldiers from the Russian Liberation Army in the liberation of Prague was commemorated.

### **Greek minority**

The only printed periodical of the Greek minority in the Czech Republic is the magazine *Kalimera*, which is published by Řecká obec Praha (Greek Community Prague). It is a bimonthly.

In 2019, a series of reports was broadcast on the Greek national minority in programmes of the public media. A report entitled “*Jak je možné udržovat helénské a řecké tradice v Čechách*” (*How to preserve Hellenic and Greek traditions in the Czech Republic*) was broadcast twice in the programme *Mezi námi* (*Between Us*) on Czech Radio Plus. In the same programme, the report “*Řecká menšina na multikulturním festivalu Babylonfest*” (*The Greek minority at the multicultural Babylonfest festival*) was broadcast twice. In the programme *Sousedé* (*Neighbours*), Czech Television twice broadcast a report entitled “*Lyceum Řekyň*”. Other programme segments informed about the Greek minority, such as News from Culture, Czech Radio Olomouc and a report on the Greek community in Šumperk.

The Greek national minority would welcome the creation of a grant programme on the support of media outputs and information channels to minorities (websites, podcasts, internet media and periodicals).

### **Slovak minority**

In 2019, these publications on the Slovak national minority were published in the Czech Republic:

- *Listy Slovákov a Čechov, ktorí chcú o sebe vedieť*, published by DOMUS, z.s. – with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.
- *Slovenské dotyky, Magazín Slovákov v ČR*, a magazine with the greatest print run by far (8300), published by Slovensko-český klub, z.s. – with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad.
- *Korene, Prvý slovenský časopis v ČR*, published in the form of an insert to the magazine *Slovenské dotyky*, published by Obec Slovákov v ČR, z.s. – with the support of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad.

On Czech Radio, a separate programme for the Slovak national minority is regularly broadcast under the name *Stretnutie*. In March 2019, Czech Television included a report on the Slovak minority in the broadcast of its nationality magazine *Sousedé* (*Neighbours*) (Czech Television Ostrava). Bona Fide, z.s. regularly prepares the programme *Slovenská mozaika* (*Slovak Mosaic*) on Rádio Zet. The Slovak minority would especially appreciate a more active approach to broadcasting for minorities from Czech Television, though it also appreciates the inclusion of the Monday Slovak blocks. The interest of Czech Radio in minorities is considerable, even though the Slovak minority would appreciate the institutionalisation of a Slovak editorial team.

## Serbian minority

In 2019, the association Srbské sdružení sv. Sáva, published the fifteenth year of its magazine *Srpska reč*. The magazine is a bimonthly and is published in A4 format in a print run of 400 issues. The magazine is printed in the original Serbian letters, i.e. Serbian Cyrillic. The magazine's editorial staff has three professional reporters, members of the oldest Serbian Association of Reporters.

The association Srbský kulturní Spolek Radost did not publish any publications in 2019. It is, however, planning on creating an editorial staff and to launch publication activities, with its main goal being providing educative information on Serbia and the Serbian minority in an electronic format. Four issues of a magazine a year are planned in the form of mirror texts in Serbian and Czech. To implement this plan, Spolek Radost has prepared a project that will be submitted in 2020 to the Ministry of Culture as part of grant proceedings.

## Ukrainian minority

The Ukrainian national minority publishes the two following magazines with the support of the Ministry of Culture. The first of these is the magazine *Porohy* (print run of 1000 issues/month), the second *Ukrajinský žurnál (Ukrainian Journal)* (print run of 1200 issues/month).

Associations of the Ukrainian national minority use several profiles on social networks for the purpose of informing their members. Information on the life of the minority, events, the integration process, education opportunities, etc. are available on the portals *ukrajinci.cz* and *uaportal.cz*. Expert commentary on Czech/Ukraine relations are available on the Facebook profile *My a Ukrajina*. Information on the association activities of the individual organisations are available, for example, on *dzerelo.cz*, *erudyt.cz*, *uakrok.cz*, *ukrzurnal.cz* and *rodyna.cz*.

Reports on the Ukrainian national minority are broadcast as part of the programme *Mezi námi (Between Us)* on Czech Radio Plus. In the broadcasting time of the programmes *Sousedé (Neighbours)* and *Babylon*, it is possible to learn more visually about the life of the minority. The private and Internet programmes are not registered.

## Vietnamese minority

In the Czech Republic, the Vietnamese national minority publishes *Magazín Huong Sen (Aroma of the Lotus)*, Vietmedia. Six issues came out in 2019.

Two Czech/Vietnamese dictionaries were released in 2019. The first of these is *Velký učební česko-vietnamský slovník – 6. díl V-Ž (Large Instructional Czech/Vietnamese Dictionary – Part 6 V-Ž)*, Nguyen Quoc Tien and collective, publisher: OSVĚTA – Nguyen Le Hoang, Prague 10. The second dictionary is *Česko-vietnamský ilustrovaný slovník 2. (2nd Czech/Vietnamese Illustrated Dictionary)*, Jana Dolanská Hrachová, publisher: Jana Dolanská Hrachová 2019.

In 2019, *Povídky malostranské (Tales of the Lesser Quarter)* by Jan Neruda, translated by doctor Binh Slavická (Far East Institute at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University) and the *Prorocká trilogie (Prophet's Trilogy) (Žluté nebezpečí, Sodoma a Gomora: Poselství zaniklého světa, Poslední člověk a jeho přátelé)* by Vlastimil Podracký, translated by Do Ngoc Viet Dung (Dung.Honza) and collective, were released in the series of Vietnamese translated literature.

Reports on the Vietnamese national minority are broadcast as part of the programme *Mezi námi (Between Us)* on Czech Radio Plus and the programme *Sousedé (Neighbours)* on

Czech Television. Vietnamese television VTV4 also almost regularly broadcasts reports and news on the Vietnamese community in the Czech Republic. This television station also has an editing staff in the Czech Republic, though both formats do not have a fixed broadcasting time reserved for the Vietnamese community in the Czech Republic

## 8. Financing activities to the benefit of members of national minorities from the state budget, local budgets of the regions and international sources

The public support of national minorities that simplifies the preservation of their own traditions, language and development of minority culture is realised to a great extent through grants. The individual departments support activities that fall under the areas of their responsibility and direct them through budget rules and Government Decree No. 98/2002 Coll., by which it specifies the conditions and method for providing subsidies from the state budget in the activities of the members of the national minorities and on the support of the integration of members of the Romani community, as later amended.

On the basis of the aforementioned legal regulations, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic announced calls in the grant programmes focused specifically on the activity and support of national minorities. The overview of these grant programmes and the amount of the provided financial support in 2019 is summarised in table no. 5.

Table 5 Overview of grant programmes and drawing on finances for activities of national minorities in 2019

Provider	Name of grant programme	Total amount of provided grant in CZK
Ministry of Culture	Support of cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic	10 242 900
	Support of integration of members of Romani minority	2 282 224
	Support of propagation and receipt of information in languages of national minorities	20 850 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>33 375 124</b>
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Support of education activities of national minorities	12 431 166
	Support of integration of Romani community	12 844 983
	Support of socially-disadvantaged Romani students of high schools, conservatories and vocational schools	5 096 048
<b>Total</b>		<b>30 372 197</b>
Office of the Government of the Czech Republic	Support of implementation of European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages	2 888 431
	Prevention of social exclusion and community work	11 749 622
	Support of field work	11 762 188
	Support of coordinators for Romani matters	5 252 566
<b>Total</b>		<b>14 638 053</b>
<b>Total for aforementioned grant programmes: CZK 78 385 374</b>		

Beyond the grant programmes specified in table 5, the departments also provided financial support in 2019 to other activities of associations of national minorities in the framework of

grant programmes that are not specifically oriented on national minorities, but may concern their activities, or to activities of other subjects that concern the support of national minorities in the Czech Republic. This primarily applies to the other grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture or Ministry of Justice, as part of which another CZK 130 190 096 was provided, especially for the support of cultural activities - cinematography, where projects such as the festival *One World - 21st annual International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival* and the *23rd International Documentary Film Festival Ji.hlava 2019* are supported. All of these activities are described further in the text.

The individual regions also provide substantial support for the activities of members of national minorities. In the regions where a higher number of members of national minorities traditionally lives, the grant programmes usually focus directly on the activities of associations of national minorities. The regions also, however, generally support the activities of national minorities through individual grants or in the framework of further grant programmes of the regions. In 2019, the activities of national minorities were supported in a total of 10 regions of the Czech Republic (including the City of Prague). A total of CZK 13 569 180 was spent on these activities.

### 8.1. Grant programmes of Ministry of Culture

The *Programme for the support of cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic* falls under the responsibility of the Department of Regional and Minority Culture. The grant selection committee of this programme is the advisory body of the Deputy Minister of Culture, under whose responsibility the issue of national minorities falls.

The grant selection proceedings are meant for individuals and legal entities registered or founded by the end of the year before last that have demonstrably performed activities for the benefit of national minorities for at least one year, with the exception of state public-benefit organisations established by the Ministry of Culture.

Supported activities:

- a) artistic activities (theatres, museums, galleries, libraries);
- b) culture/education and training activities;
- c) studies and analyses of minority culture and folk traditions;
- d) multiethnic cultural events (aiming, for example, at combating the negative expressions of extremism, race and nationality intolerance and xenophobia);
- e) publishing activities (non-periodical publications);
- f) documentation of minority culture.

In 2019, there were 63 projects from 49 applicants submitted to the grant selection proceedings. The requested grants amounted to CZK 15 858 500. Most of the applicants had the status of associations, but public-benefit organisations of municipalities and community interest companies also participated. A total of 46 applicants received state grants for 59 projects, with the total volume of the grants amounting to CZK 10 242 900. Table 6 shows an overview of the provided finances in this grant programme for the individual national minorities.

Table 6 Total financial support in CZK for the year 2019 for the individual national minorities in the grant selection proceedings for the support of cultural activities of members of national minorities

<b>national minority</b>	<b>total financial support (in CZK)</b>
Bulgarian	545 000
Croatian	358 000
Hungarian	845 000
German	450 000
Polish	2 756 000

Romani	1 250 000
Russian	275 000
Greek	1 105 000
Slovakian	1 506 000
Serbian	70 000
Ukrainian	360 000
Vietnamese	245 000
Other associations + multiethnic	232 000
other subjects (apart from associations, including two projects of public-benefit organisations)	245 900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10 242 900</b>

In 2019, the Department of Regional and Minority Culture of the Ministry of Culture also supported the activities of the Romani national minority as part of the grant selection proceedings in the *Programme for the support of integration of members of Romani minority*. This programme has been announced in accordance with the Government Resolution No. 122 from 21 February 2007 on the Government Decree that amends Government Decree No. 98/2002 Coll., which specifies the conditions and manner of providing grants from the state budget for activities of members of national minorities and for the support of the integration of members of the Romani community, as amended by Government Decree No. 262/2005 Coll. Projects in this Programme can be focused on artistic, culture/education and training activities, expert studies expanding the knowledge and supporting the research on Romani culture, traditions and history, the documentation of Romani culture, publishing activities (non-periodical publications), cultural events aimed at combating the negative expressions of extremism, race and nationality intolerance and xenophobia. A total of 27 applicants applied with 30 projects to the grant selection proceedings for the support of the integration of members of the Romani minority. Most of the applicants had the status of associations, but church organisations, public-benefit organisations of municipalities and community interest companies also participated. Grants totalling CZK 2 282 224 were provided to 23 projects from 22 applicants.

The Media and Audiovisual Department of the Ministry of Culture is the guarantor of the programme *Support of propagation and receipt of information in languages of national minorities* (hereinafter referred to as the "Programme"). Grants are provided on the basis of Government Decree No. 98/2002 Coll., which specifies the conditions and manner of providing grants from the state budget for activities of members of national minorities and for the support of the integration of members of the Romani community, as amended. The goal of the support is to create conditions for the propagation and receipt of information in languages of national minorities and concerns:

- a) the publishing of periodical media published in the languages of national minorities, which are not published for the purpose of monetary gain, are publicly distributed in the Czech Republic and the grants are used only for demonstrable expenses connected with its publication or distribution,
- b) broadcasting in languages of national minorities, which is not performed for the purpose of monetary gain, is distributed within the Czech Republic and the grants can only be used for demonstrable expenses connected with the production of the programmes and their distribution.

In 2019, the programme had CZK 20 850 000 available. A total of 26 projects applied for the grant proceedings and 23 projects from thirteen national minorities were supported by grants. Four Romani projects were supported, three Slovak and German, two projects to the benefit of Polish, Bulgarian and Ukrainian minorities and one each to the benefit of Greek, Russian, Rusyn, Jewish, Serbian, Hungarian and Vietnamese minorities. One media project for the benefit of the Slovak minority was supported, otherwise the support was for printed

periodicals. From the total value of the Programme, CZK 3 270 000 (15.7%) was for the benefit of Romani projects. This was for the support of periodicals, newspapers and the magazines *Romano džaniben*, *Romano hangos*, *Romano vod'i* and *Kereka*.

Beyond the aforementioned grant programmes, the Ministry of Culture also provided finances for the activities of national minorities in other programmes, such as 2019 *Support of Regional Cultural Traditions*, 2019 *Support of Regional Cultural Traditions - Support of Celebrations of 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy* or funds provided as part of the grant proceedings of the Department of Art, Literature and Libraries of the Ministry of Culture.

The Department of Research and Development of the Ministry of Culture from 2018 until now supports the consortium project entitled "Legal, Historical and Social Science Aspects of New and Traditional Minorities in the Czech Republic", whose recipients are Charles University - Faculty of Law, the Institute of Contemporary History of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, the Silesian University in Opava - Faculty of Public Policies in Opava and the Silesian Museum. The project follows the NAKI project performed at the Faculty of Law of Charles University in the years 2012 to 2015 "Problems of legal position of minorities and their long-term development", also partially the NAKI project "Silesia: Memory - identity - region" performed by the Silesian Museum in the years 2011 to 2015. Cooperation with the council is also used as part of the project<sup>49</sup>.

In 2019, the Ministry of Culture's Financial Department, Division of Investments and Public Procurement also arranged investment events concerning the reconstruction of buildings. In the Support of Reproduction of Assets of Regional Cultural Facilities programme, two events were focused on national minorities, specifically:

- *Museum of Moravian Croats – reconstruction of building in Jevišovka*. The goal of the event is to build a museum and cultural/social centre for the Croatian minority in the Czech Republic. The event is divided into two phases, in the 1st phase the original property was reconstructed, in the 2nd phase, which is taking place from 2018 - 2020, the addition to the museum for the purpose of expanding the space for exhibits and establishing community spaces should be resolved. The total expenses for the 2nd phase should amount to CZK 24 986 233.
- *Project preparation of "Memorial to Silence in Bubny Station complex" event*. The recipient of the grant in this case is Památník Šoa Praha o.p.s. The goal of the event is to get project documentation for the implementation and to ensure all the activities before the launch of the construction. The total expenses of the event are CZK 7 750 000.

The project entitled *MRC – Modernisation of IT* was supported as part of the Support of Reproduction of Assets of State Cultural Facilities programme. The recipient of the grant is the Museum of Romani Culture. The total amount of the grant was CZK 1 500 000. The goal of the event is the modernisation of information technologies in the MRC building. The modernisation of IT includes the structural modification of the existing MRC building for the placement of a new server room, the delivery and installation of two servers, including software, the delivery and assembly of a new storage site, including SW, the delivery of 12 user stations, including SW, the delivery of an A3 colour printer and one scanner and also the connection of the building by new optic cables.

In 2019, the Department of International Relations of the Ministry of Culture supported a project focussed on the Polish national minority. The project of the organisation My.Aktivita o.p.s. entitled *Rocznik 89* was supported in the amount of CZK 127 000.

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<sup>49</sup> <https://www.rvvi.cz/cep?s=jednoduche-vyhledavani&ss=detail&n=0&h=DG18P02OVV064>

The Churches Department of the Ministry of Culture announced grant selection proceedings for 2019, specifically the Competition for the Support of Important Cultural Activities of Church and Religious Societies and Competition for the Support of the Development of Religious and Religious/Cultural Activities of Associations. Activities increasing the information and interest about the religious area defined by the activities of registered churches and religious societies are supported. In 2019, the Churches Department did not provide any grants primarily for the support of the activities of national minorities. The support of certain religious/cultural events could, however, lead to the indirect support of these groups and their activities. In 2019, some cultural events concerning the Jewish community were supported, though here in the sense of a religious community, not a national minority.

Beyond the aforementioned grants, the Ministry of Culture also provides support in other areas that can concern the theme of national minorities or themes on the support of human rights in general. This includes, for example, the National Institute of Folk Culture and its project "Homeland - a scenic presentation of the culture of national minorities living in the Czech Republic in the International Folklore Festival Strážnice". The Ministry of Culture supported this project with an amount of CZK 300 000. The content of the project is oriented on the presentation of the dance and music folklore of national minorities.

There is also support for cultural activities in the area of cinematography and media that are primarily oriented on the support of projects that popularise the given area or increase the awareness of viewers and the professional public about these projects. At the same time, each year projects oriented on documentary films (that are usually about the issues of national minorities) are supported, as are projects that inform on the cultural activities of minorities with the awareness that getting to know the culture, lifestyle and language of national minorities contributes to better mutual coexistence.

## **8.2. Grant programmes of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**

The goal of the *Support of education activities of national minorities* programme is the support of the creation of conditions for the fulfilment of the state policy in the area of education in the languages of national minorities, the support of the education of children coming from different linguistic and cultural environments, the support of projects for the multicultural education of children, students and youth to the age of 26 aimed at increasing the awareness of general human belonging, the awareness of history and cultures of other nationalities, leading to mutual tolerance and the fight against racism and xenophobia.

Topic A: arranging and maintaining the conditions for the development of education in the languages of national minorities includes:

1. The development of the parent tongue of national minorities (educational activities, courses, publications, projects).
2. Educational activities for members of national minorities - children, students and youth, including the issuing of publications and educational texts for children, students and youth in minority languages as part of a wider project oriented on education. Language courses for children, students and youth from national minorities.
3. The creation of teaching materials in languages of national minorities with an orientation on the cultural traditions and history of national minorities and ethnicities living on the territory of the Czech Republic for children, students and youth (an e-learning format will primarily be preferred).

Topic B: providing sufficient information on the awareness of the history and cultures of other nations, which lead to mutual tolerance and the fight against racism and xenophobia includes:

1. The creation and implementation of educational programmes and teaching materials for children, students and youth and pedagogical workers leading to the development of humanism and the fight against xenophobia, race, nationality and religious intolerance, racism and anti-Semitism and also projects oriented on the theme of the holocaust.
2. Discovering Europe and the world (cultural habits and historical barriers, work with the stories of children and families from other countries and cultures, mutual awareness and understanding - what we have in common and how we differ) - project assignments. The use of supporting methods, such as biographical work, Socrates dialogues, multicultural calendars.

The allocation for the given call amounted to CZK 15 039 000 in the year 2019. Projects in the total amount of CZK 12 431 166 were supported as part of the grant proceedings.

The call for grants for the support of integration of Romani community is oriented on ensuring the basic conditions for the development of the co-education of Romani students in the educational mainstream through projects that support the preschool education of Romani children, increase their participation in preschool education and the preparedness in the successful start of school attendance, support the cooperation of the family and the school in the area of preschool and elementary education, contribute to the successful education of Romani students in elementary school and act as prevention against the premature ending of the education of Romani students, support the success transition of Romani students from elementary school to secondary school and help the successful integration of Romani and other children and students through leisure activities. The call is oriented on the support of activities to which not only Romani children can join, but also children who share a common space so that it is possible to develop inter-cultural dialogue and support the mutual understanding in this process.

The allocation for the given call amounted to CZK 12 875 000 in the year 2019. Projects in the total amount of CZK 12 844 983 were supported as part of the grant proceedings.

The call for grants for the support of socially-disadvantaged Romani students of high schools, conservatories and vocational schools for the year 2019 is oriented on the support of legal entities performing the activities of high schools, conservatories and vocational schools entered in the School Register according to the School Act for ensuring the financial and material support for Romani students being educated at high schools, conservatories and vocational schools if they are citizens of the Czech Republic and the expenses connected with the secondary or vocational education cause financial difficulties for their families. The call is meant for the partial or complete payment of the expenses of students for the payment of meals, accommodations, travelling expenses, payments for education and school supplies and also for the payment of activities (individual consultations, group activities, work with the students), which will be arranged by the implementer of the activities if the applicants for the grant were allocated finances for this purpose. The goal of the call is to support Romani students in their studies, to improve the educational results of Romani students, to prevent the premature departure of Romani students from high schools, conservatories and vocational schools, to increase the number of Romani students that successfully complete their studies at high schools, conservatories and vocational schools, to increase the number of Romani students that will be motivated to study at universities.

The following activities are supported in the call:



- a) activity A: ensuring the financial and material support for the school fees, meals, travel expense, accommodations and school supplies);
- b) activity B: ensuring the support of education (support for students that request support as part of activity A).

The allocation for the given call amounted to CZK 7 000 000 in the year 2019. As part of the grant proceedings, projects in the total amount of CZK 2 967 498 were supported in the period from January to June 2019 and CZK 2 128 550 in the period from September to December.

In addition to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports' aforementioned grant programmes, calls have also been announced supporting the inclusion of students from the ranks of national minorities financed as part of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education. It primarily concerns calls in the "coordinated approach" to socially-excluded localities realised by the Agency for Social Inclusion.

### **8.3. Grant programme of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**

The goal of the grant programme for the support of the implementation of the *European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages* is to fulfil the international obligations<sup>50</sup> that the Czech Republic assumed, specifically to preserve and support the historical regional and minority languages. This specifically applies to the support of Polish; German; Romani; Slovak and Moravian Croatian in three themes. They were used to support educational activities in all levels of education beyond standard education, which is focused on the teaching of a minority language or the instruction is in the minority language. Qualitative and quantitative analyses focus on research of the use of minority languages, indications of the areas of their support and proposals of the forms of this support were also supported. The last theme concerns the support of the use of traditional and proper forms of local place names in minority languages. This theme is meant only for municipalities and it places special attention on the production, installation and maintenance of bilingual signs with the names of the municipalities, their parts, streets and other public places and the designation of buildings of state authorities and regional governments.

In 2019, a total of 14 organisations received CZK 2 888 431 of support. As far as the themes of the support are concerned, all of the supported projects fell under support concerning educational activities. Most of the organisations' activities were focused on the release of publications, texts and articles or were oriented primarily on educational events supporting a minority language or were part of projects for the implementation of education activities beyond standard instruction. There was support for 7 projects supporting Polish (CZK 948 375), 3 projects supporting Slovak (CZK 630 268), 2 projects supporting Romani (CZK 610 482) and German was supported through one project (CZK 244 950). In addition, a multilinguistic project in the amount of CZK 454 356 supported the association Spolek Zaedno oriented on multicultural training with an emphasis on the languages of national minorities in the Czech Republic.

In 2019, the Office of the Government also administered 3 grant programmes oriented on the integration of the Romani national minority.

The grant programme Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Work is of a preventative nature and is meant for non-profit organisations for the implementation of non-investment projects supporting the members of the Romani minority. The programme for the prevention of social exclusion and community work is oriented on support and aid for Romani with the goal of avoiding social exclusion and removing its consequences.

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<sup>50</sup> Pursuant to Government Resolution No. 315 from 27 April 2010.

The following two activities are specifically supported:

- projects using the principle of community work in Romani communities/localities, i.e. projects providing support and aid to people living in Romani communities/localities to acquire the skills to resolve their situation through their own power, with the support of other persons or through the joint efforts of the given community, which also leads to the improvement of neighbourly relations;
- activities that complement the field work, social programmes and social services for which the applicant demonstrates an analysis of the target group and the situation in the community/locality that are required to prevent social exclusion or contribute to improving the situation of the inhabitants of Romani localities.

A supplementary part of the project can be educational and informative activities, i.e. organising an awareness campaign for the public, participation in exhibitions and public presentations, including accompanying programmes, holding professional conferences and seminars, the operation of an informational web portal, preparing examples of good practices (e.g. in the form of manuals, including the preparation of the methodical procedures in the given area) and the issuing of information materials, pamphlets, printed matter and publications.

In 2019, 21 projects were supported in the total amount of CZK 11 749 622 as part of the grant proceedings. In 2019, thirteen projects worked with the community work method. As far as the projects oriented on activities complementing the field work, social programmes and social services are concerned, there were 8 projects supported in this area. From a regional perspective, 34 localities were supported in 21 projects, since some organisations operated in multiple localities within a single project. A total of approximately 9700 people were involved in the project activities.

The purpose of the grant programme Support of Field Work is to secure the type of performed work of the field worker employed by the municipality or public-benefit organisations established by a municipality for this purpose. The focal point of the field work is direct work with a target group in their natural environment. The field worker performs the following scope of activities: enlightenment of the rights of the members of the Romani minority and support of active citizenship for members of the Romani minority; support of target group when resolving problems in the area of education, employment, health, housing, poverty and discrimination; work with the target group (individuals or community) leading to the empowerment of its members.

In 2019, a total of 35 municipalities received CZK 11 762 188 of support. A total of 53 jobs were created in the supported municipalities with an average of 0.84 full time equivalents. The field workers performed a total of 43 341 interventions in the area of education, employment, health, housing, poverty and discrimination. They also provided information in 1777 cases on the possibility of participation and inclusion in the activities of community interest companies and information on the possibility of participation in public matters in 1351 cases. They also held 60 events with the community.

The grant programme Support of Coordinators for Romani Matters is meant for securing the type of performed work of the Regional Coordinator for Romani Matters in the organisational structure of the regional office, including his needs on the regional level in connection with the provisions of Section 67 (1) (f) of the Act on Regions. The secondary aim is to ensure stability of the institutional network, through which the state communicates with and asserts the central integration of policies on the regional level and which significantly contributes to the coherent and coordinated creation and implementation of Romani integration policies in the Czech Republic. As part of the grant programme for the year 2019, the financing of the

position of the Regional Coordinator was arranged, including their requirements, in 13 regions (apart from the City of Prague), with the support amounting to CZK 5 252 566.

#### **8.4. Grant programmes of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs**

The projects of the MLSA with the target group of “National Minorities” are primarily oriented on the integration of the Romani minority in the job market. Two projects are oriented on the support of the Polish national minority in the area of Třinec and Jablunkov. The members of national minorities, however, also participate in the projects for other target groups, e.g. people over 50, people up to 25 and youth up to 18 years of age without qualifications or persons with a low level of qualifications, persons on long-term unemployment, etc.

The goal of the aforementioned projects is to resolve social exclusion on the job market. The most common activities are motivational courses, work diagnostics, education and requalification courses, consulting, professional experience, trial jobs, the mediation of employment and the support of jobs, often while drawing on wage contributions.

As part of its activities, the MLSA also announces calls oriented on socially-excluded locations. In 2019 this applied to call no. 03\_16\_052 - The Support of Social Inclusion in Socially-Excluded Localities, 3rd call, which was announced as part of the coordinated approach to socially-excluded locations, which is supported as part of Investment Priority 2.1 of Operational Programme Employment (OPE). The total allocated to the call amounted to CZK 1 200 000 000. The given call was meant for municipalities as bearers of the Social Inclusion Strategy, subsequently cooperating with the Agency for Social Inclusion on the basis of cooperation agreements (known as memoranda), while the supported target groups within this call are national minorities and persons living in socially-excluded localities.

The call is also meant for projects based on the Thematic Action Plan (TAP), created on the basis of the remote partial and comprehensive support of the Agency for Social Inclusion. The Thematic Action Plan is a new tool through which the Agency for Social Inclusion is reacting to the situation in localities.

As part of the call oriented on socially-excluded localities, the following are among the supported activities:

- Support of social services (services of social prevention and professional social consultation);
- Support of professional implementation of social work;
- Support of community social work and community centres, including the support of a coordinating role in this area;
- Support of persons in access to housing;
- Support of programmes of legal and financial literacy and the prevention and resolution of indebtedness and over-indebtedness;
- Support of persons in access to employment and maintaining employment;
- Support of services for vulnerable children and families and support aimed at renewing family dysfunction;
- Support of services for persons addicted or at risk of addiction and for their family members;
- Support of activities contributing to the fight against discrimination;
- Support of programmes for the prevention of socially pathological phenomena, prevention of criminality and public order;
- Support of services for persons after serving a prison sentence.

The MLSA, as the managing body of the OPE, also publishes other calls that are not only oriented on the national minorities or persons living in socially-excluded localities. These target groups, however, are given in the lists of target groups supported by the call. They are:

- Call No. 03\_16\_048 - Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI), announced as part of Investment Priority 2.1 of the OPE, which is aimed at the support of solutions for the issue of regional policies and the development of metropolitan areas through integrated ITI tools.
- Call No. 03\_16\_049 - Integrated Territorial Development Plans (ITDP), announced as part of Investment Priority 2.1 of the OPE, which is aimed at the support of solutions for the issue of regional policies through integrated ITDP tools.
- Call No. 03\_18\_088 - Support of Activities and Programmes as part of Social Integration, announced as part of Investment Priority 2.1 of the OPE, which is aimed at the support of activities that have a direct impact on the target group, i.e. activities oriented on direct work with the specific target group in the area of social inclusion.
- Call No. 03\_16\_047 – Community-Led Local Development (CLLD), which is announced as part of Investment Priority 2.3 Community-Led Local Development Strategy, and it is meant for Local Action Groups (LAGs) with the approval of the programme framework of the Operational Programme Employment of the relevant Community-Led Local Development Strategy (CLLDS).

#### **8.5. Grant programmes of Ministry of Defence**

As part of the grant heading *Development of Services for Victims of Crimes* provided on the basis of Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on the Victims of Crimes, the Romani centre DROM was the recipient of financial support in 2019. The provided grant was in the amount of CZK 287 096. It was possible to receive this grant for programmes oriented on these accredited activities: providing legal information and restorative programmes (activities and process aiming at renewal of state which was interrupted as a result of a crime that was committed).

#### **8.6. Grant programmes of Ministry of Regional Development**

The Ministry of Regional Development, as the managing body of the Integrated Regional Operational Programme, also publishes calls as part of a coordinated approach to socially-excluded localities, realised by the Agency for Social Inclusion. The integration of the Romani minority is primarily supported as part of this operational programme, as well.

#### **8.7. Activities beyond the grant programmes of the state budget**

### **Ministry of the Interior**

The Ministry of the Interior implements the project “*Introduction of Police Specialists for Work with the Romani Minority in Socially-Excluded Locations*”.

In 2013, the Directorate of the Riot Police (hereinafter referred to as the “DRP”) was entrusted with the preparation and subsequent implementation of the previously-defined Project No. 6 - “*Introduction of Police Specialists for Work with the Romani Minority in Socially-Excluded Locations*”, which was part of Programme CZ-14 (Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organised Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups), financed from Norwegian financial mechanisms. This project ended on 30 April 2017. The DRP will lead this project as part of its sustainability until April 2022. The project’s main goals include training a total of 40 police officers of basic police organisations, whose performance of the service will primarily be oriented on the direct performance of service among the Romani minority, also the increasing of the qualifications of the existing

liaison officers for minorities of the individual regional directorates of the Czech Police and the training of 10 police managers in the given issue.

The current state of specialists in the regional directorates:

- Regional Directorate of Police of Moravian-Silesian Region - 28 specialists (10 original + 18 new);
- Regional Directorate of Police of Olomouc Region - 12 specialists (10 original + 2 new);
- Regional Directorate of Police of Karlovy Vary Region - 10 specialists;
- Regional Directorate of Police of Ústí nad Labem Region - 10 specialists.

In 2019, 12 new posts were created at the Regional Directorate of the Moravian-Silesian Region and at the Regional Directorate of the Olomouc Region 2 police specialists in Romani issues.

In relation to education at the Department of Minority Issues, the DRP, as the expert guarantor, cooperates closely with the Department of Police Training and Service Preparation of the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "DPTSP"). The issues of national minorities are part of the training subjects of the basic professional preparation, which is realised in police schools. The task of the police training is to equip the officers with the corresponding competencies, which will simplify their orientation in the differences of cultural values and behaviour patterns, make their approach to minorities more efficient and help the police as a whole to adapt to serving under conditions of increasing social diversification. The expected output of police training in the given area is to inform the police officers about the specific details of minorities, to increase their competencies and professionally performed work based on the mutual trust of the police officer and the member of the minority and the successful import of law and justice to these communities.

In the period from 2011 to 2019, the Police College and Police High School of the Ministry of the Interior in Holešov (hereinafter referred to as the "PC and PHS MI in Holešov"), in cooperation with the Military Police Vocational School in Vyškov, organised the specialised "*Police in a Multicultural Environment*" training. The training was held in a scope of 4 times a year, 24 instructional hours, and it is meant for police officers of the Regional Directorates placed in working groups for work with national minorities (in 2019, fifty members of the working group were trained). In 2019, the teachers of the Police schools and police officers from the working group participated in regular seminars, instructional methodical employment and professional lectures (e.g. a meeting with the regional Romani coordinators, JMZ Solenice, 2 times a year DRP meetings with SD) on a countrywide and regional level.

In the area of the Czech Police's work in relation to minorities, regular training activities have been regularly held since 2011 with three-day experiential training for police specialists in minorities and members of the minority working groups. The goal of this innovative project was to strengthen the sensibility of the police specialists while working with the bearers of the cultural, religious and other specifics, through an intensive and suggestive experience in model situations, with all the problematic aspects (such as, for example, a communication/language barrier, discrimination, a difficult position in negotiations with the holder of power when defending their rights, distrust, fear, etc.). As of 1 April 2018, the DPTSP accredited a school training programme oriented on the issues of minorities and multicultural competencies. On the basis of the approved and accredited training programme, the dates for the individual courses were entered into the EKIS II system for the year 2018 and the following years. In 2019, 5 courses were listed (the training of 14 Romani specialists and 14 members of working groups).

## Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

National minorities are one of the target groups of social services. The goal of social services is to provide aid and support to individuals in difficult social situations for the purpose of their social integration or the prevention of social exclusion. The following table shows the number of social services for the target group of national minorities registered as at 7 January 2020. The most heavily represented social services include professional social consulting and field programmes. Social activation services for families with children and low-threshold facilities for children and youth are also numerous.

Table 7 Number of selected types of social services that explicitly present national minorities in the target group in the register of providers as at 7 January 2020

type of social service	number
shelters	14
halfway houses	2
contact centres	3
crisis aid	3
low-threshold day centres	1
low-threshold facilities for children and youth	59
night shelters	2
professional social consultation	75
aftercare services	1
social activation services for families with children	46
social activation services for seniors and people with disabilities	1
social therapeutic workshops	2
social rehabilitation	16
crisis aid lines	9
field programmes	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>304</b>

Source: Social services register as at 7 January 2020

The social services of the MLSA are provided regardless of race, nationality, faith and sex, i.e. there are about 5500 types of social services that members of national minorities can use.

### 8.8. Grant programmes of regions for support of members of national minorities

The activities of member of national minorities in the Czech Republic are also supported every year from the budgets of the individual regions. A list of the grant programmes through which activities of national minorities were supported in 2019 (including the grant programmes for the support of the integration of the Romani minority) are given below.

#### South Bohemian Region

The region does not announce a separate grant heading for the support of the activities meant for national minorities. In 2019, the grant programme “*Support of Services not Defined in Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services*” was announced and implemented, where Measure No. 2 was oriented on the support of the social inclusion of people threatened by social exclusion in the South Bohemian Region. The purpose of the programme was to co-

finance specific projects, programmes and other activities for the support of services for citizens threatened by social exclusion, primarily in risky locations of the South Bohemian Region, which lead to the social exclusion of individuals or families regardless of ethnicity or other characteristics.

### **South Moravian Region**

The South Moravian Region announces a separate grant heading for the support of the activities of national minorities. It is the *South Moravian Region's Grant Programme for the Activities of National Minorities*, which includes financial support of non-investment projects oriented on the support of education programmes in the area of national minorities, for the support of leisure activities for children and youth (art, dance, drama and sports activities) in the area of national minorities, for cultural activities and events of national minorities (including publishing activities), for the support of extraordinary cultural events of local, regional and transregional importance in the area of national minorities. There was CZK 1 500 000 allocated for this grant programme in the budget of the South Moravian Region for the year 2019.

The Statutory City of Brno also supports the activities of the members of national minorities in the South Moravian Region each year from its budget. In 2019, it supported projects in the total amount of CZK 1 400 000.

### **Karlovy Vary Region**

The Karlovy Vary Region does not establish any grant heading oriented specifically only on national minorities. Minorities draw on grants from the cultural, social, educational and sports areas. Amounts up to CZK 200 000 are approved by the Council of the Karlovy Vary Region and above this amount by the Local Authority of the Karlovy Vary Region.

Beyond the grant system, the Karlovy Vary Region provided CZK 274 480 of support for the activities of members of national minorities. This primarily concerned these supported cultural events:

- A grant in the amount of CZK 180 000 was provided to the association Obec Slováků v ČR – Karlovy Vary branch for *Den národnostních menšin (National Minorities Day)*.
- CZK 4500 was provided to arrange the meeting of committees with a musical performance by members of minorities at the Regional Office.
- CZK 39 930 was provided for the publishing of *Kalendář jídel národností žijících v Karlovarském kraji (Calendar of Foods of Nationalities Living in the Karlovy Vary Region)*.
- Obec Slováků ČR - Karlovy Vary branch was supported with CZK 10 000 for the event *Slovenská veselice (Slovak Celebration)*.
- The association Spolek Žijeme Tuhnice z.s. was supported with CZK 20 000 for the event *Odsunutí němečtí rodáci z Karlovarska vyprávějí (Tales of Displaced German Natives from the Karlovy Vary Region)*.
- The translation of the book of memoirs *Krondorf - Kyselka* from the original German was supported with an amount of CZK 20 000 (municipality of Stráž nad Ohří). The association Česko-německý fond budoucnosti contributed CZK 100 000 to the translation and the Committee of National Minorities recommended a local professional translator.

## Hradec Králové Region

The Hradec Králové Region establishes a grant programme for the *Support of Cultural Activities of National minorities*. In 2019, CZK 80 000 was used from this programme. Specifically, these projects were supported:

- 2nd annual Romani Festival, recipient of grant Džas dureder dživipnaha z.s. in the amount of CZK 40 000;
- Bašavel - festival of Romani culture, recipient of grant Náchodské komunitní centrum - o.s. in the amount of CZK 40 000.

The Hradec Králové Region also implements the grant programme *Support of Operation of Shops in the Countryside*. According to the given names, it is possible that the support also goes to operators from the ranks of the Vietnamese national minority.

Beyond the grant programmes, it is also possible to request a grant for other purposes, which the applicant specifies individually. It is usually only possible to get the support in the event that the purpose for which the grant is requested cannot be requested in the regular grant programme of the Hradec Králové Region. Either the Council of the Hradec Králové Region or the Local Authority of the Hradec Králové Region decides on the approval of the grant (according to the requested amount) in accordance with the Act on Regions. Grants were provided for the following projects as part of this support:

- Published book: Prof. Evžen Rychlík – učenec a vlastenec z Východní Volyně (vybrané spisy), Sdružení Čechů z Volyně a jejich přátel, z.s., amount of grant: CZK 20 000.
- ROMFEST 2019, in Commemoration of the Deceased Rudolf Polák, Radek Polák, amount of grant: CZK 70 000.
- Sports against Drugs, Džas dureder dživipnaha z.s., amount of grant: CZK 25 000.
- 2019 Days of Ukrainian Culture in Hradec Králové and the Hradec Králové Region, Regionální ukrajinský spolek ve Východních Čechách, amount of grant: CZK 50 000.

## Liberec Region

The Liberec Region announced a separate grant heading in 2019 for the support of activities of national minorities. It is the *Support of Integration of National Minorities and Foreigners* programme, for which the total allocation in 2019 amounted to CZK 1 000 000.

Minority organisations and communities could also ask for financial support as part of the *Grant Fund of the Liberec Region* for leisure activities, sports, healthcare or culture, for example. The grants provided from the Grant Fund of the Liberec Region represent a form of financial support by the region for projects under defined material, financial and time conditions to programmes or sub-programmes announced by the region by the individual departments of the region and the corresponding call for submitting requests for grants from the region's budget.

Minority organisations and communities of the Liberec Region can apply for grant programmes and sub-programmes on the Republic level:

- Programmes of the Department of Education, Youth and Sports
- Programmes of the Department of Social Affairs
- Programmes of the Department of Tourism, Monument Care and Culture
- Programmes of the Department of Regional Development and European Projects



The cultural events of national minorities were also supported by individual grants from the budget of the towns of the Liberec Region. This specifically applies to these activities:

- Lumen Vitae, z.s., Dance Contest – KALA JAKHA Festival, grant in the amount of CZK 50 000 (*Grant Programme for Implementation of Cultural Events in Česká Lípa*).
- LAMPA z.s., KALA JAKHA (dance class), grant in the amount of CZK 10 000 (Mimoň).
- LAMPA z.s., Tábor Snílek V., grant in the amount of CZK 10 000 (Mimoň).
- Rodina v centru, z.ú., Celebration of International Romani Day, grant in the amount of CZK 20 000 (Nový Bor),
- Rodina v centru, z.ú., Support of year-long activities, grant in the amount of CZK 80 000 (Nový Bor).

Beyond the grant programmes, cultural events for national minorities were organised in the Liberec Region in 2019. These were:

- Music Festival of National minorities, implemented by Zapsaný spolkem “Liberecké fórum”. A grant in the amount of CZK 70 000 was provided for this activity.
- Concert by Bengale Manusha, organised by Romany art workshop, z.s. under the auspices of the statutory representative of the Governor of the Liberec Region, Mgr. Petr Tulpa. A grant in the amount of CZK 5000 was provided for this activity.
- International Romani Day in Jablonec nad Nisou 2019, organised by Romská hospodářskou radou ČR. This cultural/music event was held on 23 March 2019 in Klub Woko Jablonec nad Nisou and a contribution in the amount of CZK 4000 was provided for it.
- Journey to the Past, organised by BACHTALE, z.s. A trip was taken to Auschwitz as part of this activity, including participation in a memorial service. A grant in the amount of CZK 10 000 was provided for this activity.
- Support of activities of associations ROMA Tanvald, z.s. and Romany art workshop, z.s. (Tanvald). Each of the organisations received a contribution for its activities in the amount of CZK 10 000.

## **Moravian-Silesian Region**

Each year, the Moravian-Silesian Region announces a grant programme oriented on the support of activities of members of national minorities living in the Moravian-Silesian Region. In 2019, CZK 1 650 000 of support was provided to organisations arranging activities for members of national minorities in the grant programme announced for the support of activities of members of national minorities living in the Moravian-Silesian Region. The programme for the support of activities of members of national minorities living in the Moravian-Silesian Region for the year 2019 was announced on the basis of a Resolution of the Council of the Moravian-Silesian Region, Resolution No. 49/4308 from 23 October 2018, when the conditions of the grant programme were approved. Twenty-two projects were submitted to the programme for grants in the amount of CZK 1 497 900. Twenty-one projects from 21 organisations were supported, specifically activities for Polish, Slovak, Greek, Vietnamese and Romani national minorities.

The Moravian-Silesian Region also supported national minorities in the framework of individual grants in a total volume of CZK 2 234 800 and one project in the grant heading Programme of Activities in the Area of Culture for 2019 in the volume of CZK 82 000.

## **Olomouc Region**

The Programme for the Support of Culture in the Olomouc Region was announced for the year 2019. As part of this grant heading, organisations organising cultural activities for national minorities could request grants. A total of 5 projects were supported in the total amount of CZK 100 000 as part of this programme.

Another grant programme of the Olomouc Region, *Support of Integration of Romani Community*, was oriented on social inclusion and the prevention of the social exclusion of persons. It was targeted at the support of events/projects aimed at social inclusion and the prevention of the social exclusion of members of the Romani community in the Olomouc Region and particularly at community work. CZK 150 000 was allocated for this area. All of the applicants were supported, with the exception of Společenství Romů na Moravě, which sent its application in after the deadline. An accent on the financing of community work and community activities was chosen with regard to the fact that this area is also supported from the grant programme of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic - *Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Work*, where the requirement is at least 30% financed by the applicant. The lower number of applicants was probably caused by the use of finances from the European Union (OP Employment) and the organisation of projects as part of the Coordinated Approach to Socially-Excluded Localities in Jeseník and in Moravský Beroun, where the Agency for Social Inclusion operates in socially-excluded communities.

## **Pardubice Region**

The Pardubice Region does not establish any grant heading oriented specifically only on national minorities.

## **Plzeň Region**

The Plzeň Region does not establish any grant heading oriented specifically only on national minorities.

In 2019, the project of the Romani association ARA ART, z.s. was individually supported by the Department of Culture, Monument Care and Tourism on the basis of a Resolution by the Council of the Plzeň Region No. RPK/3212/19. The amount of CZK 60 000 was used for ARA FEST 2019 - the 3rd annual festival of Romani culture in Plzeň, the goal of which was to show the traditions and contemporary Romani cultural scene to Romani and non-Romani society, thereby contributing to a higher quality of coexistence between the Romani and the majority.

## **Capital City of Prague**

Each year, the City of Prague establishes 2 grant programmes in the area of the support of activities of national minorities in one-year financing. The first of these is the *Presentation of Minority Cultures in the City of Prague, Cultural, Social and Awareness Activities of National Minorities* and the second is *Publication Activities Related to the Relation of National Minorities to the City of Prague*.

In 2019, a multi-year grant programme was repeatedly announced for the support of activities of national minorities in the City of Prague (financing for the period of 2019 - 2022): "Continual Multi-year Activities in the Area of the Presentation of National Minority Cultures in the City of Prague".

As part of the *Presentation of Minority Cultures in the City of Prague, Cultural, Social and Awareness Activities of National Minorities* grant programme, the projects of 80 applicants were supported in the total amount of CZK 5 297 000 (though a total financial amount of CZK 5 694 000 was approved for the support of one-year projects in the area of national minorities).

As part of the *Publication Activities Related to the Relation of National Minorities to the City of Prague* grant programme, the projects of 5 applicants were supported in the total amount of CZK 397 000. As part of the multi-year financing, projects in the total amount of CZK 4 520 000 were supported for the year 2019 (as part of the approval process, 1 project was newly supported in the amount of CZK 160 000 from this total amount in 2019).

Thus, a total amount of CZK 10 214 000 was drawn for the support of activities of national minorities in 2019 within the framework of all three grant programmes.

Beyond the grant programmes, the City of Prague also supported the organisation TramPOLina in 2019 in the amount of CZK 30 000 for the project "We want to continue to develop and integrate - support of the activities of the association TramPOLina". The Organisation Dům národnostních menšin o.p.s. was also supported through a Resolution of the Council of the City of Prague in the form of a non-investment endowment in the amount of CZK 177 000, which was earmarked for ensuring the payment of the expenses connected with the operation of the library of Dům národnostních menšin o.p.s., technical assurance of the programmes of national minorities, other personnel expenses (OPE), the purchase of materials, small equipment, supplementation of the library fund, promotions, the preparation of accounting, fees to participants and other expenses connected with the implementation of the education and cultural programmes.

### **Central Bohemian Region**

The Central Bohemian Region does not establish any grant heading oriented specifically only on national minorities.

### **Ústí nad Labem Region**

The Ústí nad Labem Region does not have any grant heading established for the financing of activities of members of national minorities. The activities of members of national minorities are supported individually. The activities can be financed through the Fund of the Ústí nad Labem Region and individual grants, which are decided by the bodies of the region on the basis of electronic requests submitted by applicants for the finances.

### **Vysočina Region**

The Vysočina Region does not establish any grant heading oriented specifically only on national minorities.

### **Zlín Region**

In 2019, the Zlín Region did not announce any grant programme through which it would have financed the activities of members of national minorities. The region supported one individual project earmarked for the Romani minority in the amount of CZK 30 000. It was an activity meant to integrate the Romani minority entitled "2019 Talent from the Zlín Region", which was organised by the organisation Dživ Lačes, z.s. During the project, there was a search for talent in the categories of children and youth in various genres, particularly singing, dancing and playing a musical instrument. The event was held on 15 October 2019 in the Vsetín House of Culture.

## **8.9. Foreign sources of financing activities of national minorities**

National minorities also use foreign sources of financing for their activities. This is primarily support from some of the "mother countries" of the national minorities, but also support on the part of private philanthropists.

## Bulgarian minority

In 2019, the association *Bulharský spolek Brno* received a grant in the amount of CZK 38 527, which was provided by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Bulgaria. The funds were used for the project "Sunday School in the Bulgarian Language". The association *Vazražďane* has operated Sunday school in the Bulgarian language in Prague for several years and a total of 90 children attending. The school operates from September to June in the House of National Minorities and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Bulgaria also contributes to its financing. The amount it provided for the 2018/19 school year corresponds to about CZK 162 036.

## German minority

On the basis of a Cooperation Agreement (Vereinbarung über die Zusammenarbeit) between the *Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture in the Czech Republic* (Kulturverband) and the *Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic* (Landesversammlung) from 25 November 2016, the recipient of the grant is the Assembly, which subsequently transfers part of the awarded funds to the Association of Germans. In 2019, projects of the Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture in the Czech Republic supported from foreign finances is given in table 8. The list of foreign donors for the Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic is given in table 9.

Table 8 Foreign sources of financing for Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture in the Czech Republic

name of project	donor	amount of support
50 year anniversary of Association of Germans (Kulturverband)	Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany	CZK 103 500

Table 9 Foreign sources of financing for Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic

Fund of the future	CZK 90 000
ifa - LE	CZK 459 016
ifa - Medienworkshop	CZK 70 785
Hermann - Niermann - Stiftung	CZK 89 946
bmi - operating, personnel and project expenses of Assembly associations	CZK 11 699 641
SLBW - Chomutov seminar	CZK 104 710
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany	CZK 183 818
2018 bwi surcharge	CZK 239 831

## Polish minority

The list of projects supported by foreign donors is given in table 10.

Tabulka 10 Foreign sources of financing for PZKO in 2019

donor	project	amount of support
Fundacja Pomoc Polakom na Wschodzie	Działalność programowa PZKO 4 projects	CZK 150 006
Fundacja Pomoc Polakom na Wschodzie	Wsparcie portalu www.zwrot.	CZK 420 630

Fundacja Pomoc Polakom na Wschodzie	Miesięcznik Zwrot	CZK 715 800
Fundacja Pomoc Polakom na Wschodzie	Multimedialny przewodnik po miejscach pamięci, Digitalizacja archiwum PZKO	CZK 168 140
Fundacja Pomoc Polakom na Wschodzie	Remonty siedziby ZG PZKO	CZK 627 795
Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Polska	Działalność statutowa PZKO	CZK 124 073
Konsulat Generalny RP	Działalność statutowa PZKO 7 projektów	CZK 462 195

In 2019, the Society of Friends of Polish Books was also supported by the organisation Konsulat Generalny RP w Ostrawie in the amount of CZK 72 420 for the project Travelling with Books.

### Roma minority

As part of the activities of the Museum of Romani Culture (hereinafter referred to as the "MRC"), two projects were supported from foreign sources. The first of these is the project *Afterschool tutoring and mentoring III*, the second *Promotion of Romani culture II*, which were supported by the American philanthropic society *Bader Philantropies*. This foundation focuses on the problems of low-income communities in Milwaukee. It has expanded its activities to the Czech Republic. This foundation has provided financing to the MRC since 2016.

The project *Afterschool tutoring and mentoring III* deals with the support of the learning pathways of children and youth coming from unequal and socially-disadvantaged environments in the city of Brno. The key activities include individual tutoring, mentoring and systematic work with volunteer tutors. The support for the project amounted to CZK 204 840.

The project *Promotion of Romani Culture II* deals with a wide spectrum of activities that aim at strengthening the museum's position in the Romani community and contributing to the fight against discrimination through making data available from the collection of oral histories and the publication of books. The support for the project amounted to CZK 1 196 848. Thanks to this project, the MRC employed 4 Romani citizens in the position of custodian. As part of the project, the temporary Lavatura exhibit was organised with the active contribution of Romani musicians and other important Romani personalities from the world of music.

### Russian minority

The association *Ruská tradice* does not receive any financial support from abroad. Nevertheless, the association cooperates with several organisations and institutions in Russia (e.g. the organisation *Běloje dělo* in Saint Petersburg, the Museum of the Anti-Bolshevik Movement in Podolsk and the station *Jelanskaja*, etc.), in the USA (Hoover Archives in Stanford University, Russian Museum and Centre in San Francisco), in Austria (Memorial to the Victims of the Cossack Tragedy in Lienz, Austrian Red Cross Organisation, International Organisation of the History of the Tragedy in Lienz), in France (Publisher and book vendor-centrum *Ymka-press*) and many more.

### Slovak minority

The decisive foreign donor to part of the Slovak national minority in the Czech Republic was *Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí*. The grants are presented on the website [www.uszz.sk](http://www.uszz.sk)<sup>51</sup>.

<sup>51</sup> According to material sent by Vladimír Skalský, member of the Council.

**Serbian minority**

In 2019, the Serbian cultural association Radost was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia in the amount of CZK 63 842 for the project *Preparation and Organisation of the Great Anniversary Performance of the SKS Radost Folklore Ensemble*.

**Ukrainian minority**

In 2019, no project was implemented that was financed from foreign resources, with the exception of the repair of important Ukrainian graves in the Czech Republic, which is financed by the Ukraine Embassy in the Czech Republic.

## 9. Conclusion

The situation of national minorities living in the Czech Republic was stable in 2019, just like in previous years. We do not have new demographic data concerning national minorities for this year. The census, which will be performed in 2021, should bring this information. Many minorities, however, subjectively feel the aging of the members to be a problem.

In 2019, there were no significant changes to the legal and institutional framework meant to help the implementation of the rights of national minorities in practice. During this year the 5th monitoring cycle of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The Fifth Periodic Report on the Fulfilment of the Principles Specified by the Convention was prepared and approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 471 from 1 July 2019 and was later submitted to the General Secretary of the Council of Europe. Based on a decision by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, there were partial changes made to the contractual mechanism of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, where reports on the fulfilment of the Convention will now be submitted in a five-year cycle instead of the current three-year cycle.

In 2019, the basic institutional framework for the support of the fulfilment of the rights of members of minorities, consisting of the existence of the Government Council for National Minorities and the Committee for National Minorities on the level of regions and municipalities, was functioning. There were still 14 national minorities represented in the Council, specifically the Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Rusyn, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese minorities. A significant theme of the Council was the situation of German and other graves in Czech cemeteries. On the basis of a Council resolution, the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic expanded one of its grant programmes to support the mapping of cemeteries in 2020 and beyond. During 2019, there was also considerable discussions on the possibility of introducing announcements in the Polish language at train stations in the Moravian-Silesian Region and the possibility to raise the visibility of the lives and activities of members of national minorities in the public space.

There were five committees for national minorities operating in 2019 on the regional level, four of which were established by law and one committee for national minorities (Ústí nad Labem Region) was established beyond the scope of legal obligations. Thus, the total number of committees for national minorities was identical to the previous year. Other regions (with the exception of the South Bohemian, Central Bohemian and Zlín regions) established other working bodies in 2019 to resolve the theme of national minorities. The number of these bodies also remained stable compared to previous years. The number of committees for national minorities on the level of statutory cities and municipalities was stable in 2019. Two statutory cities (Karviná and Třinec) established committees for national minorities on the basis of the law, the statutory city of Brno and the statutory city of Chomutov established committees for national minorities beyond the scope of the law and in another six statutory cities other working bodies dealing with national minorities were established. With regards to the committees for national minorities on the municipality level, most of these are located in the Moravian-Silesian Region thanks to the high concentration of members of the Polish nationality. According to the last census, a committee for national minorities should be established in a total of 51 Czech municipalities. According to available information, however, committees for national minorities were only established in 26 of these municipalities, while the reasons for not establishing them include a lack of interest in establishing the committee on the part of the members of the national minorities or the transformation of the demographic situation in the municipality, especially due to the increased migration of the population.

The systematic grant support of the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and Office of the Government of the Czech Republic contributes to the preservation of the further development of the individual national cultures and languages. As part of the grant programmes oriented specifically on the support of national minorities, CZK 78 385 374 was provided in 2019, predominantly for projects supporting the preservation of the cultural traditions and languages of national minorities living in the Czech Republic. The activities of the national minorities were also supported through other grant programmes of the state administration's departments, including the support of investment projects (*Museum of Moravian Croats – reconstruction of building in Jevišovka*, *Project preparation of "Memorial to Silence in Bubny Station complex"* event and *New IT equipment for Museum of Romani Culture in Brno*) and support through European structural and investment funds as part of the Operational Programme Education, Operational Programme Research, Development and Education and the Integrated Regional Operational Programme.

In this context, the possibility of increasing the value of the grant programme Support of propagation and receipt of information in languages of national minorities, administered by the Ministry of Culture, represents a promise for the year 2020. The possibility to increase this programme by CZK 4 150 000 in 2020 was tentatively announced. Representatives of national minorities have long drawn attention to the financial undervaluation of this very important programme, which supports the publication and media activities of national minorities in their native languages; they also pointed to the necessity to amend the conditions for providing the grants to reflect developments in, for example, the area of digitalisation.

The regions and municipalities are also important partners for the development of activities of national minorities in the Czech Republic. The regions in particular support the activities of national minorities either as part of specifically oriented grant programmes (the South Bohemian, Hradec Králové, Liberec, Moravian-Silesian and Olomouc regions and the City of Prague) or as part of individual grants. In total, the regions contributed CZK 13 569 180 to the support of activities of national minorities in 2019. Their support was aimed primarily at the organisation of the cultural events of national minorities in the region and the support of their overall activities.

The report also **points to the regional authorities' lack of information about the international European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages**. This fact represents a challenge for the Council secretariat to focus more on awareness on this Charter in the regions and to provide the regional authorities with relevant information in the area of the fulfilment of the Charter, but also on the suitability of the wider support of the recognition of other languages of national minorities.

In many cases, the interest of members of national minorities is focused on the teaching of the mother tongue or on subjects taught in the mother tongue. The current legal framework does permit the establishment of schools with instruction in a minority language, but apart from the Polish national minority, the other national minorities do not fulfil the conditions for establishing minority schools or classes in municipalities, regions or the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports due to the small numbers and dispersion. In 2019, the German minority primarily examined this issue, though it is a more general problem. Thus, in the future it is necessary to deal with alternative possibilities for the teaching of languages of national minorities and instruction in the languages of national minorities (e.g. establishing private schools, the support of associations in informal education). With regard to the Polish national minority, in 2019 instruction was held in the Polish language in a total of 19 preschools, 21 elementary schools and 4 high schools. The Pedagogical Centre for Polish Minority Education in Český Těšín supports this instruction through its extensive activities, looking at the issue of the use and support of the mother language and ensuring the needs of schools and school facilities with instruction in the Polish language are met, including the



support of students with special education requirements, the preparation of methodological aids for schools with instruction in the Polish language and the issuing and distribution of methodological aids for the teachers at these schools.

From reports from members of the national minorities in the Council, it is possible to put together a picture of the situation of national minorities as perceived by their representatives in 2019. It follows from the Report that the **aging of the members of the minority** is a long-term problem of some national minorities. The Bulgarian, German, Rusyn and Slovak minorities explicitly drew attention to this fact. The rejuvenation of the membership was indicated as one of the main challenges to association activities. The passing on of knowledge of the minority culture and traditions is connected with the new generation, which could also be helped by the possibility of activities held in an online space and by the more intensive support of the teaching of minority languages and instruction in minority languages, as stated above.

The situation of the **Slovak national minority** seems to remain problematic due to its remaining divided as a result of conflicts regarding the existence of the Slovak House in Prague. The **Russian minority**, or the Russian-speaking community, is also experiencing fragmentation of the minority community. Dissension and differences of opinion are reflected primarily in the differing interpretation of history and the different approach to Russia's historical figures. On the level of day-to-day life, this makes cooperation between the individual associations and a unified presentation of the life of the Russian national minority to the outside an impossibility. The dividing line here primarily represents the period of arrival to the current Czech Republic, thus between traditional and new associations. In other national minorities, however, there is often positive and smooth cooperation between the long-time members of the national minority and the newly-arriving immigrants of the same nationality, who are not only brought together by their language and culture, but also by many practical issues.

Specific problems that representatives of minorities pointed out include, for example, the organisation of wedding ceremonies in the Polish language. In spite of repeated urging by representatives of the **Polish national minority**, it is still not possible to perform wedding ceremonies for members of the Polish minority in the Polish language on a local level. According to the opinion of the representatives of the Polish national minority, it is time to amend the relevant legal regulations so that it would be possible to perform ceremonies in the language of the national minority in municipalities that fulfil the condition of 10% representation of citizens of Polish nationality. The **Belarusian national minority** pointed to the insufficient safeguarding of its language rights. When arranging for translations or interpretations for persons of Belarusian nationality, the bodies of the public administration often give preference to court interpreters of the Russian language. Representatives of the Belarusian minority would welcome interpreters of the Belarusian language, which is the primary language for the national minority and is perceived as an important element of their identity, being approached first. Another problem encountered by the Belarusian national minority are entries of names to registers. Persons of Belarusian nationality, who have received Czech state citizenship and want to use their right to have their name and surname entered in the register in the language of the national minority, are often forced to subsequently submit an expert opinion on the proper grammatical form of their name and surname. As mentioned above, the preservation of the languages, traditions and cultures of national minorities are primarily supported through grants. But several representatives of national minorities have pointed to the excessive **administrative burden of the project activities**. They have spoken out in favour of a considerable simplification and easing of the grant rules, primarily in the areas of financing and accounting. The minorities would welcome for the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic to mediate and provide more educational seminars oriented on grant proceedings, project management, etc. The goal of this training would be to increase the professionalism of the activities of the minority

associations or the professionalism of their representatives, since until now it has been a voluntary activity performed in the free time of the members of the minorities.