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Introduction

The Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "SR") perceives the protection and support of the development of national minorities as its natural mission in the formation of modern society and in its Manifesto for 2016 - 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the "Manifesto"), the Government of the Slovak Republic committed itself to provide national minorities with effective protection. The national minorities represent, in accordance with this program document, an important part of our society with great cultural richness and a significant historical heritage.

The main tasks in this context include measures and activities aimed at maintaining, developing and promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and implementing systematic measures to improve their situation, namely the field of public policies falling within the competence of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Plenipotentiary") as an advisory body to the Slovak Government.

One of the main tasks the Plenipotentiary fulfils is monitoring, analysing and evaluating compliance of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities via state administration bodies, local self-government authorities and other relevant entities, whereby he submits to the Government of the Slovak Republic a Report on the Situation and Rights of Persons belonging to National Minorities. The Report was from 2013 to 2017 submitted to the Slovak Government annually, in accordance with Annex no. 4 to the Statute of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Plenipotentiary Statute"), which the Slovak Government adopted in 2017, the periodicity of elaborating this report was changed from annual to biannual. The submitted report thus maps the given field primarily for a period 2017 - 2018.

All in all, the reports are mapping a relatively significant period, namely the seven-year period of 2012-2018. Therefore, the ambition of the presented sixth report is to summarize the current developments in individual areas of respecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, to name the areas where progress has been made, as well as those where problems or shortcomings still exist.

The Report on the Situation and Rights of Persons belonging to National Minorities for the Period 2017-2018 (hereinafter referred to as the "Report") was prepared by the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Office of the Plenipotentiary") in accordance with Art. 4, clause 1 (a) of the Statute of the Plenipotentiary. There were negotiations regarding this Report and the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (hereinafter referred to as "Committee" or "VNMES") approved it by resolution no. 140 at its 23rd session held on 15 May 2019. The Report was approved by the Government on 29 May 2019 by the Resolution No. 245.

The Report's structure is similar to previous years. Its individual parts deal with the application of the rights of national minorities guaranteed by the Constitution, the international conventions by which the Slovak Republic is bound, as well as the national system of laws, which means the situation and rights of persons belonging to

national minorities, the protection of their culture, and their participation in public affairs. As in previous years, it focuses mainly on data and information that has moved forward in comparison with the past period. If the context requires it, the content of this Report also covers the period before and after the assessed period. The submitted Report is drawn up partly from the documents of relevant ministries for individual areas within their competence.

The first of the Report's five Parts deals with national and international commitment of the Slovak Republic in the area of the situation and rights of persons belonging to national minorities and contains an overview of the most important legislative changes as well as new strategic, conceptual and program intentions in this area for the assessed period, as well as Slovakia's international commitments in the field of situation and rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including course of monitoring processes of control mechanisms for individual commitments. The current state of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the field of participation in addressing issues that concern them is encompassed in the second part of the Report, especially in terms of individual participatory mechanisms, results of their activities in the assessed period, including activities aimed at creating space for participation. The Reports reflects within the wider context of political and civil rights also the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in elections to local government bodies and municipal elections.

The third part of this Report provides comprehensive information on the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the field of their culture. The rights of national minorities in the field of education and training of national minorities are addressed in the fourth part, which outlines a complex picture of all aspects related to the education and training of this target group. The fifth part deals with the rights of national minorities in the area of the use of national minority languages, including application practice.

The Conclusions and recommendations Part sums up the key findings of the Report and the resulting recommendations in relation to addressing the current issues of the situation and rights of persons belonging to national minorities for the next period. The Report is completed with a Part Annexes, which provides additional information and data on individual parts of the report.

In the interest of using a gender-sensitive language, whenever the masculine gender is used in the text of this Report, it will be deemed to include the feminine to a reasonable extent.

I. Part – National and international commitments of the Slovak Republic with regard to the situation and rights of persons belonging to national minorities

1.1 National commitments of the Slovak Republic with regard to the situation and rights of persons belonging to national minorities

The rights of national minorities and ethnic groups are constitutionally guaranteed in the Slovak Republic, especially in the fourth Part of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Constitution"), namely in Art. 33 and Art. 34. The constitutional provisions are further elaborated into more than 30 pieces of legislation on the protection of the rights of national minorities.¹ Several legal acts were adopted or amended in 2017, 2018 and in the first quarter of 2019. These include, in particular:

- adoption of Act no. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund to Support Minority Cultures, as amended;

In compliance with the priorities of the Manifesto, the most significant and for the national minorities the key change was the approval of the Fund Act to Support Minority Cultures, as amended² (hereinafter referred to as the „Fund Act“), which constituted the Fund to Support Minority Cultures (hereinafter referred to as the „Fund“) as a public body providing systematic support for cultural and artistic activities of national minorities.³

In connection with the preparation of the above-mentioned Act, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MC SR") prepared, on the basis of the Plan of Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2017, the bill in question, which passed the legislative process and was approved by the Resolution of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the NC SR") no. 614 of 10 May 2017. As part of the preparation of this Act, the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic, as the Chairman of the Slovak Government's Board for Culture, established a temporary working group to prepare it. The Plenipotentiary was appointed as vice-chairman of the temporary working group.

In order to ensure the widest possible participation of minority representatives in the drafting of this key legislative measure, the Plenipotentiary set up a temporary working group to draft the given bill for a period between 1 July 2016 and 30 September 2016, whose representatives were 10 persons belonging to national minorities. The committee was involved in drafting the Fund Act as well, which was regularly informed about the various steps in its creation at its sessions, whereas the members discussed in detail the bill and submitted their comments. The Fund Act entered into force on 1

¹ See, for example, Report on the Situation and Rights of Persons belonging to National Minorities 2012.

² Available at: <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2017/138/20180901>

³ Act no. 138/2017 Coll. was approved on 10th May 2017 becoming effective 1st July 2017, with the exception of certain provisions which entered into force on 1 January 2018.

July 2017, except for Art. II, III and Art.5 points 6, 13 and 19, which entered into force on 1 January 2018.

The aim of this Act was to create a public institution ensuring effective support, especially, for cultural activities, decision-making processes of which are independent from central government bodies, whereas the elected persons belonging to national minorities⁴ manage the institution and decide upon distribution of means. This Act replaced the former National minorities culture grant program of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "CNM"), which was regulated by Act No. 524/2010 Coll. on the Provision of Subsidies within the competence of the Office of the Government, as amended, and which operated until the end of 2017.

The purpose of the Fund is, first and foremost, to preserve, express, protect and develop the identity and cultural values of national minorities, as well as to bring up and educate the rights of national minorities, as well as to develop and promote intercultural dialogue and understanding between Slovaks and national minorities and ethnic groups living in the Slovak Republic.

The new concept of promoting cultural and scientific activities of national minorities living in Slovakia⁵ is based on the following main principles:

- establishing the Fund as a main financial instrument aimed only at promoting cultural and scientific activities;
- defining tasks and objectives of the Fund's supporting activities and transparent rules for the use of its resources;
- ensuring the independence and professionalism of decision-making in Fund's key bodies
- defining the purpose of using the Fund's resources and mechanisms to control their use;
- defining the Fund's financial resources.

The law stipulates that the contribution to the fund from the state budget within the approved limits for the relevant budget period is 8 million euros at least. It also exhaustively sets the ratio of the amount of financial resources for individual expert boards of national minorities and the expert board of intercultural dialogue and understanding expressed as a percentage. The Fund allocates the amount of financial resources for supporting activities to expert boards in the following proportions:

- a) expert board on the culture of the Hungarian national minority 53%;
- b) expert boards on the culture of the Roma national minority 22.4%;
- c) expert board on the culture of the Ruthenian national minority 6.4%;
- d) expert board on the culture of a Bulgarian national minority of 1%;
- e) expert board of the culture of the Czech national minority 3.7%;
- f) expert board on the culture of the Croatian national minority 1%;
- g) expert board on the culture of the Moravian national minority 1.4%;

⁴ See General section of the Explanatory report to the Fund Act. Available at: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=435878>

⁵ See General section of the Explanatory report to the Fund Act. Available at: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=435878>

- h) expert board on the culture of the German national minority of 1.8%;
- i) expert board on the culture of the Polish national minority 1.4%;
- j) expert board on the culture of the Russian national minority 1.1%;
- k) expert board on the culture of the Serbian national minority 0.7%;
- l) expert board on the culture of the Ukrainian national minority 2%;
- m) expert board on the culture of the Jewish national minority 1.1% and
- n) expert board on Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding 3%.

The set percentage is strictly determining the division of the amount of financial resources for supporting activities⁶ into expert boards of culture of individual national minorities and the expert board of intercultural dialogue and understanding. The given percentages of financial resources intended for supporting activities are based on the redistribution mechanism according to the given key that takes into consideration the number of national minorities and compensatory equalization. While determining the number of national minority, a figure more favourable to the national minority was taken into account, it is based either on data on the number of national minority members or on the number of members using the minority's mother tongue according to the results of the last Population and Housing Census. The compensatory equalization serves to balance the differences between multiple and national minorities in large and low numbers.

The Fund Act also introduced a new thing regarding the introduction of self-governing elements in the assessment of applications for financial support. The expert boards are responsible for it, which, in accordance with the Statute of the Fund to Promote Minorities Culture (hereinafter referred to as the "Fund Statute"), ensure the expertise and independence while setting support priorities for the relevant calendar year, focusing of the submitted projects and assessing individual applications for financial support. The expert boards' decisions are recommendations in nature. The expert boards consist of 5 members, whereas more than half of them are appointed by the director from the candidates elected by the convention of the organizations of the respective national minorities. The director appoints other members without a proposal. The director appoints other members of the expert board without a proposal even if the convention of organizations of the relevant national minority does not propose a sufficient number of candidates for expert board members, or if the proposed candidate does not meet the statutory conditions to be member of the expert board⁷.

One of the conditions to be appointed as a member of the expert board is three-year professional experience in culture or science at least. This is to ensure sufficient professionalism, transparent project evaluation, as well as strengthening the independence of this body⁸. The procedure to convene an assembly of national minority organizations and the election of candidates for expert board members is

⁶ See General section of the Explanatory report to the Fund Act. Available at: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=435879>

⁷ See Statute of the Fund to Support Minorities Culture. Available at: http://kultminor.sk/attachments/article/405/Statut_FPCNM.pdf

⁸ See General section of the Explanatory report to the Fund Act. Available at: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=435878>

regulated by the Decree of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic no.163/2017 Coll. which implements certain provisions of Act no.138/2017 Coll. on the Fund to Support Minority Cultures and on the Amendment to certain Acts. The Code of Ethics of the Fund to Promote Minorities Culture⁹ was adopted too, namely in order to ensure compliance with the principles of transparency, justice and efficiency as well as to build public trust.

Following the process of fund creation, the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter also referred to as the "Office of the Government") concluded a delimitation protocol with the Ministry of Culture regulating the details of the transfer of rights and obligations, budget, state property administration and rights and obligations arising from civil service relations. The competence of the Office of the Government, as defined by the laws and other generally binding legal regulations, has been transferred to the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic in the field of support for the culture of national minorities.

Based on the Act no. 211/2018 Coll., the Fund Act, which responded to the undersized staff of the Fund resulting from the Fund's previous practice, as well as the need to increase transparency in decision-making processes, was amended. The amendment determined that the Fund is entitled to use up to 5% of the total amount of its revenue under paragraph 1, letter a and g for its own operation, which represents an increase of 1% in comparison to the current legislation. The amendment, at the same time, strengthened the director's powers in appointing and dismissing members of expert boards.

- Amendment to Act no. 597/2003 Coll. on the Financing of Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and School Facilities, as amended

Amendment: Act no.182/2017 Coll. amending and supplementing Act no. 597/2003 Coll. on the Financing of Primary, Secondary Schools and School Facilities, as amended, and amending certain acts with effect from 1 September 2017.

According to § 4a and clause 3, letter (d) of the Act on the Financing of Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and School Facilities, as amended, the legal representative of a public or church school student is entitled to refund travel costs for transport of a student under paragraph 2 from his / her permanent residence to the nearest school with a language of instruction of the respective national minority and back, if it is a primary school student with a language of a national minority, and in a municipality or school district where a student belonging to a national minority has a permanent residence. For more information, see Part 4.1, page 84.

- Amendment to Act no. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipal Establishment, as amended;

Amendment: Act no.70/2018 Coll. amending and supplementing Act no. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipal Establishment, as amended.

⁹ See: Code of Ethics of the Fund to Promote Minorities Culture, Available at: http://kultminor.sk/attachments/article/454/Eticky_kodex_FPCNM.pdf

In order to protect the regional or minority languages, the amendment § 2aa, clause 3 of the given Act concerning also the regulation of the affiliation of municipalities was on the Plenipotentiary's initiative was included into Act as well. According to the amendment, effective from 1 April 2018, in terms of municipality that after executing two consecutive elections to the municipal authorities, does not have a municipal councillor, put it simply, it is dysfunctional, the government may incorporate such a municipality via regulation with a neighbouring municipality located in the same district as a dysfunctional municipality if the neighbouring municipality agrees with it. Thereby, the legitimate interests and needs of the inhabitants of the non-functioning municipality are being reflected and especially, respecting the regional or minority language, so that such incorporation does not hinder the promotion of such a language. The reason for such legislation was, based on the obligations arising from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the need to take into account the nationality of the municipality to be incorporated into the neighbouring municipality. It means ensuring that the linguistic rights of members of national minorities would not be jeopardized by the possible merger of municipalities.

- Amendment to Act no. 160/2015 Coll. the Code of Civil Procedure;

Amendment: Act no. 87/2017 Coll., amending Act no. 160/2015 Coll. The Code of Civil Procedure effective from 1 May 2017.

The amendment to The Code of Civil Procedure applies only to §155, which newly stipulates that everyone is entitled to act before a court in a language that he understands. The court is obliged to ensure that the Parties enjoy equal possibilities to exercise their rights. Taking into account the nature and circumstances of the case, the court will assign an interpreter. The costs incurred by a Party acting in his mother tongue or in a language he understands are borne by the State.

- Amendment to Act no. 162/2015 Coll. the Code of Administrative Procedure;

Amendment: Act no. 88/2017 Coll., amending Act no. 162/2015 Coll. the Code of Administrative Procedure effective from 1 May 2017.

The amendment to The Code of Administrative Procedure applies only to § 54, which newly stipulates that everyone is entitled to act before a court in a language that he understands. The court is obliged to ensure that the Parties enjoy equal possibilities to exercise their rights. Taking into account the nature and circumstances of the case, the court will assign an interpreter. The costs incurred by a Party acting in his mother tongue or in a language he understands are borne by the State.

In this context, it should be noted that the Slovak Party adopted the recommendation from 13th session of the Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission on Minority Affairs, which was held on 3 November 2016, that in case of contentious and non-contentious proceedings, as well as administrative legal proceedings it will support the initiative that aims at restoring the possibility of oral and written use of minority languages to the situation before 1st July with special regard to their financial costs.

- Amendment to the Provision of the Slovak Republic no. 630/2008 Coll., laying down details of the breakdown of state budget financial resources for schools and school facilities;

Amendment: Act no. 355/2017 Coll., amending and supplementing Provision of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 630/2008 Coll., laying down details of the breakdown of state budget financial resources for schools and school facilities, as amended.

The new wording of Provision effective from 1 January 2018 introduced an increase in wage standard and standard for the educational process for a primary school student, which is lately 113% for schools with a language of instruction other than Slovak. At the same time, a new standard has been introduced for a learner of language of a national minority under the framework curriculum for primary schools with classes given in a national minority language (put it simply, student who is learning it as a compulsory subject), which is 104% and it applies to schools with classes given in Ruthenian, Romani, Ukrainian, Russian, German and Croatian language. For more information, see Part 4.1, page 85.

- Amendment to the Decree of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "MI SR") no. 9/2009 Coll., implementing the Road Traffic Act and amending and supplementing certain acts;

Amendment: Decree no. 19/2018 Coll. of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic as of 19 January 2018, amending and supplementing the Decree of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic no. 9/2009 Coll., implementing the Road Traffic Act and amending and supplementing certain acts, as amended, effective from 1 February 2018.

The above-mentioned amendment was on the Plenipotentiary's initiative supplemented by §8, clause 23 stating that inscriptions on traffic signs and transport facilities are used in the state language are; they may be used in other languages in accordance with a special regulation and international treaty the Slovak Republic is bound to. In this context, there is a reference made to the legislation of §2, clause 1, §4, clause 1, 2 and 6 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. The given legislation deals with the designation of a municipality in the language of a national minority on traffic signs indicating the beginning and the end of the municipality, traffic signs, which, via their text, warn of life, health, safety or property endangerment of Slovak citizens and also traffic signs containing general information. The Decree states in the annex also a new form of traffic signs IS 37a and IS 37b marking the beginning and end of the municipality in the national minority language. For more information, see Part 5.1, page 98.

- Amendment to Decree of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 126/2017 Coll., laying down details on the training of civil servants;

Amendment: supplementing the Office of the Government Decree no. 126/2017 Coll., laying down the details of the training of civil servants effective from 1 June 2017.

The §4, clause 2 (a) b), was on the Plenipotentiary's initiative supplemented, according to which the language competence education is aimed at maintaining and improving the level of foreign language mastery, especially for a group of civil servants, who have foreign language mastery in a description of a civil servant's post or a national minority language for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a special provision. The special provision is, for purposes of this Decree, the Government Provision No. 221/1999 Coll., issuing a list of municipalities, where Slovak citizens belonging to national minorities make up at least 20% of the population, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Government Provision No. 221/1999"). The aim of this amendment is to ensure sufficient number of employees of public and local authorities with appropriate training and ability to respond to requests in minority languages.

The following amendments to relevant legislation, which do not have a direct impact on the issue of persons belonging to national minorities, were adopted:

- Amendment to Act no. 596/2003 Coll. on State administration in the school system and school self-government and on amendments to certain acts;

Amendment: Act no. 177/2017 Coll. among other things, on the dissolution of the director position and student school board.

Amendment: Act no. 54/2018 Coll. among other things, on entrustment the teacher of a school or school facility with the management of school or school facility until the director is appointed.

Amendment: Act no. 209/2018 Coll. among other things, on the competence of the self-governing region during the transfer of the state administration and the way the school inspection is carried out.

As far as evaluation of the entire seven-year period during which the Plenipotentiary monitors the situation and protection of the rights of national minorities in Slovakia is concerned, the most significant changes in the field of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities are the following ones:

- Amendment to Act no. 365/2004 Coll. on Equal Treatment in Certain Fields and on Protection against Discrimination and on Amendments to Certain Acts (Anti-discrimination Act), in accordance with which, with effect from 1 April 2013, a negative definition of discrimination was adjusted in relation to temporary equalizing measures, stating that discrimination is not the adoption of temporary compensatory measures by public authorities or other legal persons seeking to eliminate disadvantages arising from racial or ethnic origin, affiliation to national minority or ethnic group, gender or sex, age or disability, which aim at ensuring equal opportunities in practice.
- Adoption of The Code of Civil Procedure, which entered into force on 1 July 2016. The new Act in § 155 stipulated that everyone is entitled to act before a court in a language he understands. Act no. 160/2015 Coll. the Code of Civil

Procedure repealed Act no. 99/1963 Coll. the Code of Civil Procedure. Information on its amendment from 2017 can be found on page 9.

- Adoption of Act no. 162/2015 Coll. The Code of Administrative Judicial effective from 1 July 2016, which in §54, clause Article 1 states that everyone is entitled to act before an administrative court in a language that he understands. According to this The Code of Administrative Judicial, the Parties take care of the translation of submissions and evidence in a language other than the state language, or state takes care of translation, but it does not cover its expenses and general provision on the legal costs reimbursement are applied. Information on its amendment from 2017 can be found on page 9.
- Based on the Amendment to Act on Education and Training (the Schools Act) and on amendment and supplements to certain acts (hereinafter referred to as the “the Schools Act”) no. 216/2016 Coll. the minimum number of students in the class does not apply with effect from 1 September 2016 to primary schools with classes given in a language of the national minority.
- Instruction of the Minister of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic, whereby imposing an obligation to designate railway stations in the languages of national minorities, effective from 1 January 2017. For more information, see Part 5.1, page 97.

The legislative process has, following the meeting of the Manifesto, intensified in this field in 2017, 2018 and in the first quarter of 2019, which demonstrates in particular:

- Adoption of a new, comprehensive law on support for the culture of national minorities, in other words the Fund Act;
- in the education field, the adoption of an amendment to Act no.597/2003 on the financing of primary schools, secondary schools and school facilities as amended, and the amendment of the Government Provision of the Slovak Republic no. 630/2008 Coll., laying down details of the breakdown of financial resources from the state budget for schools and school facilities, was an extremely important step towards fuller provision of the right to education of children of persons belonging to national minorities in their mother tongue. This measure implied the government's commitment from Manifesto that the government would support the education of primary school students in their mother tongue, including by extending the conditions to provide allowances for travelling if a primary school with the appropriate language of instruction was not established in the municipality and would also support the exclusion of all schools with few classes from compulsory quota on a linguistically mixed territory;
- in terms of use of languages of national minorities, the adoption of an amendment to the Decree of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 126/2017 Coll., laying down the details of the training of civil servants and the amendment to the Decree of the Ministry of Interior of the

Slovak Republic no. 9/2009 Coll., implementing the Road Traffic Act and amending and supplementing certain acts; belong to the significant steps

- the most recent change in this field is the amendment to Act no. 513/2009 Coll. on Railways and on Amendments to Certain Acts. This amendment imposes on the infrastructure manager the obligation to ensure inscriptions in the language of national minorities apart from railway stations also on railway stops, where regular personal transport is carried out in municipalities under the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages in the period up to 31 December 2019. In this context should be noted that the given amendment was made also in accordance with the recommendation from 13th session of the Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission on Minority Affairs, which included that the Slovak side would take care of complying the Act on railways with the Act on the use of minority languages and introducing the provisions of the law into practice on the nationally mixed territories in case of inscriptions at railway stations and stops.

1.1.1 Strategic and policy documents and action plans

Within the scope of competence defined by the Plenipotentiary's statute, the Plenipotentiary formulates, proposes and implements short-, medium- and long-term measures, in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter the 'Office of the Government'), ministries and other central government authorities, relating to the preservation, development and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

An important non-legislative document with a long-term perspective on the situation and rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including language rights, is the 2016-2020¹⁰ Action Plan to Protect the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (hereinafter referred to as the "Action Plan") that the Slovak government approved at its session on October 26, 2016 by resolution no. 492/2016.

The key objective identified by the Action Plan is to ensure an effective, transparent and reliable system of protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, including the strengthening of the relevant institutional framework. This objective is elaborated into seven operational objectives, which focus on:

1. ensuring a comprehensive approach to drafting legislation on the rights and status of national minorities;
2. improving the system of support for the culture of national minorities and ethnic groups;
3. taking the specific aspects of the educational needs of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups into consideration more effectively;

¹⁰ Available at: http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/6765_akcny-plan-ochrany-prav-osob-patriacich-k-narodnostnym-mensinam-a-etnickym-skupinam-na-roky-2016-%E2%80%93-2020.pdf

4. improving the conditions for the practical use of the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups;
5. improving public awareness of national minorities and ethnic groups through the media;
6. improving the mechanisms for participation of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in decision-making on matters that concern them;
7. extending the knowledge base for better identification of target groups – national minorities and ethnic groups and their needs, through statistical surveys and research.

Each of these operational objectives is elaborated into specific measures and activities that include performance indicators, deadlines for implementation, responsible guarantors, collaborative entities and sources of funding. The first operational objective regarding *ensuring a comprehensive approach to drafting legislation on the rights and status of national minorities* was continuously being met during the followed period. The Plenipotentiary set up a working group as well as an informal working group of legal experts. Both groups are continuously working on analysing the current legal situation and they are looking for possible solutions. The operational objective 2 regarding *improving the system of support for the culture of national minorities and ethnic groups* was fulfilled mainly by the adoption of the Fund Act. The operational objective 3, focused on *taking the specific aspects of the educational needs of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups into consideration more effectively*, is being continuously carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "MESRS SR") and the National Institute for Education (hereinafter as "NIE"). The implementation of operational objective 4 of the Action Plan to *improving the conditions for the practical use of the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups* is closely linked to the setting up of the Plenipotentiary Advisory Group to ensure compliance with current law on the use of national minority languages (hereinafter referred to as the "Plenipotentiary Advisory Group"). The Plenipotentiary's Advisory Group set up for the period between 1 February 2018 and 31 December 2020, consists of five individual subgroups, namely for Hungarian, Ruthenian, Romani, Ukrainian and German language. The main task of the advisory language group of the Plenipotentiary is to prepare background materials to ensure unified professional terminology in languages of national minorities, informative language versions of legislative texts, official forms, documents on methodological materials in the use of national minority languages regulated by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 184/1999 Coll." or "Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities").

The advisory language group of the Plenipotentiary prepared in 2018 translations of 8 fundamental legal norms, which were published in October 2018 in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to

as "MJ SR") on the legal and information portal SLOV-LEX¹¹. Following these activities, a Memorandum of Long-term Cooperation between the Plenipotentiary and the Minister of Justice was signed on 25 January 2019¹², which will ensure the continuous publication of informative translations of selected legal standards and their amendments in the languages of national minorities on the Slov-lex portal. The advisory language group of the Plenipotentiary keep on realizing its activities in 2019 and it operates in the field of compliance with current legislation. For more information, see Part 5.4, page 107.

Under operational objective 5, *improving public awareness of national minorities and ethnic groups through the media*, the Office of the Plenipotentiary has expanded its cooperation with the media, whereby he regularly informs news agencies of his activities. At the same time, the Office of the Plenipotentiary is working on a proposal for a communication strategy aimed at members of national minorities in connection with the preparation of the 2021 Population and Housing Census (hereinafter referred to as "NAP 2021 PHC"). At the same time, he is continuously responding with his press releases to the majority society in connection with the current challenges associated with preventing expressions of intolerance, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and antigypsyism.

Improving the mechanisms for participation of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in decision-making on matters that concern them, in other words, related to 6th operational objective, the Plenipotentiary organized an international workshop on *Models of participation mechanisms for national minority members in Europe*, held on 20 September 2017 in Bratislava. The main topic of the workshop were new challenges and impulses while searching for effective mechanisms for a participation of national minorities, as well as models of participatory mechanisms of persons belonging to national minorities in selected European countries. Within the workshop, there was created a space for presentation of foreign experiences in this field, as well as presentations aimed at evaluating the current state and visions in the area of participation of national minorities in decision-making process on matters related to them in Slovakia.

Meeting the operational objective no. 7 *extending the knowledge base for better identification of target groups – national minorities and ethnic groups and their needs, through statistical surveys and research*, was carried out along with fulfilment of tasks resulting from the National Action Plan of the 2021 Population and Housing Census for 2017 - 2020 (hereinafter referred to as "NAP 2021 PHC"). On August 17, 2016, the Slovak Government took into account the information on 2021 Population and Housing Census in the Slovak Republic. Subsequently, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "SO SR") set up an expert team to prepare the NAP 2021 PHC. The task of the expert team was to prepare a draft of NAP 2021 PHC, approved by the Slovak Government by adopting resolution no.

¹¹ Available at: <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy-v-jazyku-narodnostnych-mensin>

¹² Available at: https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7499_memorandum-o-spolupraci.pdf

109/2017. The document contains a schedule of individual tasks. This document contains a strategic goal no. 5: *Pay increased attention to specific groups of citizens whose census requires a specific approach* that was elaborated in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary. The inhabitants, whose census requires such a specific approach, are, among other population groups, considered to be nationals or ethnic groups with regard to their mother tongue, for the purposes of national legislation too (in particular Act No.184/1999 Coll.).

The nationality or ethnicity affiliation criterion for the inclusion of citizens in a group whose census requires a specific approach had been picked in connection with meeting the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages, whose diction is directly linked to the results of the Population and Housing Census. Deepening the knowledge of these population groups will help to set up such procedures that would facilitate their census and ensure that the required quality is obtained in the simplest way possible. The Office of the Plenipotentiary cooperated within the mentioned goal with the SO SR in the given period on the preparation of the methodology of population census in terms of their nationality or ethnicity affiliation with respect to their mother tongue. The Expert working group was set up in the first quarter of 2018 to prepare the methodology of census of inhabitants in terms of their nationality or ethnicity affiliation (hereinafter referred to as the "expert group"), whose members are apart from administrators of Office of the Plenipotentiary and SO SR the following entities: The Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for Romani Communities, the Office of the Government, the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and three experts on the given area on behalf of national minorities nominated by members of VNMES. The expert group worked on the preparation of the census methodology in terms of their nationality or ethnicity affiliation with respect to their mother tongue (hereinafter referred to as "methodology"). Six working meetings were held in total. Members of VNMES were continuously being informed on the progress and results of the expert group's activities.

The sense of the methodology preparation was mainly to deepen knowledge of national minorities and diversity of society in this area in general, so that it could lead to reliable and comprehensive data on the demographic composition of the population in terms of their nationality and language use. Such data may subsequently become the basis for planning of the targeted policies and concrete measures aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including their linguistic rights, which are based on the data found out in the census.

An extensive methodology was finalized at the end of 2018, covering areas of international and national legal context of data collection on nationality or ethnicity affiliation and language use, including mapping of national legislation following PHC data as well as analysis of available data and related information. The material includes concepts and definitions, including the semi-finished concept of multiple national identities in the context of nationality and language census and the concept of nationality and mother tongue census for the Population and Housing Census in the actual practice of SO SR, as well as examples from abroad concerning nationality or ethnicity affiliation and language.

Based on the presented data and information, material puts forward a proposal of variables for NAP 2021 PHC and also the results of the focus group, which was conducted the SO SR in order to examine in more detail the views of the population on the way of collecting data on mother tongue and nationality. The material provides an overview of the opinions of the members of the expert group on the variables and the questionnaire questions' wording and other annexes as well. The methodology was published on the website¹³ of the Plenipotentiary and also on the website of the SO SR¹⁴.

Another policy document relevant to the issue of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities is the *Concept for the Fight Against Extremism for 2015-2019* (hereinafter the "Concept"). The Concept defines Slovakia's strategic priorities with regard to the prevention and elimination of radicalisation, extremism and the associated anti-social activities threaten fundamental rights and freedoms and the foundations of the democratic rule of law and refuses to accept manifestations of hate against certain population groups for reasons such as gender, race, colour of skin, ethnic or national origin, language, sexual orientation, religion or affiliation with a social class. The report on the fulfilment of the tasks arising from the draft with a proposal to update the tasks will be in accordance with the resolution drawn up and presented to the Government for discussion by 30 September 2020.

Another strategic document in the area of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities is the *Action Plan to Prevent and Eliminate Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance for 2016-2018 adopted by the Government Resolution no. 12/2016*. The main objective of this conceptual document is to prevent prejudices, stereotypes and hate speech based on national, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar intolerance, and prevent the emergence and spread of attitudes and activities aimed at promoting racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. The report on the implementation of the plan's tasks, together with a proposal to update the tasks, will be in accordance with the resolution prepared and submitted to the Government for discussion by 31 March 2019.

The Action Plan to Prevent All Forms of Discrimination for 2016-2019, approved by Resolution no. 5/2016, is a relevant document in this respect as well. The above-mentioned Action Plan aims to focus 10 on raising public awareness of non-discrimination and seek to streamline the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation. The information on the fulfilment of tasks from the *Action Plan to Prevent All Forms of Discrimination for 2016-2019* will be in accordance with the resolution drawn up and presented to the Government by 30 March 2020.

The Resolution of the Slovak Government no. 1/2012 approved another strategic document, which is partially devoted to the rights of national minorities, namely the *Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Roma Integration until 2020* (hereinafter referred to as the "Strategy"). The updated Action Plans for 2016-2018 were adopted

¹³ Available at: https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7470_metodika-sodb-2021.pdf

¹⁴ Available at: http://sodb2021.statistics.sk/files/Metodika_scitania_obyvateľov_z_hľadiska_ich_prislušnosti_k_narodnosti_alebo_etniku_so_zreteľom_na_materinský_jazyk.pdf

by Slovak Government Resolution No. 87/2017 for areas: D.2.1 Education, D.2.2 Employment, D.2.3 Health, D.2.4 Housing and the new Action Plan for D.2.5 Financial inclusion area was adopted as well. Based on the resolution no. 424/2017, new Action Plans on D.2.6 Non-discrimination and D.2.7 Approaches towards a majority society were adopted. The non-discrimination field pursues the global objective of increasing the effectiveness of Roma protection against discrimination and unequal treatment, mainly through four partial objectives that aim at gradual elimination of discrimination against Roma people. In terms of approaches towards the majority society, Roma integration initiative through communication, the goal is to promote public opinion sensitization, mitigate mutual stereotypes and prejudices, and strengthen coherence between the Roma population and the majority society.

1.2 International commitments of the Slovak Republic regarding the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities

In accordance with the Plenipotentiary's statute, the Plenipotentiary participates in the preparation of reports on the implementation of international treaties binding on the Slovak Republic that relate to the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities. In this context, the Office of the Plenipotentiary continued to work with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter the 'MFEA SR') in 2016 to draft reports and conduct a dialogue on the implementation of the commitments arising from Council of Europe and UN human right conventions, as well as commitments arising from bilateral agreements.

The Office of the Plenipotentiary organized during the given period the Follow-up Seminar with international participation in the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Framework Convention") in the Slovak Republic in the fourth cycle of monitoring the implementation level of the Convention and participated in the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Implementation Report") in the fifth cycle of monitoring the implementation level of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic; in the preparation of 14th session of the Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Minority Commission and on the preparation of the 14th session of the Intergovernmental Slovak-Ukrainian Commission on National Minorities, Education and Culture.

1.2.1 Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The Slovak Republic as a Party to the Framework Convention is obliged to put forward at regular intervals a report on the legislative and other measures adopted to comply with the obligations set out in the Framework Convention. The Slovak Republic completed the fourth cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention in 2016, when Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted resolution. This Resolution in the framework of monitoring the fulfilment of obligations

of the Slovak Republic resulting from the Framework Convention, which was based on the opinion of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention and the opinion of the Slovak Republic on this judgement, was adopted on 13 April 2016.¹⁵

The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as "the Advisory Committee") in its fourth judgement for issues requiring immediate resolution identified the need to pay increased attention to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as an integral part of human rights in the government program and to ensure effective coordination between institutions in all issues relating to the protection of human rights and rights of persons belonging to national minorities in close cooperation with representatives of national minorities and representatives of civil society. It also stressed the need to comprehensively address Roma intolerance in the education system and to put in place necessary measures to ensure the systematic placement of Roma children in integrated regular classes. Special school placement must be reserved for specific and exceptional cases. The third question focused on the need to step up efforts to effectively protect Roma against discrimination in all areas of life by raising their awareness of rights and by ensuring that police officers are adequately trained to properly investigate and monitor all cases of racial discrimination, including launching an independent investigation into alleged abuses of power made by police.

As far as recommendations on the legal and institutional framework for promoting equality of persons belonging to national minorities are concerned, the Advisory Committee deemed as necessary for competent authorities, in close dialogue with minority representatives, to engage in a comprehensive assessment of the existing legislative and institutional framework for national minorities in order to ensure that any future strategy or the legislative framework on the protection of minorities effectively tackles the interests of national minorities.

In terms of the legislative framework for language use, the Advisory Committee challenged the Slovak authorities to apply a flexible and pragmatic approach to the exercise of the rights contained in the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages and did not rely solely on statistical data. There is a need to keep a close dialogue with representatives of all national minorities for a regular identification of current requirements and needs for the use of national minority languages.

Furthermore, the Advisory Committee called on the Slovak authorities to make more effort to ensure a sufficient number of general employees with appropriate training and responsiveness to minority language requirements, in particular Roma, and to actively promote the use of minority languages in official contact where appropriate.

The Advisory Committee in relation to minority languages in documents and topographical inscriptions also called on the Slovak authorities to ensure the effective application of the language rights referred to in Article 4 of the Law on the Use of National Minority Languages in all designated municipalities, whereby taking into account all relevant languages, including Romani. In addition, the Advisory Committee

¹⁵ Available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/21685/1>

supported the involvement of the Slovak authorities in close dialogue with representatives of all national minorities in order to find a pragmatic and flexible solution that adapts to the demands of the population in accordance with Article 11 of the Framework Convention.¹⁶

As far as participation in public life and decision-making processes are concerned, the Advisory Committee turned to the Slovak authorities with a request to promote adequate representation of national minorities in public life, also via measures facilitating their involvement in wider political processes and major political parties. It also called on the Slovak authorities to reconsider the position of the National Minority Plenipotentiary within the wider human rights framework and to ensure high political attention to all issues related to the protection of national minorities and effective consideration of the views and problems of all minorities in relevant decision-making processes. At the same time, the Advisory Committee challenged the Slovak authorities to support acceptance of persons belonging to national minorities, especially Roma, to the public service.

Being aware of the importance of the above-mentioned recommendations for protection and promotion of persons belonging to national minorities, the Plenipotentiary monitors their fulfilment within the framework of their competence arising for him from the Statute and communicates with the relevant ministries in this matter. The Committee also endeavours to implement them and, in this context, has included in its plan of activities for 2019 regular Information on the implementation of the commitments under the Framework Convention as well as the above-mentioned recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

The Government Resolution No. 6/2017 approved the Report on the progress and results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation level of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic¹⁷. In this resolution, the stakeholders were imposed to familiarize themselves with the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation level of the Framework Convention in Slovakia and with recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, to assess the possibility of their implementation and to inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the measures taken in preparation of the fifth Implementation Report.

In cooperation with the Framework Convention Secretariat, in the framework of the dialogue on the results of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention in Slovakia, the Plenipotentiary held an international Follow-up Seminar on the implementation of the Framework Convention in Slovakia on 4 – 5 December 2017 in Bratislava. The members of the Advisory Committee discussed within the 2-days event an importance of promoting tolerance, mutual respect and intercultural dialogue with representatives of central state administration bodies, national minorities, as well as academic and scientific community experts dealing with protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, problem of their education and

¹⁶ Available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/21685/1>

¹⁷ Available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/21685/1>

training, protection and development of their culture and languages and the scope of the Framework Convention.

As part of the fulfilment of the task resulting from the Government Resolution no. 6/2017, the Office of the Plenipotentiary drew up at the beginning of 2018 a document for possibilities of fulfilling the recommendations within the preparation of the fifth Implementation Report, where he informed the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic about taken measures. The Committee took account of the Implementation Report at its 31st meeting by adopting a resolution no. 127/2018 and subsequently the Implementation Report was submitted to the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (hereinafter referred to as the "Government Council"), which acknowledged it adopting resolution no. 212/2019. The Slovak government approved the above-mentioned document by resolution no. 44/2019. The fifth report on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic was submitted to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 31 January 2019.

The report is traditionally followed by a visit of the three-member Advisory Committee delegation to be held in the second half of 2019. The Advisory Committee is an independent expert body which helps the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in assessing the implementation level of the Framework Convention in terms of the Contracting Parties. On the basis of all available information, it will prepare an evaluation report for the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, to which the Slovak Republic will have an opportunity to send its opinion.

Monitoring will be formally closed by the adoption of a Resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which will include recommendations to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention. Following the formal end of monitoring, it is a commonplace to carry out at the national level so-called follow-up seminar as a form of continuation of the dialogue with the Advisory Committee.

1.2.2 European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The Slovak Republic, as a party to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as "the Charter"), has committed itself to create conditions for the preservation and development of regional or minority languages. The recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee of Ministers") of 27 April 2016, which were based on the Fourth Report of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee of Experts") and the opinion of the Slovak Republic on it terminated a fourth cycle of monitoring the fulfilment of Slovakia's obligations under the Charter. The Committee of Experts generally stated that the implementation of commitments under Part III of the Charter, given the very diverse situation of minority languages, and the fact that some of them have very small and/or dispersed territorial incidents, was in some cases extremely

difficult. According to the Committee of Experts, the situation of all minority languages remains sensitive in spite of the number of fulfilled commitments.

The Committee of Experts recommends, in the context of recommendations proposals on the basis of the results of the fourth monitoring cycle, that the Slovak authorities take into account all its comments and recommendations, and in particular:

1. review the requirements related to thresholds in order to make the undertakings in the field of administration operational;
2. strengthen efforts to provide teaching in or of all regional or minority languages at all appropriate levels (primary, secondary and tertiary education);
3. take measures to improve teacher-training for regional or minority language education;
4. strengthen the support to television, radio and newspapers in all regional or minority languages;
5. continue measures to abolish unjustified enrolments of Roma children in special schools or classes and start to introduce Romani-language education for Roma children on a large scale;
6. raise awareness and promote tolerance in the Slovak society at large vis-à-vis the regional or minority languages and the cultures they represent.

Being aware of the importance of implementing these recommendations, the Plenipotentiary monitors their compliance both within his competences under the Statute and within the Committee, which included in its 2019 Action Plan the fulfilment of the Charter obligations as well as the above-mentioned recommendations of the Committee of Experts.

The Government Resolution No. 7/2017 approved the Report on the progress and results of the fourth cycle of monitoring the implementation level of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic, goal of which is to inform the wide public of course and results of the fourth cycle of monitoring the language charter implementation in the Slovak Republic¹⁸. This resolution imposed the affected parties with a task, with a deadline 30th June 2017, of learning the results of the fourth cycle of monitoring the implementation level of the Charter and with the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers, assessing the possibility of their implementation and informing the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the measures taken as a part of preparation of the fifth implementation report.

The Plenipotentiary submitted, as a part of meeting this task, a document to prepare the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Fifth Implementation Report"), where he informed the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic of the taken measures. The Fifth Implementation Reported was drafted in the course of the currently on-going 5th cycle of monitoring the implementation level of the Charter in the Slovak Republic, which was discussed by the Committee on 24 May 2018 at its 29th session and by adopting the Resolution no. 118 it recommended it to be submitted at the Government Council session. The

¹⁸ Available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/21686/1>

Government Council acknowledged and recommended the Fifth Implementation Report by resolution no. 200 of 28 June 2018, to the Government of the Slovak Republic for approval. Subsequently, the Fifth Implementation Report, which contains updated and comprehensive information on the state and situation of regional or minority languages in the Slovak Republic, was approved by the Government Resolution No. 352/2018¹⁹. At the same time, the Slovak Government imposed the task on the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic to submit the given report to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe by 31 August 2018. The task resulting from the resolution of the Slovak Government was fulfilled by submitting the mentioned report to the Council of Europe in August 2018.

There was a visit of the Committee of Experts delegation in December 2018 in connection with the submission of the Fifth Implementation Report. There were meetings with concerned institutions as well as with NGOs during this visit. The monitoring ends with the approval of the evaluation report by the Committee of Experts and the adoption of recommendations by the Committee of Ministers, to which the Party of the Charter is obliged to respond.

1.2.3 Other international mechanisms to control respecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities

Universal periodic review by the UN Human Rights Council and implementation of universal human rights conventions

The universal periodic review (hereinafter referred to as "UPR") is a special mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council ("UN Council"), which has been in place since 2008. This is a universal process, in which the State concerned is evaluated by other Member States. The aim of the review is to provide a comprehensive and objective picture of the state of human rights in all UN Member States. The review follows a regular 4.5-year cycle. From the perspective of the human rights agenda, the UPR is a key event at national level.

The Slovak Republic took on itself for the first time a voluntary commitment to provide the UN Council with a preliminary overview of the fulfilment of the above-mentioned recommendations in connection with the adoption of the UPR 2nd round recommendations in 2014 in the middle of the evaluation cycle. The Slovak government approved by Resolution no. 521/2017 the material entitled *Continuous State of Implementing the Recommendations addressed to the Slovak Republic in the 2nd Round of the Universal Periodic Review submitted in the middle of the evaluation cycle*. The material prepared by MFEA SR in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary and other relevant ministries and institutions was sent to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on 17 November 2017. The Slovak delegation, headed by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, participated on 28 January 2019 in the UN universal periodic review

¹⁹ Available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/23093/1>

on Human Rights in Slovakia. The Plenipotentiary provided continuous cooperation, mainly in issues related to the situation and rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the Slovak Republic.

Visit of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Lambert Zannier

On 26 February 2018, Lamberto Zannier, the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (hereinafter referred to as the “OSCE High Commissioner”), made his first official visit to Slovakia since he took office. The High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has been focusing its attention for a long time on the issues of education and educational system of persons belonging to national minorities as a key prerequisite for their preservation and development, but also for their integration into the majority society. The activities of the OSCE High Commissioner are characterized by non-public negotiations, the so-called silent diplomacy. However, he regularly informs the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of his activities.

An important point of interest of the High Commissioner of the OSCE at a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic was the question of the Presidency of the Slovak Republic in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (hereinafter referred to as the OSCE) in 2019. The OSCE High Commissioner showed during his visit an interest in the position of the Hungarian national minority also in the context of bilateral relations between the Slovak Republic and Hungary, as well as in addressing the issues of the Roma national minority in the Slovak Republic. The interviews touched upon current human rights institutional architecture, new legislation addressing the development and promotion of the culture of national minorities, its funding, the implementation state of the Action Plan, the issue of increasing radicalization of society and the related need to intensify human rights education.

The Plenipotentiary welcomed the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities as well. They discussed about the current issues of minority policy, including the current position of the Plenipotentiary, his current tasks, and the situation of national minorities in Slovakia, with particular emphasis on their members' access to education and public services, as well as preparation of the Slovak Presidency in OSCE in 2019 and possibilities of mutual cooperation within it.



Meeting of László Bukovszky with Lambert Zannier (Source: archive of the Office of the Government)

Bilateral cooperation on minorities' issues

The main principles of recommendations on national minorities in relations between countries according to the OSCE Bolzano Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-state Relations²⁰ state that under international law respect for and protection of minority rights is the responsibility of the state where the minority lives. It also mentions that other states may have an interest in the prosperity of minority groups abroad, especially those with whom they are linked by ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage. Slovakia develops in accordance with the above-mentioned recommendations a bilateral cooperation with Hungary and Ukraine in the first place.

²⁰ Document is available in English: <https://www.osce.org/hcnm/bolzano-bozen-recommendations?download=true> and in Slovak: <https://archiv.vlada.gov.sk/ludskeprava/data/files/4540.pdf>

Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission on Minority Affairs

Bilateral cooperation with Hungary is based on the Treaty on Good Neighbourly Relations and Friendly Cooperation signed on 19 March 1995. There is a dialogue held also within the meetings of the Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission on Minority Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "MSHC" or "Mixed Commission"), which adopt recommendations in order to improve the quality, development and to guarantee the protection of the rights of citizens belonging to the Slovak national minority in Hungary and the Hungarian national minority in Slovakia. The meetings evaluate the implementation of the continuously executed recommendations of previous meetings and the Parties shall agree on the adoption of new recommendations.

Lately, the Plenipotentiary as a member of the Mixed Commission participated in the fulfilment of recommendations and tasks resulting from the conclusions of the previous MSHC meetings and cooperated with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic in the preparation of 14th meeting of MSHC. There were meetings of Slovak part of the MSHC on 7 September 2018 and 24 January 2019 within the preparation of this meeting. The 14th plenary session of MSHC was held on 20 February 2019 in Bratislava. The session was chaired by co-chairpersons Ambassador Miroslav Mojžita for the Slovak party and Ministerial Commissioner for the Development of Neighbourhood Policy Ferenc Kalmár for the Hungarian party. The Mixed Commission adopted 16 new recommendations, six for the Slovak, and three for the Hungarian side and seven for both. The Mixed Commission did not find a common ground on issues related to financial support for the activities of Csemadok and the Society of Slovak Writers, referendum in Tešedík, the State Language Act, the legal scope of Hungarian language programs in public service television, and the dissemination of information to the traveling public in minority language. There persisted different views and approaches on both sides on a number of issues. However, this does not prevent from the implementation of the approved recommendations in good faith and in an atmosphere of mutual trust. 42 recommendations from the 2000-2016 sessions remained in force. Given the high number of on-going recommendations and 16 new recommendations, the Parties concluded the need for an annual periodicity of MSHC meetings. Both Parties appreciated the establishment of the Fund to Support Minorities Culture in Slovakia. The adoption of the new Statute of the Committee was an important step in the implementation of the recommendations under the authority of the Plenipotentiary. You can find more information in Part 2.1, page 30.

Information on course and results of 14th meeting of the Mixed Commission will be submitted to the Slovak Government. Subsequently, the Slovak Government will impose on the heads of the relevant central state administration bodies an obligation to acquaint themselves with the conclusions and recommendations of the MSHC meeting, to assess the possibility of their implementation and following that, to evaluate their fulfilment continuously.

Intergovernmental Slovak-Ukrainian Commission on National Minorities, Education and Culture

Bilateral cooperation with Ukraine is based on the Treaty on Good Neighbourliness, Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine (Kiev, 29 June 1993). In accordance with this Treaty and on the initiative of the Ukrainian party, the Intergovernmental Slovak-Ukrainian Commission on National Minorities, Education, Culture and Scientific Contacts (hereinafter referred to as "TSRU" or "Commission") was set up through Government Resolution No 362/1994. In agreement with the Ukrainian party, since 2003, it has been using the name Intergovernmental Slovak-Ukrainian Commission on National Minorities, Education and Culture.

The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for National Minorities provided full cooperation to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic in the preparation of 14th joint session of TSRU, held on 23 - 24 March 2017 in Bratislava, as well as in the preparation of the Slovak part of the Commission in March and June 2018. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with relevant ministries, public administration bodies and institutions, including the Office of the Plenipotentiary, shall continuously monitor the fulfilment of tasks arising from the meetings of the Commission.

The Commission deals with complex issues of the Slovak national minority in Ukraine and the Ukrainian national minority in Slovakia with the aim of supporting the preservation and development of their identity and culture. It also monitors the overall bilateral program in the field of culture, bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, science, research, national education, draws attention to the support of national minority media and exchanges of Radio and Television of Slovakia (RTVS) programs with media partners in Ukraine. TSRU is entitled to adopt recommendations for the Government of the Slovak Republic and Ukrainian cabinet of ministers. The representation of national minorities representatives at the member level (a representative of the Slovak national minority in the Ukrainian part of the Commission and a representative of the Ukrainian minority in the Slovak part of the Commission) who participate in fulfilling the adopted tasks contained in the fulfilment of tasks adopted in the protocol of each mixed TSRU meeting are of great contribution to the work of the Commission.

II. Part – Rights of persons belonging to national minorities in participation in dealing with issues that concern them

2.1 Legislative, conceptual and institutional frameworks

The Slovak Republic is a multicultural and multi-ethnic country, society of which consists of members of the majority Slovak nation together with members of national minorities, with whom they are equal in dignity and rights. In the context of minority rights, the issue of the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public affairs has over the past decades undergone fundamental changes, which reflected the finding that the exclusion of minorities from political, social and economic decision-making processes can have a significant negative impact on the society. The national minorities are, apart from their right to a different group identity, increasingly aware of their right and need to participate in the political, social and economic life of the country they live in. There have been significant OSCE activities in this regard, particularly in Europe, in order to outline the effective and coherent application of the rights of national minorities. The so-called Lund Recommendations on the effective participation of national minorities in public life (hereinafter referred to as the "Lund Recommendations")²¹ were the result of this initiative. The document states in general principles that the effective participation of national minorities in social life is one of the essential components of a peaceful and democratic society, therefore, governments must take specific measures in relation to national minorities to enable them to keep their own identity. This recommendation may be a realistic starting point for introducing more effective forms of participation of national minorities.

In a broader context, the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public affairs is not limited to political participation but includes participation in social, economic and cultural life as well. The Constitution and the legal order of the Slovak Republic are generally in compliance with international standards in the field of protection of the rights of national minorities. At the same time, the basic principles of these standards were reflected in the laws valid in the Slovak Republic. However, it is important to mention that this is not only about the compliance of norms and laws in general, but, first and foremost, about practical implementation of national governmental policy, availability, enforceability and quality of specific minority rights.

The Constitution in Art. 34, clause 2, letter (c) guarantees the citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups the right to participate in dealing with issues related to them. The international conventions guarantee these rights as well, in particular the Framework Convention, relation of which to the legal order of the Slovak Republic is subject to the priority clause under which the contract is categorized, it takes precedence over the laws, according to Art. 7, clause 5 of the Constitution and pursuant to Art. 154c, clause 1 of the Constitution, provided that it ensures a wider range of constitutional rights and freedoms.²² The article 15 of the Framework

²¹ The Hague Recommendations on the rights of national minorities to education were adopted in 1996 and in 1998 the Oslo Recommendations on the language rights of national minorities.

²² Drgonec, J. Constitution of the Slovak Republic. Commentary.3. edition. Šamorín: Heuréka, 2012.

Convention requires Parties to create conditions necessary for an effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, mainly those concerning them. Its goal is, first and foremost, to promote genuine equality between persons belonging to national minorities and the majority. In order to create conditions necessary for such participation of persons belonging to national minorities, the Contracting Parties should act jointly and in particular through representative institutions of national minorities, in the preparation of legislative or administrative measures that affect them directly. It deals, mainly, with involvement of minorities in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of national and regional development plans and programs; conducting research to assess the potential impact of planned development projects on these people; effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in decision-making processes and in the elected bodies at national and local level; decentralized or local forms of administration.²³

The participation mechanisms of national minorities under the administration of public affairs can have several levels, whereas the following basic forms of political participation can be mentioned in case of Slovakia:

- participation of national minorities in the legislative power;
- participation of national minorities in the executive;
- participation of national minorities under the administration of territorial self-governments;
- consultation mechanisms between the Government and national minorities

The most important participation area is an effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in decision-making processes and in elected bodies at national and local levels. All three forms of political participation at national level: legislative power (National Council of the Slovak Republic), executive power (government); regional (higher territorial units) and local (towns and municipalities) are available to national minorities directly or indirectly exclusively through the electoral system, political parties and political movements. The legal order of the Slovak Republic does not exclude the existence of the so-called ethnic political parties focused on representing the interests of a particular national minority or several national minorities. All legal rules governing voting rights fully respect the provision of Art. 30 of the Constitution, which states that citizens have equal access to elect and other public functions under the same conditions, whereas the right to vote is universal, equal and direct and is carried out by secret ballot.

However, there is no legislation that would regulate or automatically ensure participation of national minorities in the legislative power through the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The persons belonging to national minorities may be elected as deputies either as candidates of ethnic parties or as candidates of other political parties.

²³ Available at: <https://archiv.vlada.gov.sk/ludskeprava/data/files/4090.pdf>

The possibility for persons belonging to national minorities to be elected to parliament depends on the organization of the public and political life of the minority. The fact that the current legislation allows to get the mandate in the National Council of the Slovak Republic only to those political parties that surpass the 5% threshold limits the possibilities of small parties, representing possibly also members of national minorities. Practically, it means that participation at the political level concerns the Hungarian national minority in the first place. The decline in the number of national minority deputies is also linked to political movements (until 2009 the interests of the Hungarian minority were represented by one ethnic political party) and also due to insufficient legislation on the participation of national minorities in the legislative power. The differentiation of the political scene in case of national minorities may result in the deterioration of their position in the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic. This consequence is particularly evident in case of the Roma national minority, whose interests are usually represented by a number of political parties, although none of them has made it to the legislative body yet. The current parliamentary political actors are in their programs referring mainly to the Hungarian national minority. The participation of national minorities in the executive power in Slovakia depends mainly on the results of the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic and whether the existing ethnic political party has, on the basis of this result, become a part of the current government or not.

Currently, there is no appointed member of the government as the supreme executive body, who would be specifically responsible for protection and support of the situation and rights of national minorities. The Government Plenipotentiaries act, within some central state administration bodies (the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic), as advisory bodies of the Government, including the national minorities field. In 2012, the post of Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights and National Minorities was terminated and instead of that was established the post of the Plenipotentiary of the Government for National Minorities and the Plenipotentiary of the Government for Roma Communities at the MI SR. Based on the nature of their powers, they act partly as consultation mechanisms, partly as components of the executive power.

The participation of national minorities under the administration of territorial self-governments (higher territorial units and municipalities) is based on the same rules as in the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic, which means it is based on political parties. Local self-administration bodies exercise certain powers also in relation to the rights of national minorities and they often play the most important role in promoting the identity and culture of national minorities (they are the founders of school and cultural facilities, they promote local culture and the use of minority languages). In this respect, municipalities and higher territorial units with a significant number of persons belonging to national minorities, are in a better position. However, if they are minority in the given municipalities and higher territorial units, their interests may be pushed to the background. The national minorities have a stronger representation at the municipal level in comparison to the national level, as far as political participation is concerned. This applies to the Hungarian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian

and Roma minorities in the first place. At the national level, the representation of national minorities at the level of elected bodies of higher territorial units corresponds to the national level of participation. At the level of higher territorial units, the basic mechanisms of consultation processes on the issues of participation of national minorities, or national policy, are almost completely missing. There are no special advisory or consultative bodies to address the issues of education, language and culture of national minorities at the territory of a given region.

In Slovakia, the role of the representative and consultation institution is played by the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, which is an expert body of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality – an advisory body to the Slovak Government. You can find information on the Committee and the Council of the Government in Part 2.3, pages 39-42. In 2017, the Committee undertook intensive preparations to amend the Statute of the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (hereinafter referred to as the “Statute of the Committee”). The Committee members identified several areas of competence of the Statute of the Committee which needed to be updated. One of the most important requirements was the proposal to change the position of this body, namely its transformation into the Council for National Minorities as an advisory body to the Slovak Government. The petitioners justified this proposal with an effort to return to a similar arrangement as in the previous period, when the chairman of such a participatory body was a member of the government (it was the position of the Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights and National Minorities). The national minorities would have, via such a participatory body, more instant access with their proposals to the Slovak Government. However, this would also require a change in the Act on the Organization of Government Activities and the Organization of Central State Administration in relation to competences in the field of rights and situation of national minorities, put it simply, re-entrusting of these powers directly to the Minister or Deputy Prime Minister.

The most significant change in the given period which strengthened the rights of national minorities in the field of participation, was the change in the committee voting system. This change reflected several demands made by larger national minorities and enabled each member of a chamber, which is made up of representatives of the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, to have the right to vote. At the same time, in specific cases if discussion concerns one or more national minorities, only representatives of these national minorities shall vote on it.

2.2 Results of elections to self-governing regions authorities and municipal elections in terms of national minorities

The Act no. 180/2014 Coll. on the Conditions to Exercise the Right to Vote and on the Amendment to Certain Acts regulates election procedure in the Slovak Republic. In terms of municipalities, information on the place and time of elections shall be given, in accordance with Government Provision no.221/1999, in the national minority language as well. Similarly, according to §22, clause 1 and 4 of the above-mentioned

Act, these municipalities must have polling station and inside of it or in front of it displayed ballots marked as "model" and information to the voter on how to vote also in national minority language.

Local and regional authorities also exercise certain competences in relation to the rights of national minorities and they often play the most important role in the promotion of identity and culture of national minorities (they are the founders of school and cultural institutions, they promote local culture and the use of minority languages).

Table no. 1: Number and share of the five largest national minorities in the territory of individual self-governing regions

National minority	Hungarian	%	Roma	%	Ruthenian	%	Czech	%	Ukrainian	%
Higher territorial unit										
Bratislava	23 888	3,97	767	0,13	880	0,15	6 820	1,13	627	0,10
Trnava	120 784	21,77	3 048	0,55	104	0,02	3 259	0,59	233	0,04
Nitra	169 460	24,56	3 987	0,58	103	0,01	3 262	0,47	275	0,04
Banská Bystrica	67 596	10,23	15 525	2,35	186	0,03	2 941	0,45	493	0,07
Košice	74 743	9,44	36 476	4,61	3 076	0,39	3 174	0,40	1 637	0,21
Prešov	646	0,08	43 097	5,29	28 835	3,54	2 610	0,32	3 714	0,46
Trenčín	797	0,13	574	0,10	116	0,02	4 106	0,69	222	0,04
Žilina	553	0,08	2 264	0,33	182	0,03	4 195	0,61	229	0,03

Source: https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/wcm/connect/790f6f81-1f29-48dc-b9e0-7c55cd010b75/Tab_9_Obyvatelstvo_trvalo_byvajuce_v_krajoch_SR_podla_narodnosti_SODB_2001_2011.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=knLH00k&CVID=knLH00k&CVID=knLH00k

The elections to the bodies of self-governing regions were held on 4 November 2017. There were candidates supported by several political parties, who in their election program had an explicit intention to address the protection and rights of national minorities as well. It is not possible in these elections to keep track of the numbers of candidates and elected ones according to national minorities, because unlike the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic such data is not required and therefore, not available.

Table no. 2: Election results of parties whose electoral programme paid attention to the protection and rights of persons belonging to national minorities as a matter of priority.

	Candidates for HTU chairmen	Elected chairmen of HTU	Candidates for deputies	Elected deputies	Out of this number with a support of other political entities
Hungarian Christian-Democratic Alliance - Magyar Kereszténydemokrata Szövetség	1	0	10	0	
Party of the Hungarian Community - Magyar Közösség Pártja	4	0	128	47	17
Roma initiative of Slovakia	1	0	5	0	
Roma Coalition Party - SRK	1	0	8	0	
MOST-HÍD	5	0	258	48	40
Party of Tolerance and Coexistence	0	0	2	0	

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

The results of the elections demonstrate that the candidates of the political party Hungarian Christian Democratic Alliance - Magyar Kereszténydemokrata Szövetség (hereinafter referred to as "HCDA-MKDSZ"), the Roma Initiative of Slovakia (hereinafter referred to as "RIS"), the Roma Coalition Party - RCP") and the Party of Tolerance and Coexistence (hereinafter referred to as "PTC") were neither elected as the chairman of the self-governing region nor as its members. The Hungarian Community Party - Magyar Közösség Pártja (hereinafter referred to as "HCP-MKP") did not succeed in electing the chairmen of self-governing regions, but out of the 128 candidates for self-governing deputies, 47 were elected with its support (13 in Trnava region, 11 in Nitra region, 5 in Banská Bystrica region, 1 in Košice region and 17 in Bratislava region), whereas 17 of them (elected in the Bratislava region) were also supported by other political entities²⁴. Not even five MOST-HÍD candidates received sufficient electoral support to gain the chairman of the self-governing region, out of 258 candidates were with MOST-HÍD support elected 48 as deputies (6 in Bratislava region, 1 in Trnava region, 16 in Trenčín region, 17 in Nitra region, 1 in Banská Bystrica region and 6 in Košice region), including 40 with the support of other political entities²⁵.

Table no. 3: Results of political parties representing the interests of persons belonging to national minorities in elections to bodies of self-governing regions in 2013 and 2017²⁶

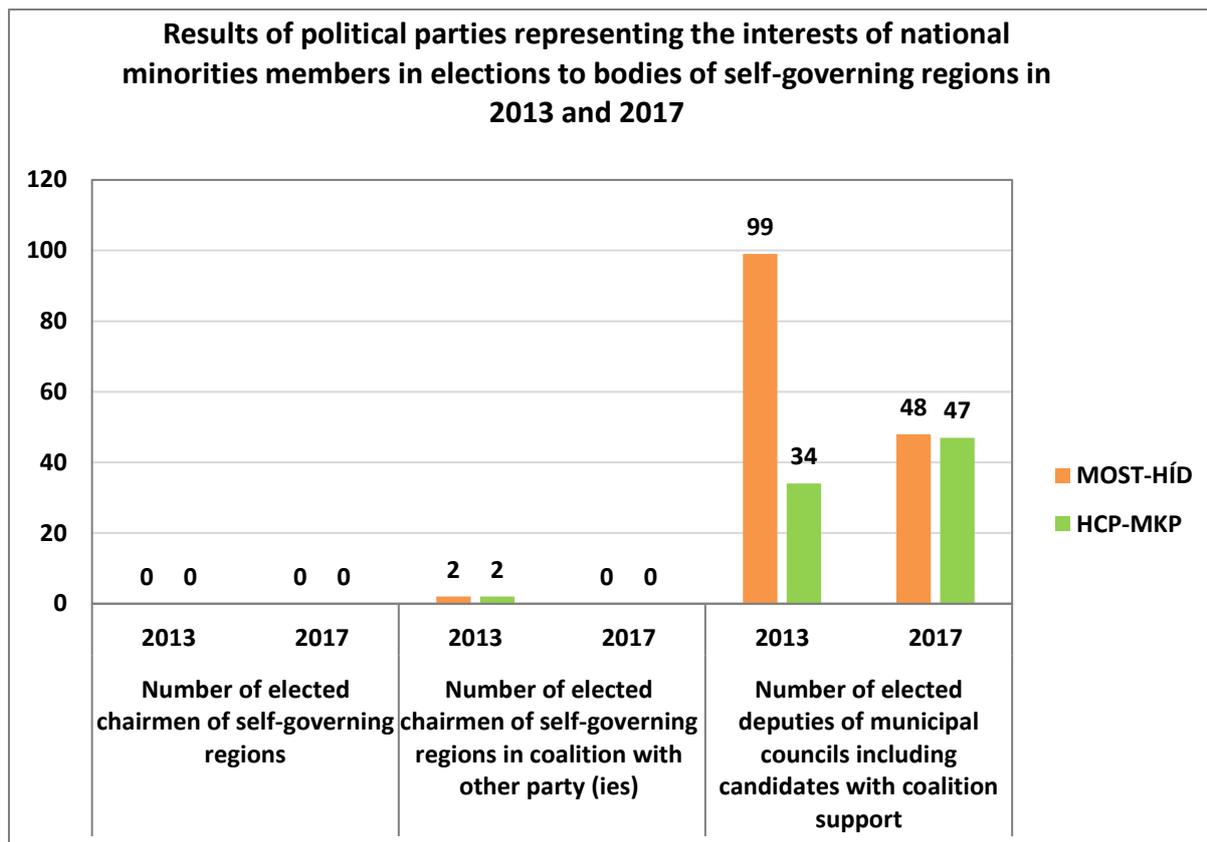
Year	Number of elected chairmen of self-governing regions		Number of elected chairmen of self-governing regions in coalition with other party (ies)		Number of elected deputies of municipal councils including candidates with coalition support	
	2013	2017	2013	2017	2013	2017
MOST-HÍD	0	0	2	0	99	48
HCP-MKP	0	0	2	0	34	47
HCDA-MKDSZ		0		0		0
RIS		0		0	0	0
SRK		0		0	0	0
STS		0		0	0	0

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

²⁴ KDĤ, NOVA, OPIECES, OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti (OLĀNO), SaS, Zmena zdola a DÚ

²⁵ 17 in coalition with MOST-HÍD, SNS, SMER - SD, 16 with a support of MOST-HÍD, SNS, SMER - SD and SZ and finally 6 supported by the political subjects STAROSTOVIA A NEZÁVISLÍ KANDIDÁTI, MOST-HÍD, SDKÚ-DS, SMER - SD, SZ and SKOK – ELD

²⁶ There are blank spaces in the table if the parties did not nominate any candidates in the elections.



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

Table no. 4: Number of own and coalition vice-chairman for MOST-HÍD and HCP in self-governing regions

Higher territorial unit	MOST-HÍD/ with a support of MOST-HÍD	HCP / with a support of HCP
Bratislava	0/1	0
Trnava	0	1
Nitra	1	1
Banská Bystrica	0	0/1
Košice	1	0
Prešov	0	0
Trenčín	0/1	0
Žilina	0	0

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

Compared to the results of the 2013 elections, there was a quantitative drop in both parties and the successful candidates they supported, in case of HCP-FEM from 68 to 47 (which means by 30.88%), with the largest decrease in the Bratislava region (from 34 deputies supported by a wide coalition²⁷ to 17) and in case of the party MOST-HÍD from 99 to 48 (i.e. 51,51 %) there was a largest decrease number of deputies also in Bratislava region (from 34 deputies to 6) and in Žilina region, where it fell from 16²⁸ to 0.

²⁷ SDKÚ-DS, SZ, OKS, SMK-MKP, SaS, MOST-HÍD and KDH

²⁸ Supported by the coalition consisting of KDH, SDKÚ-DS, SaS and MOST-HÍD

The municipal elections were held in the given period on 10 November 2018, when residents of municipalities elected mayors and deputies of the town or municipal council. The representatives of all the above-mentioned political parties were elected in these elections. The MKS-MKSZ supported 16 mayoral candidates, 4 out them were elected, including 1 with the support of other political parties (SMER - SD and MOST-HÍD). With the support of the political subject called HCDA-MKDSZ were elected 22 deputies to municipal councils, 3 of them were supported by another party (MOST-HÍD). HCP-MKP supported 167 successful candidates for mayor (out of a total of 265 candidates supported by this party), 54 of them were supported by other political entities (31 in MOST-HÍD, 9 in case of MOST-HÍD and SMER - SD and 12 mayors ran with the support of various broad coalitions). 1,358 members were elected to the municipal councils with the support of the HCP-MKP, 110 of them were supported by other political entities as well (most often, in 30 cases, by the MOST-HÍD party). With the support of the RIS, 2 candidates for mayors of municipalities were elected (out of 3 candidates supported by this political movement, whereas HCP-MKP supported one successful candidate as well) and 14 candidates for deputies. 40 candidates for mayors were supported by the Roma Coalition Party - RCP. 9 of them were elected for mayors without the support of other political entities as well as 71 candidates for local council deputies. The MOST-HÍD party supported 444 mayoral candidates in the elections, 287 of them were successful (160 were supported by other political entities, most often, in 41 cases combination of MOST-HÍD, SMER-SD, 60 cases in combination of MOST-HÍD, SMER-SD and other political entities and in 6 cases by the Slovak National Party (hereinafter referred to as "SNS") and in 54 cases by SNS and other political entities). There were 1124 elected mayoral candidates and 209 of them were running also with a support of other political entities, most frequently (67 cases) SMER-SD party, 113 cases SMER-SD and other political entity, and 30 cases HCP-MKP. The PTC expressed support for 8 mayoral candidates, one of them was elected with its sole support, as well as 30 successful candidates for local council deputies.

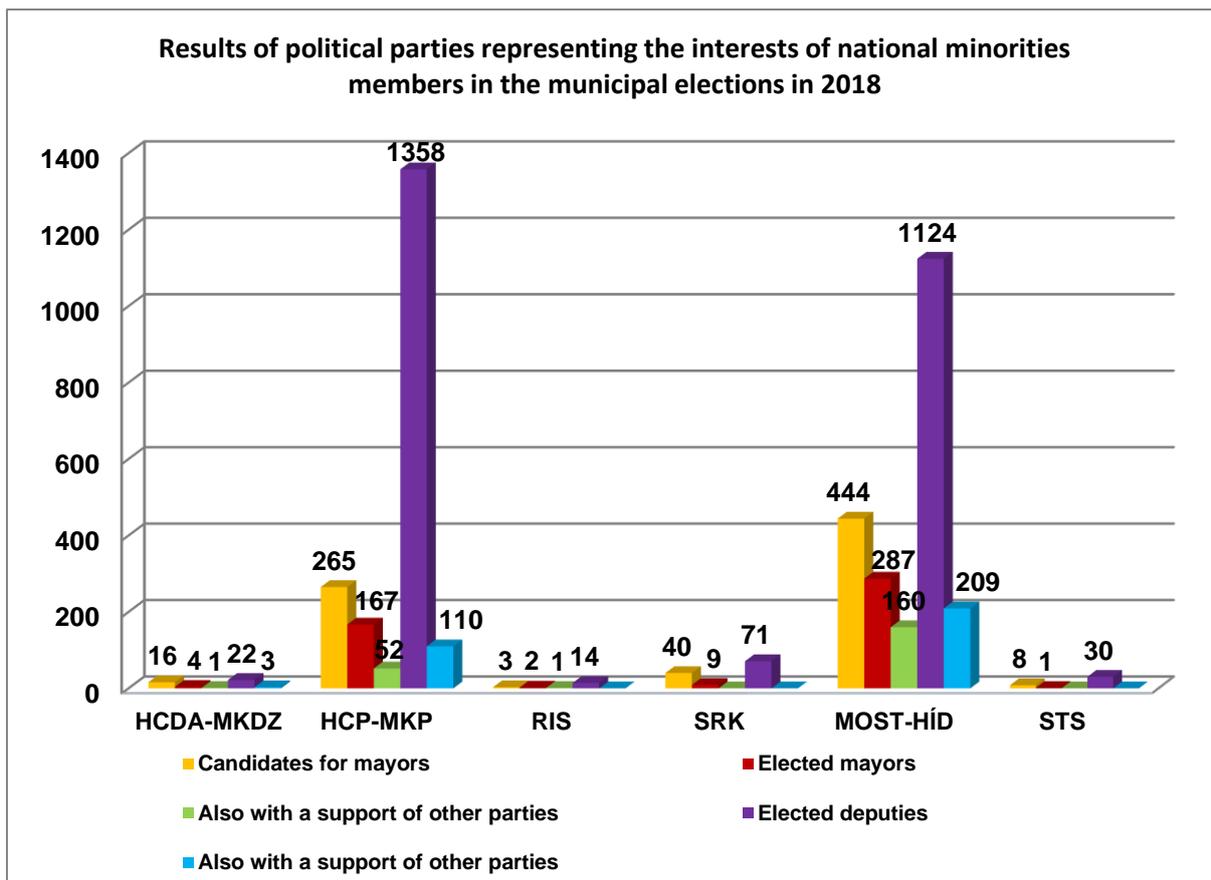


Table no. 5: The municipal elections results of political parties, which focused primarily on the protection and rights of persons belonging to national minorities in their election campaign²⁹

	Candidates for mayors	Elected mayors	Also with a support of other parties	Elected deputies	Also with a support of other parties
HCDA-MKDZ	16	4	1	22	3
HCP-MKP	265	167	52	1358	110
RIS	3	2	1	14	0
SRK	40	9	0	71	0
MOST-HÍD	444	287	160	1124	209
STS	8	1	0	30	0

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

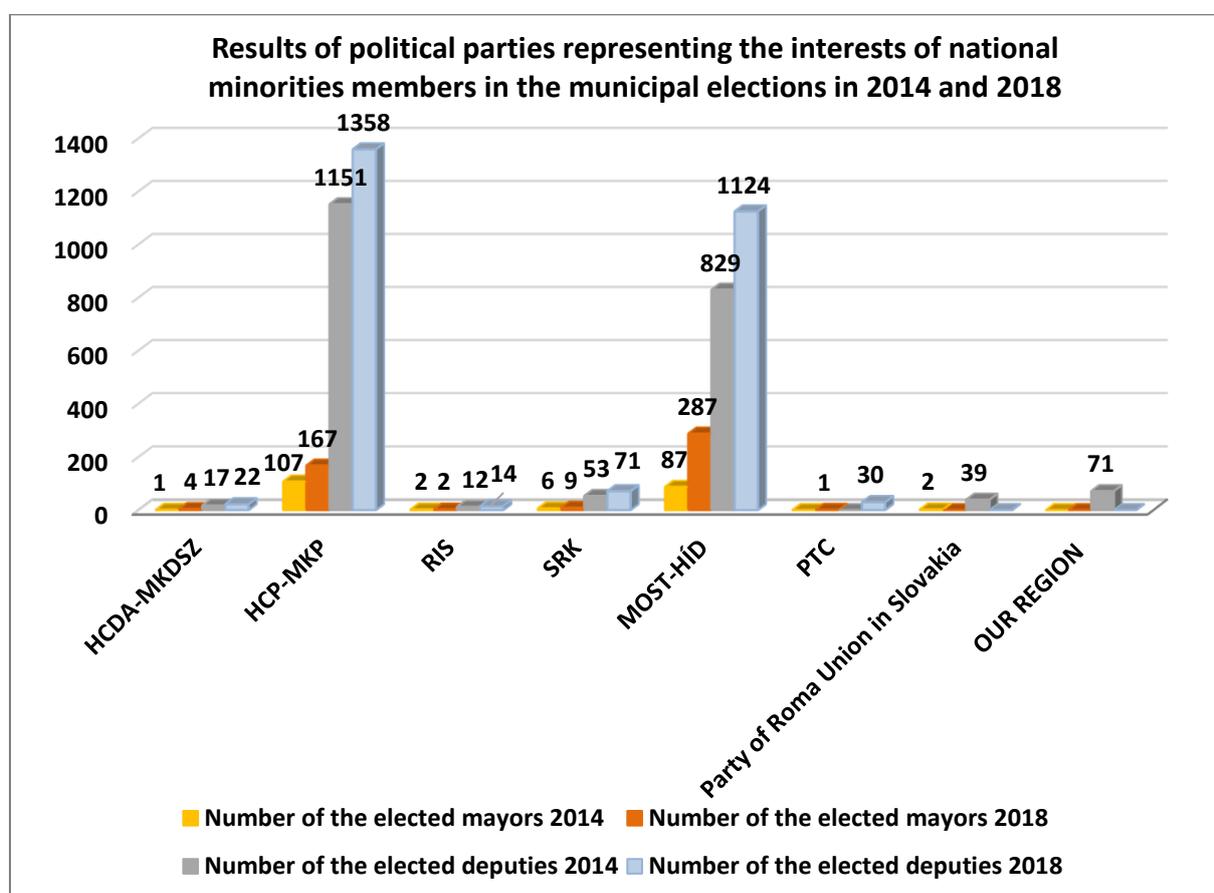
Compared to the results of the 2014 municipal elections, there is a significant increase in elected mayors and deputies running with the support of national minority parties.

²⁹ The Statistical Office does not provide data on the total number of candidates for MEPs, but only information on the number of elected candidates with a support of individual political entities.

Table no. 6: Results of elections to local government bodies in 2014 and 2018 according to political parties explicitly representing the interests of national minorities

	Number of the elected mayors		Number of the elected deputies	
	2014	2018	2014	2018
HCDA-MKDSZ	1	4	17	22
HCP-MKP	107	167	1151	1358
RIS	2	2	12	14
SRK	6	9	53	71
MOST-HÍD	87	287	829	1124
PTC	0	1	0	30
Party of Roma Union in Slovakia	2	0	39	0
OUR REGION	0	0	71	0
TOGETHER	205	468	2172	2619

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



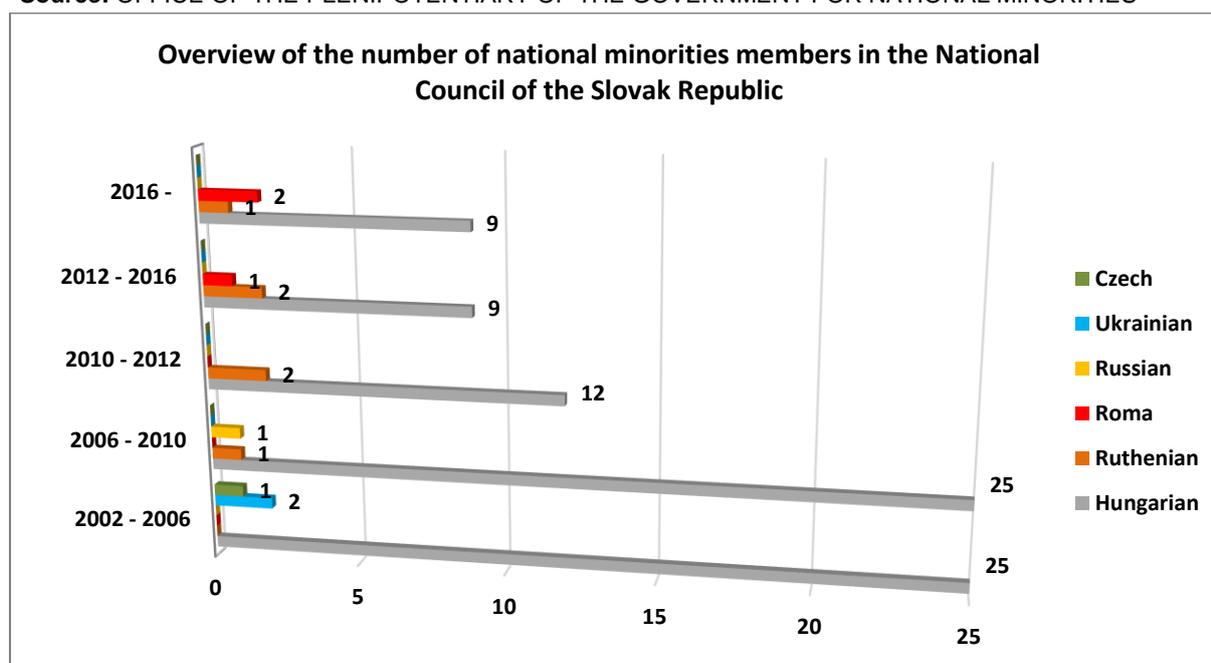
There were announced three elections in the given period to local government bodies of those municipalities, where the mayor position had not been filled in or municipal council members had not been elected. On 8 April 2017, a deputy supported by the HCP-MKP party was elected in Klin nad Bodrogom and mayors running with the support of the MOST-HÍD and SMER-SD parties in the municipalities of Štefurov and Vyškovce. On October 14, 2017, the mayor candidate for MOST-HÍD was elected in Trhová Hradská, and a deputy candidate for the same party was elected in Panické Dravce. On 27 January, 2 deputies in Martinová and 1 deputy in Zombor were elected for MOST-HÍD.

The forms of political participation at national as well as regional and local levels are available to national minorities exclusively through the electoral system and thus through political parties and political movements. As far as representation of national minorities through their members in the legislative power is concerned, national minorities have had such representation continuously since the establishment of the Slovak Republic. However, we can say that in the given period the representation of national minorities in the Slovak legislative body has been gradually decreasing. The persons belonging to national minorities are getting into parliament depending on the organization of the public-political life of the given minority. The 5% electoral threshold is demographically unreachable for all national minorities except for Hungarian and Roma. The differentiation of the political scene in case of the Roma national minority, whose interests are usually represented by several political parties, caused that none of them has so far surpassed the electoral threshold of the legislative body.

Table no. 7: Overview of the number of persons belonging to national minorities in the National Council of the Slovak Republic

National minority	Electoral term/ Number of deputies				
	2002 - 2006	2006 - 2010	2010 - 2012	2012 - 2016	2016 -
Hungarian	25	25	12	9	9
Ruthenian	0	1	2	2	1
Roma	0	0	0	1	2
Russian	0	1	0	0	0
Ukrainian	2	0	0	0	0
Czech	1	0	0	0	0
Deputies in total	150	150	150	150	150
Percentage share of persons belonging to national minorities	18,67 %	18 %	9,33 %	8 %	8 %

Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES



Source: Report on the Situation and Rights of Persons belonging to National Minorities in 2012, p. 59, <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/>

2.3 Consulting mechanisms

The consultation mechanisms represent an essential form and irreplaceable way of participation of national minorities in dealing with public affairs. However, it should be noted that they do not replace different and other forms of participation. According to the Lund Recommendations, advisory and consultative bodies are to serve as channels for dialogue between governmental authorities and national minorities.³⁰ These bodies should have a possibility to raise questions to decision-making bodies, make recommendations, formulate legislative proposals and comment on governmental decisions that concern them directly. In accordance with this way of thinking were in Slovakia in the period of 2010 – 2011 reformed or newly established those consultation mechanisms that currently represent the highest consultation bodies of the Government Council of Slovakia for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality. The committees were established in 2011 as a permanent expert body of the Government Council. To ensure the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in the resolution of matters concerning them, the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups was established as a permanent expert body of the Government Council on issues concerning national minorities and ethnic groups and in implementing the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in accordance with Art. 15.

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

The Government Council is a standing expert, advisory, coordinating and consultative body of the Government for the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, political and civil rights, rights of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, economic, social and cultural rights, right related to the protection of the environment and cultural heritage, children's rights and respect for the best interests of the child, as well as the rights of persons with disabilities and senior citizens, and for the promotion of the principle of equal treatment, equal opportunities and gender equality. Members of the Council include the Plenipotentiary and the Chairperson of the Committee, as well as the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee representing a national minority or ethnic group.

The Government Council is informed on the activities of the Committee on a regular basis. Information on the meetings of the Council's Committees as well as on the adopted resolutions is part of the information on the meetings of the Council, which is submitted to the Slovak Government for discussion. The Committee is, at the same time, regularly informed on the conclusions of the Council's deliberations. In the period 2017-2018, the Plenipotentiary submitted to the Government Council several materials, namely the Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2017-2018, the new Statute of the Committee as

³⁰ The Czech version of the Lund Recommendations is available at:
<https://www.osce.org/cs/hcnm/32243?download=true>

well as evaluation reports of the Committee on National Minority Education Support and on the Use of Languages of National Minorities in 2016. There were seven meetings of the Government Council during the given period with 28 adopted resolutions.

2.3.2 Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups

Currently, the most important mechanism of participation of persons belonging to national minorities in decision-making on matters concerning them is the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups as a permanent advisory body of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality. The Plenipotentiary presides the Committee.

The Committee deals with legislative and non-legislative measures of the government or state bodies, local authorities and other subjects dealing with the rights of national minorities. It submits opinions, proposals, and statements. It takes part in the drafting of periodic reports on the control mechanisms of international treaties on human rights and rights of national minorities (Charter, Framework Convention), and submits three evaluation reports to the Government Council at two-year intervals: on language use, culture support and situation of national minorities schools. 13 national minorities are represented in the Committee. Representatives of central government bodies with competence in the field of minority rights are also present in the Committee, who also have the right to vote after a change in the Statute of the Committee.

The Plenipotentiary initiated in 2018 in connection with meeting the 6th operational objective of the Action Plan *Improving the mechanisms for participation of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in decision-making on matters that concern them* to change the Committee's Statute. It should be highlighted in this context that this change had also been made in line with the recommendation from 13th session of the Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission on Minority Affairs, which contained a recommendation to the Slovak Republic to create conditions for the Committee to update its Statute in the part on the ratio of representation and voting of minorities to reflect the proportion of individual minorities as well³¹. The Committee at its 28th session held on 9 February 2018 discussed and adopted the Resolution no. 116 and thus changed the wording of the Statute of the Committee. Compared to the original Statute, there were mainly changes concerning the creation of a bicameral system, extension of voting rights to all members of both chambers, modification of the manner a representative opinion is adopted, determination of a circle of always invited members, change of annual periodicity concerning the evaluation reports to biannual period and prolongation of Committee members' term from three to four years. Another change resulting from the new Statute is that the meetings of the Committee are public. In accordance with the new Statute, the first Chamber of the Committee has 23 members representing 13 national minorities and the second Chamber consists of 9

³¹ Available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/21754/1>

members representing the relevant public administration bodies. The number of permanently invited Committee members is 10.

The Committee has a specific position among other Committees of the Government Council. The Committee members representing persons belonging to national minorities are directly elected by minority organizations. Every member of the First and Second Chamber of the Committee is entitled to vote in the Committee after its Statute has been changed. The Committee can thus be considered as an elected consultative and advisory body of national minorities, which decides on its matters. It is not possible to solve the questions of a particular national minority at the Committee meeting without the participation of its representatives.

In July 2017, the term of majority of the Committee members terminated and therefore, there was a Committee meeting on 3 July 2017, where representatives of 100 national organizations, provably engaged in promotion of the preservation and development of the identity and culture of national minorities, voted Committee members and their substitutes. The representatives of 94 national organizations participated in the election meeting on behalf of thirteen national minorities. Since the election of members and substitutes was for the Ukrainian national minority at the regular election date not successful, supplementary elections were held on 12 July 2017. Subsequently, there was an extraordinary Committee meeting on 18 July 2017, where Committee chairman handed over the appointment letters to the newly elected Committee members and their substitutes.

In total, nine Committee meetings were held during the given period, with 31 resolutions, 1 fundamental opinion and one resolution adopted by the per rollam procedure. There were four regular and one extraordinary meetings of the Committee in 2017, with a total of 16 adopted resolutions (resolutions 102-115, including resolutions 111a and 112a), all of which were met.³² Based on the above-mentioned fundamental opinion on the proposed amendment to the Statute, the Committee instructed its Chairman to take steps to transform the Committee into a Government Council for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups. The Chairman of the Committee informed the members of the Government Council on this opinion at its 26th session. The Government of the Slovak Republic discussed information from the given Government Council at its meeting on 3 May 2017 as an informative material.

In 2017, the Committee drew up, pursuant to Art. 3, letter f) of the Statute of the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, The Evaluation Report on the Promotion of National Minority Cultures, The Report on the Situation of National Education and The Report on the Use of National Minority Languages for 2016 (hereinafter referred to as "Evaluation Reports"), which it submitted to Government Council for approval. The above-mentioned Evaluation Reports were elaborated by experts on individual national minorities in accordance with the principle of participation. The Evaluation Reports were approved by the Committee at its 27th

³² Available at: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/vybor-pre-narodnostne-mensiny-a-etnicke-skupiny/>

session on 20 November 2017 and by the Government Council on 14 December 2017 at its 29th session.

The Committee adopted in 2017 a resolution on the *Minority SafePack* initiative, recommending to Slovak citizens, among other things, to support with their signature *Minority SafePack* citizens' initiative - *Million Signatures for Diversity in Europe* submitted by the Citizens Committee of the Federal Union of European National Minorities (FUEN) to the European Commission and aim of which is to protect European autochthonous minorities as well as to create a European Union's legislative background to preserve the linguistic and cultural diversity of our continent in the fields of regional and minority languages, education and culture, regional policy, participation in public affairs (participation), equality, audio-visual and other media content, as well as regional (public) support. Besides, this call contributed to the fact that more than 63,000 citizens signed up for this initiative in the Slovak Republic, with a total of 1,128,385 citizens in the European Union.

There were four regular meetings of the Committee in 2018, with 15 resolutions being adopted (resolutions no. 116-130), all of which were met³³. The Committee dealt during this year especially with the situation in national museums as well as the situation and activities of the Fund to Support Minorities Culture. The Committee invited its chairman to organize a working meeting with the directors of national museums, the general director of the Slovak National Museum and the representative of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic with a participation of representatives of national minorities that have museums. You can find more detailed information on these meeting in Part 3.5, pages 67-68. As far as the Fund to Support of Minorities Culture is concerned, the Committee called on the Director and the Board of Directors of the Fund to take appropriate measures to speed up the process of concluding contracts in the future by strengthening staff and simplifying administrative procedures. It also called on the Government of the Slovak Republic to adopt appropriate legislative measures in order to avoid recurring problems in connection with the process of providing subsidies to support the culture of national minorities, including the adoption of appropriate system changes.

The Committee was during the given period regularly informed on the process of preparing the methodology for the 2021 Population and Housing Census, the Plenipotentiary's activities in relation to the implementation of the Action Plan, and other tasks arising from the Manifesto. He was, at the same time, regularly informed on the activities of the Fund to Support Minorities Culture and the national broadcasting of RTVS.

The Committee, as well as the Office of the Plenipotentiary, have their representatives in the Committees of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality, namely the Committee on Research, Education and Training in Human Rights and Development Education and the

³³ Available at: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/vybor-pre-narodnostne-mensiny-a-etnicke-skupiny/>

Committee on the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism, and other forms of Intolerance.

2.4 The Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for National Minorities

The Plenipotentiary's scope of competence covers roles related to the preservation, development and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and implementation of systemic measures to improve their situation. The Plenipotentiary's activities are supported by the Office of the Plenipotentiary, which is included within the organisational structure of the Office of the Government. The expert units of the Office of the Government performing tasks related to the implementation of Slovak policy on national minorities in accordance with the legislative framework for the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the Government's Manifesto include the Office of the Plenipotentiary, the Office of the Head of the Civil Service Office and other cooperating organisational units of the Office of the Government ³⁴.

Following the adoption of the Fund Act, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted Resolution no. 489/2017 annex no. 4 to the Statute of the Plenipotentiary. Taking into consideration the fact that the competence of the Office of the Government in the area of support for the culture of national minorities was transferred to the Ministry of Culture, the provision concerning the function of the sponsor of the grant system of the Office of the Government in the field of redistribution of funds to protect and support maintenance and development of identity and culture of the national minorities, was omitted.

This amendment also changed the periodicity of drafting the report on the situation and rights of persons belonging to national minorities submitted by the Plenipotentiary to the Government of the Slovak Republic from the original annual to biannual period. This change was carried out in accordance with the initiative of the Committee, as the two-year interval corresponds to the periodicity of the report on the state of use of minority languages in the Slovak territory resulting from the Act on the use of languages of national minorities. Consequently, it was achieved that in each calendar year one of the above-mentioned reports is prepared and translated for a meeting of the Slovak government.

The annex, at the same time, expanded the mandate of the Plenipotentiary and on the basis of it he can submit proposals in the framework of drafting legislative and non-legislative measures related to the use of national minorities' languages. This change was made in order to ensure the comprehensive coverage of the rights of national minorities within his competencies.

Supporting the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in the solution of public affairs is one of the competencies of the Plenipotentiary, which he fulfils according to his Statute. In this context, the Plenipotentiary shall in particular

³⁴ More detailed delimitation of tasks and mutual relations of organizational units of the Government Office available at: http://www.vlada.gov.sk/data/files/6822_organizacny-poriadok-uplne-znenie.pdf.

chair the Committee, hold regular consultations with persons belonging to national minorities and with national minority organizations, and promote the strengthening of the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public affairs. The Plenipotentiary during the given period continuously consulted all open questions with representatives of national minorities represented in the Committee or with national organizations, both on his own initiative and if they expressed interest in such kind of communication. He also held several working meetings focused on exchanging information and consulting proposals to improve the situation of national minorities and to promote the rights of persons belonging to national minorities with representatives of central public administration bodies, relevant embassies in the Slovak Republic and international organizations.

The evaluation of participatory mechanisms of national minorities in Slovakia was also a topic of discussion during the workshop entitled *Models of Participation Mechanisms for Members of National Minorities in Europe*, which was held on 20 September 2017 in Bratislava at the instigation of the Plenipotentiary. The idea of organizing a workshop on this topic arose from the need to evaluate the effectiveness of the participatory mechanisms of national minorities of the Slovak Republic in view of their limits and to seek new impulses aimed at their improvement, as well identification of conditions of effective participation of national minority members in the cultural, social and economic life, including good practices in the area of European models of participatory mechanisms.

The requirements of national minorities in this field include, in accordance with the Framework Convention and recommendations for its implementation, transformation of the Committee into a government advisory body, reviewing the position of the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities within the broader human rights structure and ensuring that paying attention to a high political level, namely re-entrusting these powers directly to the Minister or Deputy Prime Minister, as well as ensuring effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in decision-making processes and elected bodies at national and local level, including decentralized or local administration forms.

III. Part – The national minorities rights in the field of their culture

3.1 Legislative and conceptual frameworks

According to Article 34, clause 1 of the Constitution, the comprehensive development of persons belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic is guaranteed, in particular the right to develop their own cultures, the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue, associate in national minority associations, and set up and maintain educational and cultural institutions. Slovakia bound itself to support the preservation and development of the culture of national minorities within the Framework Convention and the Charter as well.

The Slovak Government continued to implement the Manifesto, where it expressed its intention to support the activities of national minorities living in Slovakia, which contribute substantially to the shaping and evolution of cultural diversity as a traditional and integral part of the development of Slovak society. The Government has also bound itself to adopt The Act on the Public Fund Creation to Finance Minority Culture in order to ensure systematic support for the cultural and artistic activities of all national minorities in the Slovak Republic. After the preparation, in which the Plenipotentiary and his office were actively involved, The National Council of the Slovak Republic adopted on 10 May 2017 Act no. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund to Support Minority Cultures and on the Amendment to Certain Acts under which the Fund to Support Minority Cultures was established on 1 July 2017.³⁵

The Government defined in the Manifesto in the part *Cultural Policy and National Minorities Policy* the role of creating a new *strategy for a development of local and regional and national minority culture by 2030*. The goal of the strategy is to support comprehensive and long-term development of local and regional and national minority culture as a part of sustainable dynamic inclusive development of communities and modern creative and innovative economy in regions, cities and municipalities of Slovakia. The working group consisting of experts from relevant departments was set up in 2018 and its aim was in cooperation with actors of local, regional and national

³⁵ You can find more information in subchapter 1.1 National legislation of the Slovak Republic in the field of situation and rights of national minorities' members p. 5 – 8.

Other laws also provide a framework for providing support to the culture of national minorities by the state and public authorities:

Act no. 189/2015 Coll. on Cultural and Educational Activities; Act no. 126/2015 Coll. on Libraries and on the Amendment to Act no. 206/2009 Coll. on Museums and Galleries and on the Protection of Objects of Cultural Value and on the amendment to Act of the Slovak National Council no. 372/1990 Coll. on Offenses, as amended by Act No. 38/2014 Coll.; Act no. 212/1997 Coll. on Compulsory Copies of Periodical Publications, Non-periodical Publications and Copies of Audio-visual Works; Act no. 167/2008 Coll. on Periodical Press and Agency News and on Amendments to Certain Acts (Press Act); Act no. 532/2010 Coll. on Radio and Television of Slovakia and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts, as amended; Act no. 103/2014 Coll. on Theatrical Activity and Musical Activity and on Amendments to Certain Acts; Act no. 206/2009 Coll. on Museums and Galleries and on the Protection of Objects of Cultural Value and on the amendment to Act of the Slovak National Council no. 372/1990 Coll. on Offenses, as amended; Act no. 220/2007 Coll. on the Digital Broadcasting of Program Services and the Provision of other Content Services through Digital Transmission and on Amendments to Certain Laws (Digital Broadcasting Act); Act no. 343/2007 Coll. on the Conditions for Recording, Public Dissemination and Preservation of Audio-visual Works, Multimedia Works and Sound Recordings of Artistic Performances and Amending to Certain Acts (the Audio-visual Act); Act no. 524/2010 Coll. on the Provision of Subsidies within the competence of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, as amended (until the end of 2017).

minority culture to prepare material for a meeting of the Government of the Slovak Republic, in order to identify and approve priorities, principles, objectives and instruments of developing local and regional cultural policy and culture of national minorities in Slovakia.

As far as the institutional provisions of this area are concerned, one of the most important steps was the establishment of the Section for the Development of Local and Regional Culture and Culture of National Minorities within the MC SR. The Section was established on 1 February 2019 and consists of the Department of National Minorities Culture and the Department of Local and Regional Culture Development, employees of which work in each self-governing region and there is a coordinator for the least developed regions of Slovakia as well.

The biggest change in the given period was the establishment of the Fund to Support Minorities Culture.³⁶ The Minister of Culture appointed the first director of this Fund as of 17 July 2017. The bodies of the Fund were established in 2017, namely supervisory board, expert boards and board of directors. Furthermore, the main documents of the Fund were elaborated and adopted, all necessary things to start the main activity of the Fund were secured and prepared, which is the receipt and evaluation of applications and the provision of funds. The Fund distributed first financial resources in 2018.

3.2 Edification centres and libraries

The cultural-edification activities contribute, in accordance with Act no. 189/2015 Coll. on Cultural and Edification Activities, through its operation, cultural and edification activities to respect for human rights and the diversity of cultural expressions, to shape the cultural way of life, to increase the cultural and educational level of Slovak citizens and to develop creativity as a basic cultural value of society. This activity ensures, inter alia, the development of cultural identity and intercultural dialogue at national, regional and local level. The cultural-edification facilities are, according to Act No. 189/2015 Coll., carrying out cultural-edification activities.

The public administration in the field of edification activities is carried out by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, which creates legal and organizational conditions to ensure and develop edification activities at the national level, to determine strategic and conceptual ways of determining cultural-edification activities, to support cultural-edification activities and public presentation of the results of cultural-edification activities in Slovakia and abroad. The Ministry of Culture establishes the National Edification Centre. The self-governing region and the municipality establish or set up an edification facility with regional or regional competence in the territory of the self-governing region or with the competence in the territory of the municipality. The edification facilities provide methodological counselling in the field of edification activities, support the activities of teams and individuals from the field of interest artistic activity and non-professional artistic works, provide advancement competitions and

³⁶ You can find more information on the Fund in subchapter 1.1 National legislation of the Slovak Republic in the field of situation and rights of national minorities' members p. 5 – 8.

shows, realize educational, presentation and competition events in the area of edification activities, they search, preserve, protect, make available, document, inventory and creatively exploit intangible cultural heritage. They play an important role in the national culture promotion.

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic ensures, through the Cultural Heritage Section, the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Disadvantaged Groups of Population Section, in accordance with generally binding legal regulations, in particular Act No. 189/2015 Coll. on Cultural-Edification Activities (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 189/2015 Coll.") and international treaties, mainly the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, to exercise public administration in the field of intangible cultural heritage and edification activities.

3.2.1 National Edification Centre

The main activities of the National Edification Centre (hereinafter referred to as "NEC") are among other things: promotion of the development of cultural identity and intercultural dialogue at the nationwide level, mapping the cultural potential of the Slovak regions, informal cultural education and prevention of negative social phenomena and ensuring multicultural centre activities. The NEC supports the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the Slovak Republic through its methodological, advisory, organizational and publishing activities. The NEC initiated, managed, prepared and participated in 2017 in several cultural activities focused on presentation of the culture of national minorities in the Slovak Republic.

In spite of the fact that the NEC did not carry out activities focused on the protection of the rights of national minorities and ethnic groups members directly, it emphasized the rights of national minorities and ethnic groups members during realization of various activities (such as seminars, working meetings, briefings) with NEC regional and regional edification centres professionals in connection with presentation of other content topics.

In the field of artistic interest activities, NEC was creating prerequisites and opportunities for participation in all events and activities for creators, amateurs, in all genres regardless of their nationality. However, it was possible to apply for advancement contests, which included the recitation or singing of an artistic or author's text (Hviezdoslavov Kubín, Strunobranie), with the exception of folklore advancement contests (Bearers of Traditions), only with a text in the state language. The NEC addresses experts from the representatives of national minorities to work in the juries, the program and organizational committees of competitions and in the NEC expert groups. The National Edification Centre participated in 2017 for example, in the World Music Festival (Bratislava, 21 - 24 September 2017), which focused on intercultural dialogue, respect for own tradition and building understanding among people through art. In terms of the year 2018, it participated in the organization of the 10th year of art-literature competition for primary school pupils, primary art schools, children homes, leisure and community centres named The Coloured World - Coloriskeri luma 2018, which was about freedom, democracy and human rights.

3.2.2 Edification and cultural facilities

The cultural and edification facilities are in accordance with the Act no. 189/2015 Coll. legal entities set up by central state administration bodies, self-governing regions or municipalities, which carry out cultural-edification activities. The cultural-edification institutions are the most important institutional bearers of the culture of national minorities in the regions. Some regional enlightenment facilities are engaged not only in the creation of regional culture, but they operate nation-wide³⁷ as well. The activities of cultural-edification facilities in the field of support of cultures of national minorities focus on methodological-advisory, educational and mainly implementation activities, whereas they are based on the peculiarities of a nationally mixed territory. They organize advancement competitions in the recitation of poetry and prose, music and dance interpretation and creation and other artistic activities. The largest representation of a wide range of events is in the Hungarian national minority culture, in the Roma culture and in the culture of the German, Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities.

Table no. 8: List of cultural or edification centres under the administration of self-governing regions, which carry out activities supporting the culture of national minorities

Self-governing region	Name of the cultural or edification centre
Banská Bystrica	• Novohrad Edification Centre in Lučenec
	• Gemer-Malohont Edification Centre in Rimavská Sobota
	• Hont-Ipeľ Edification Centre in Veľký Krtíš
	• Pohronie Edification Centre in Žiar nad Hronom
	• Podpolianske Edification Centre in Zvolen
Košice	• Gemer Edification Centre in Rožňava
	• Spiš Edification Centre in Spišská Nová Ves
	• Zemplín Edification Centre in Michalovce
	• Bodva Valley and Rudohorie Cultural Centre in Moldava nad Bodvou
	• Medzibodrožie and Použie Cultural Centre in Kráľovský Chlmec
	• Abova Cultural Centre in Bidovce
Nitra	• South Zemplín Museum and Cultural Centre in Trebišov
	• Regional Edification Centre in Nitra
	• Regional Edification Centre in Nové Zámky
Prešov	• Regional Edification Centre in Komárno
	• Podduklianske Edification Centre in Svidník
	• Podtatranské Edification Centre in Poprad
Trenčín	• Upper Šariš Edification Centre in Bardejov
	• Regional Cultural Centre in Prievidza
Trnava	• Galanta Edification Centre
	• Žitnoostrovské Edification Center in Dunajská Streda
Žilina	• Regional Cultural Center in Žilina

Source: Banská Bystrica self-governing region, Košice self-governing region, Nitra self-governing region, Prešov self-governing region, Trenčín self-governing region, Trnava self-governing region, Žilina self-governing region

³⁷ E.g. Regional edification centre in Nové Zámky, which carries out annually, in cooperation with the regional committee Csemadok, a national tour of the Hungarian children's and youth choirs in Slovakia under the name VOX IUVENTUTIS.

The cultural-edification activities are carried out apart from cultural-edification facilities established by the central public administration body, self-governing regions or municipalities, also by organizations operating beyond the framework of Act no. 189/2015 Coll., namely professional institutions of national minority organizations, e.g. The Hungarian Educational Institute in Slovakia, which is a founding authority and carries out activities in close cooperation with the Csemadok Republic Council, organizes, for instance, a competition in poetry and prose in the Hungarian language with the nation-wide scope of Tompa Mihály Országos Verseny (Mihály Tompa Republic Competition) or the children's art competition Duna Menti Tavasz (Spring along the Danube).

3.2.3 Libraries

The library is, pursuant to Act No. 126/2015 Coll. on Libraries and on Supplements and Amendment to Act no. 206/2009 Coll. on Museums and Galleries and on the Protection of Objects of Cultural Value and on the Amendment to Act of the Slovak National Council no. 372/1990 Coll. on Offenses, as amended by Act No. 38/2014 Coll. (hereinafter referred to as “Act No. 126/2015 Coll. on Libraries”) a cultural, information and educational institution that complements, professionally records, processes, preserves, protects, uses and makes available its library collection, provides librarian-information services, helps to meet users' cultural, information, scientific-research and educational needs and supports their lifelong learning, information literacy, creative personal development and linguistic diversity. The libraries of municipalities with national minority or ethnic group members are, in accordance with § 12 of this Act, obliged to take this fact into consideration when completing and building the library collection. The regional library, established by the self-governing region, operates in the territory of several municipalities and ensures, among other things, on the basis of contractual relations, completing the library collections of municipal libraries.

Table no. 9: List of regional libraries that are supposed to take into account in the construction of the library collection and in the provision of methodological assistance and counselling services to municipal libraries, city libraries, school libraries, special libraries and their founders that national minority members live in municipalities within their scope.

Library name	National minority
Žitnoostrovská Library in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian
Galanta Library	Hungarian
József Szinnyei Library in Komárno	Hungarian
Tekov Library in Levice	Hungarian
Karol Kmeťko Regional Library in Nitra	Hungarian
Anton Bernolák Library in Nové Zámky	Hungarian
Novohrad Library in Lučenec	Hungarian
Matej Hrebenda Library in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian
Hont-Novohrad Library of A.H. Škultéty in Veľký Krtíš	Hungarian
Library of Juraj Fándly in Trnava	Hungarian
Small Carpathian Library in Pezinok	Hungarian
City Library of Michal Chrástek in Žiar nad Hronom	German

Public Library of Ján Bocatius in Košice	Hungarian, Roma
Zemplín Library of Gorazd Zvonický in Michalovce	Hungarian, Roma
Gemer Library of Pavol Dobšinský in Rožňava	Hungarian, Roma
Zemplín Library in Trebišov	Hungarian
Spišská Library in Spišská Nová Ves	Roma
David Gutgesel District Library in Bardejov	Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Roma
Vihorlat Library in Humenné	Ukrainian, Ruthenian
Ľubovňa Library in Stará Ľubovňa	Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Roma
Podduklianska Library in Svidník	Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Roma
Podtatranská Library in Poprad	Roma
P.O. Hviezdoslav Library in Prešov	Roma
Upper Zemplín Library in Vranov nad Topľou	Roma
Ľudovít Štúr Regional Library in Zvolen	Roma

Source: The Slovak Government provision no. 221/1999 and <http://www.snk.sk/sk/informacie-pre/kniznice-a-knihovnikov/adresar-kniznic.html>

The publisher of the periodical publication is, pursuant to Act No. 212/1997 Coll. on the Obligatory Copies of Periodical Publications, Non-periodical Publications and Copies of Audio-visual Works, as amended, obliged to hand over the obligatory copy to the University Library in Bratislava, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak National Library free of charge and on his own expenses and according to the scope of the press to other institutions (according to Annex 1 of the said Act) as well. Besides, regional press (in the language of a national minority as well) should be handed over to the relevant regional libraries too. The Act imposes a similar obligation to hand over obligatory copies to publishers of non-periodical publications, depending on the circulation the publication was published, always to the Slovak National Library and other institutions (pursuant to Annexes 2 and 3 of the said Act).³⁸ The publication of periodical publications, non-periodical publications and production of copies of audio-visual works in languages other than the state language are, in accordance with this Act, not limited as long as provisions of that Act and provisions of special regulations are met. Thus, all publications issued in Slovakia, including publications issued in the languages of national minorities should be available in the Slovak National Library.

You can find a comprehensive overview of activities aimed at preserving and developing culture of national minorities of three libraries under the authority of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, namely the State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica, the State Scientific Library in Prešov (and its specialized workplace Documentary-information centre of Roma culture) and State Scientific Library in Košice in the given period, as well as some libraries under the administration of self-governing regions, in Annex no. 1.

³⁸Furthermore, the publisher of the periodical and non-periodical publications is obliged to submit the obligatory copy also in electronic or other form, if it was originally published in one of them, per one copy to the University Library in Bratislava and the Slovak National Library; compulsory copy in electronic form, if originally issued in such form, to the Institute of Linguistics of Ľudovít Štúr of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

3.3 Professional national theatres and artistic ensembles

There are five national professional artistic entities in Slovakia, which are under the administration of self-governing regions and one national professional artistic body, which is under the administration of the Ministry of Culture - Ifjú Szívek Dance Theatre. In the period under review, there were efforts made also to exclude other national theatres from the administration of self-governing regions and to associate them with the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, thereby ensuring a unified system of support for these theatres, which would, at the same time, better reflect scope of competencies of artistic ensembles, in most cases going beyond the higher territorial units, which are currently their founders. The administration of the self-governing regions include: Alexander Duchnovič Theatre in Prešov, Romathan Theatre in Košice, Thália Színház Theatre in Košice, Jókai Theatre in Komárno and PODDUKELSKÝ ARTISTIC FOLK ENSEMBLE in Prešov (music and dance artistic ensemble). Their activity deals primarily with national minority culture.

Table no. 10: Overview of funding, number of performances, premieres and spectators of national Theatres

	Year 2017					Year 2018				
	Performances	Premieres	Audience	Transfer from the founder	Budget	Performances	Premieres	Audience	Transfer from the founder	Budget
Thália Színház Theatre	122	5	47 988	591 146	770 004	103	5	27 760	617 203	747 203
Romathan Theatre	66	3	8 805	415 263	436 369	62	3	8853	438 743	453 585
Jókai Theatre	166	6	52 577	1 073 702	1 366 872	156	7	52 476	1 307 746	1 628 832
Alexander Duchnovič Theatre	114	4	11 105	596 719	660 606	103	4	12 315	597 413	678 736
Ifjú Szívek	64	3	10 000	641 490	807 749	67	6	10 000	733 746	977 140
PODDUKELSKÝ ARTISTIC FOLK ENSEMBLE	105		55 300	643 565	777 478,9	139		58 700	670 266	882 808,3

Source: Annual reports of theatres, The Slovak Ministry of Culture, Košice self-governing region , Nitra self-governing region, Prešov self-governing region

Ifjú Szívek Dance Theatre

The Ifjú Szívek Dance Theatre (hereinafter referred to as "ISDT") is a professional artistic ensemble, which has been under the administration of the Ministry of Culture since 1 January 2017. Its mission is to study and professionally interpret folk dances, music, songs, vocal and instrumental works, which follow up mainly to the folk art traditions of the members of the Hungarian national minority living in Slovakia, but also of other nationalities living in the Central Europe. ISDT spread, through its

activities in 2017, the good name of Slovak and Hungarian dance art, as well as the Hungarian community living in Slovakia and the Slovak Republic itself at the international level.

The dance theatre ensemble presented in 2017 three new productions and completed 64 full-length performances with a repertoire of seven plays. The dance theatre has achieved several international successes, for example repeated participation in the Off d'Avignon Festival, where, apart from the fact that dance-theatre play *Finetuning* was presented twenty-two times, it also won the *Prix Tournesol award* in the *Corps et Danse* category (Body and Dance).

ISDT prepared six new choreographies in 2018. In addition, ISDT introduced a performance for children and youth entitled *History of Dance and Music*. The youth dancing component introduced its own full-length performance called *Carpathian Mountains*. In 2018, ISDT was again very successful on the domestic and foreign stages with three performances and had in audition in the People's Republic of China, Shanghai at the Xintiandi 2018 International Art Festival and at six folklore festivals in Slovakia. ISDT puts great emphasis on its scenic activity to appeal to young audience as well. There is always at least one performance in the repertoire of the theatre, which comprises a traditional dance and music culture of Central Europe in a form that is close to the contemporary children. In 2018, ISDT delivered 23 performances focused on children, which were watched by more than 4 600 primary and secondary school pupils and students. The long-term problem of the theatre in the past was a horrible condition of the roof of the building where it resides. The new founder of the theatre has earmarked funds for its reparation during the year 2017 and a more extensive reconstruction of the building (including the replacement of windows) is currently pending.³⁹

Poddukelský artistic folk ensemble in Prešov

The main activity of the Poddukelský Artistic Folk Ensemble (hereinafter referred to as "PAFE") is a vocal-dance artistic production, creation and presentation of folk programs of vocal, dance and music production at the domestic and international level with a special focus on development of cultural life of Ruthenians and Ukrainians living in Slovakia. The PAFE is a contributory organization under the administration of the Prešov self-governing region.

In 2017 and 2018, PAFE presented the culture of Ruthenians and Ukrainians living in Slovakia at several festivals outside of the Prešov region, as well as in Brussels, Vojvodina and the Czech Republic, and it cooperated with other music performers too. The theatre portrays as problematic its possibilities of foreign presentation due to the fact that its only financial supporter is its founder, Prešov self-governing region, but the scope of the PAFE goes beyond the territory of this higher territorial unit. Consequently, it does not have a possibility to finance artistic ensemble sufficiently.⁴⁰

³⁹ You can find more information on theatre here: <http://www.ifjuszivek.sk/sk>

⁴⁰ You can find more information on artistic ensemble at: <http://www.puls-slovakia.sk/>

Alexander Duchnovič Theatre in Prešov

Alexander Duchnovič Theatre in Prešov (hereinafter referred to as “ADT”) is a professional, cultural and artistic institution active in the field of theatre. The role of the ADT is to cultivate and disseminate culture for persons belonging to the Ruthenian and Ukrainian minorities living in Slovakia. The ADT is administered by the Prešov self-governing region. The ADT gave in 2017 114 performances, including 4 premieres of theatre plays. In 2018, ADT gave 103 performances and introduced 4 premieres.

The ADT performed in 2017 and 2018 at international as well as regional festivals and received two nominations for an award called DOSKY 2018. The most significant problem of the theatre is the lack of funds and the absence of its own theatre hall.⁴¹

Thália Színház Theatre in Košice

The Thália Színház Theatre in Košice is a contributory organization under the administration of the Košice self-governing region. The Thália Színház Theatre is a theatre with national reach as evidenced by the fact that high percentage of its performances (44,20% in 2017) take place outside the territory of the Košice self-governing region and Slovakia. The theatre presents a quality culture, it is a good representative of the diversity and multi-layered nature of the theatre art, the Hungarian community and the inhabitants of the Košice self-governing region. It is one of the best Hungarian and Slovak theatres, it produces and presents theatre performances for adolescents and adults in Hungarian language on the domestic Slovak scene and abroad with an emphasis on all forms and genres of classical, modern and alternative art. The Thália Színház Theatre rehearsed 5 premiere performances in 2017. The theatre managed in 2018, in cooperation with the Hungarian public television, to shoot a Chaos / Káosz performance for the M5 TV channel in Budapest. Furthermore, the actors of the theatre played 5 premiere performances in 2018.

The director of the theatre has been pointing out its nature that is different from other stone theatres for a long time, which perform most of their performances on their own stage. That is reflected not only in its scope (theatre performs both nationally and internationally), but it has influence on the quicker amortisation of coulisses, costumes, fleet and other technical equipment. They consider the introduction of travelling theatre status into legislation as an ideal solution, which would follow the examples of countries, such as the United Kingdom.⁴²

Romathan Theatre

Romathan Theatre is a budgetary organization under the administration of the Košice self-governing region with a unique mission of national significance. It is the only Roma Theatre of its kind not only nationally but also on a European scale.

⁴¹ You can find more information on theatre at: <http://www.divadload.sk/>

⁴² You can find more information on theatre at: <http://www.thaliaszinhasz.sk/sk/>

According to the tradition of Roma culture, the Romathan Theatre is a four-ensemble musical and dramatic theatre with an equal application of: spoken word, singing, music and dance. The majority of its activities focus on children and youth. The 25th anniversary of its establishment was celebrated in 2017. As far as conceptual materials of national culture of the Košice self-governing region are concerned, the development plan of the Romathan Theatre is being elaborated with the aim of a comprehensive solution of conditions for the development and dissemination of authentic Roma art (including beyond theatre), the so-called "Romano kher".

The theatre rehearsed in 2017 3 and in 2018 again 3 premiere performances. The premises where the theatre operates are insufficiently satisfactory. The building requires a complex reconstruction, the hall with 70 seats is not sufficient in capacity and needs to be extended.⁴³

Jókai Theatre in Komárno

The Jókai Theatre in Komárno (hereinafter referred to as "JTK") is a professional drama theatre which also performs in Hungarian and operates under the administration of the Nitra self-governing region. The JTK has had a permanent venue in Komárno since 1952. Its key mission is to disseminate theatrical culture in Hungarian in areas mostly inhabited by persons belonging to the Hungarian national minority. For this reason, its touring activities primarily focus on Hungary. Around 33 % of its premières are performed on tours, whether in Slovakia or Hungary.

In 2017, the JTK presented 6 premieres of new productions of various theatre genres and 5 plays from its own repertoire. The total number of performances made with an own ensemble in the given year was 166, 33 of them were performed in Hungary. The guest ensembles played 36 performances in JTK. Its cross-border cooperation with Thália Színház Budapest, József Attila Színház Budapest, Csokonai Színház Debrecen, Hungarian National Theatre Budapest, Miskolci Nemzeti Színház, Soproni Petőfi Sziínház, Pécs Nemzeti Színház and Győri Nemzeti in Bratislava , Slovak Chamber Theatre in Martin, Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra and Thália Theatre in Košice is of great importance too.

The JTK presented in 2018 6 premieres of new productions of various theatre genres and 6 plays from its own repertoire. The total number of performances made with an own ensemble in the given year was 156, 20 of them were performed in Hungary. The guest ensembles played 30 performances in JTK. Around 30 % of its premieres were performed on tours, whether in Slovakia or Hungary. The cross-border cooperation was carried out in 2018 with the same art institutions and ensembles as in the previous year. The JTK audience is diverse. It consists of children from pre-school age, through primary and secondary school pupils, university students, adults, pensioners and spectators from Hungary.

⁴³ You can find more information on theatre at: <https://www.romathan.sk/sk/divadlo-romathan>

Other theatres under the administration of the self-governing regions

Apart from the traditional national theatres, some other theatres under the administration of self-governing regions, namely Puppet Theatre na Rázcestí in Banská Bystrica and Karol Spišák's Old Theatre in Nitra devote their activities to the development of national minority culture and interethnic dialogue.

Banská Bystrica self-governing region

The Puppet Theatre na Rázcestí in Banská Bystrica organized the International Puppet Arts Festival Bábkarská Bystrica TOUR 2018, which was dedicated to getting to know the so-called *Unknown land* on two levels: 1. cooperation with the smallest municipalities in the region, 2. cooperation with the Roma community. The Puppet Theatre also organized dozens of art, animation and acting workshops for groups of children from community centres in the Banská Bystrica region and the production of Mini-course animation for children from excluded Roma communities. In the course of the festival prologue, there was a space for the *Dancing and Theatre Explosion of Children's Talents* in the theatre's tent. The festival presented the work of dancing and drama clubs from various places in the region. The theatre organized in 2018 a staged reading about the life and work of the Polish Roma poet Bronislyw Wajs - Papusza.

Nitra self-governing region

The Old Theatre of Karol Spišák organized in Nitra in 2018 already the 20th annual international show of theatres and students of art academies of the V4 countries *Stretnutie, Setkání, Spotkanie, Találkozás (Meeting)*. The international show acquaints the inhabitants of the region with the creation of art schools and professional theatres of the V4 countries in the field of dramatic production for children and young people, thus contributing significantly to the spreading knowledge of the diversity of cultures of individual nations living also in the Nitra region.

3.4 Television and radio broadcast for national minorities

Television and radio broadcasting in minority languages is ensured, in particular, through Act No 532/2010 Coll. on Radio and Television of Slovakia and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 532/2010 Coll. on RTVS"). Under § 5(1)(b) and (g), Act No 532/2010 Coll. lays down the obligation of Radio and Television of Slovakia (hereinafter 'RTVS') to broadcast no less than four radio programming services, at least one of which is intended to provide programming, balanced in terms of content and regional coverage, in the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups living in Slovakia. Another RTVS service are broadcasts, balanced in terms of content and regional coverage, in the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups living in Slovakia with a broadcasting time corresponding to the minority and ethnic composition of the population in Slovakia. This service is regulated by Act No. 532/2010 Coll. Based on the results of the last

Houses and Population Census, it should be 12.3%. In order to ensure the production and broadcasting of programming for national minorities and ethnic groups, RTVS set up a separate organisational unit of Slovak Radio and Slovak Television at the level of a section, namely the National Minority Broadcasting Centre. In addition to RTVS, Radio Rusyn FM and Radio Roma provide radio broadcasting in national minority languages too.

Radio and Television of Slovakia

RTVS produces and broadcasts programs for thirteen national minorities in eleven languages. For nationalities: Hungarian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Roma, Polish, Czech, German, Russian, Serbian, Croatian and Bulgarian in their mother tongue, for Moravians in Czech and for Jewish nationality in Slovak.

The production and broadcasting of the program is ensured by a separate Section of National Minorities Broadcasting with a separate production budget, which results from Act No. 532/2010 Coll. on RTVS. The Director of the Section reports directly to the General Director (he is at the level of the DG representative) and has powers similar to national television broadcasting as the directors of STV, SRO program services and directors of regional studies. The National Broadcasting Section has four organizational units - Editors: Hungarian Broadcasting Radio Patria Bratislava, National Broadcasting Radio Patria Košice, National Broadcasting STV Bratislava, National Broadcasting Košice. The editorial offices are led by team-leaders-editor-in-chiefs entrusted to the manager function by the Section's director.

A separate organizational unit for national broadcasting at the Section level confirms the extremely important situation of public broadcasting for nationalities, and within the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) countries is the inclusion of a similar organizational unit unique. This organizational structure enables, on one hand, a unified approach in process and production management and, on the other hand, a specific approach to each nationality according to the abundance of its members and according to nationality-defined needs of nationalities. The model of work organization in production and broadcasting for nationalities has stabilized after the Act on RTVS came into effect during the merger of previously independent SRO and STV.

RTVS radio broadcasting

The radio broadcasting has, on the basis of Act No. 532/2010 Coll. on RTVS, a separate program service called Radio Patria as the fifth terrestrial broadcasting circle of the organization unit Slovak Radio. RTVS is not the only broadcaster of national content, Radio Roma has a licence to broadcast voice content from Prešov in Romani language and Radio Rusyn also from Prešov in Ruthenian language. Other radio stations for national broadcasting are not licensed in the territory of the Slovak Republic, but local broadcasters may include national programs in their broadcasting. Nevertheless, RTVS is the dominant broadcaster of radio programs for nationalities. According to several data collections in listening research, Radio Patria has a significant impact: on average, "listened to the last week" is between 130-150 thousand

listeners, and a national share of 2.8%, whereas no nationality operates in full format except for Hungarian broadcasting radio.

Radio Patria broadcasts for ten nationalities. The Hungarian broadcasting is a full-format, all-day radio broadcasting in the southern parts of Slovakia daily for 12 hours (06:00-18:00), approximately on the half of the territory is available on terrestrial FM frequencies, on the other half on terrestrial AM frequencies. The availability is for the target group currently limited to a very small area, it is around Moldava nad Bodvou and Košice city, where RTVS has local frequencies prepared to cover the broadcast.

The Hungarian broadcasting consists on weekdays of information, news, journalistic slots. The weekend broadcasting consists, apart from news, of political journalism, social journalism, artistic, ecclesiastical, literature-drama and moderated music programs. The ratio of spoken word to music is 60:40 per cent. The musical composition of the broadcast varies significantly, from classical music, through folklore, to old-rock and old-pop to contemporary rock, pop and marginal genres. After the legal regulation on the mandatory ratio of Slovak production in the musical part of the program⁴⁴, Radio Patria was exempted from the Broadcasting and Retransmission Council, which was not extended at the end of 2018.

The broadcasting for Ruthenian, Roma and Ukrainian nationalities is composed of daily news and information formats and weekly journalistic, artistic and literature-dramatic formats. News and information programs on weekdays are broadcasted under the Radio Patria sign on the nationwide circuit Radio Regina during prime time. The other formats are aired in the evening on weekends and holidays on the Regina-East circuit. News and information formats in prime time represent a continuation of traditional radio formats, but they were in the given period modernized, content-wise reformatted, made more dynamic, as shown in the first measurable values of Radio Regina time zones in several data collections of Slovak radio stations' listeners rate with an upward trend.

The magazine journalist formats in weekly programs are characterized by less numerous but sufficiently large nationalities: Polish, German and Czech. All three are broadcasted on weekends in slots that are broadcasted nationwide. The programs for Serbian, Croatian and Bulgarian nationalities (these are small-scale national communities) are broadcasted rarely, there are five listed a year, on Radio Patria's Bratislava frequency on Friday evening. Whereas Croatian broadcasting has been ensured continuously for three years, Serbian and Bulgarian have been very difficult to fill due to the lack of radio-competent creators from the given nationality. The radio broadcasting for nationalities meets the requirements of Part 5 of the Act on RTVS, as

⁴⁴According to §28a of Act No. 308/2000 Coll. on Broadcasting and Retransmission and on the Amendment to Act No. 195/2000 Coll. on Telecommunications, the Slovak musical work for the purposes of this Act should be considered a musical work, of which at least one author of music or at least one author of the text has or was permanently resident in the territory of the Slovak Republic; or a musical work with text in Slovak. This means that the production of Ruthenians, Hungarians, Roma, etc., living in Slovakia recorded also in the language of a national minority, can be considered as a Slovak musical work. According to §28b, a licensed broadcaster is obliged to reserve at least 25% of the broadcasting time of musical works in a calendar month for Slovak musical works and at least 35% of the broadcasting time of musical works in a calendar month, namely in a broadcasting of each radio program service of a such broadcaster separately.

defined in paragraph 1, letters (b) and (g), and an even distribution of broadcasting time according to the frequency of nationality and regional jurisdiction.

It has been possible to listen to RTVS radios online since 2014 also through the mobile application iRádio RTVS, the internet stream of Slovak Radio worldwide. It is the first official RTVS application for the internet stream, previously it was possible to play live broadcasts of the most listened stations of Slovak Radio online via the unofficial iPhone: Radio - Slovak Radio application or through the websites anywhere with the Internet.

RTVS television broadcasting

Television broadcasting for nationalities is included in the Dvojka program service and is broadcasted on weekdays on a daily basis. For all 13 nationalities, the RTVS broadcasts half-hour magazine formats - for Hungarian and Roma nationality with a weekly, for Ruthenian with two weeks, for Ukrainian and Czech with monthly frequency, programs of small-scale nationalities are broadcasted every six to eight weeks. All magazines have the same name *Sme doma (We are here)*. The news formats are broadcasted in Hungarian on weekdays in seven minutes, news in other languages are broadcasted on a weekly basis in ten minutes. These programs are complemented by the weekly Hungarian half-hour portrait format *Tvárou v tvár (Face to face)*.

In addition to cyclical programs, RTVS includes in the broadcasting of Dvojka ad hoc programs in national languages as well. In the given period, there were records of folklore festivals (2017 - Želiezovce, Svidník, 2018 - Gombasek), a live broadcast of the Catholic Hungarian mass (2017), a reprise from the gala evening on the 90th anniversary of Hungarian broadcasting in (Czechoslovakia) Slovakia (2018) and extraordinary slot to the Orthodox Christmas and New Year customs (2018). All programs are broadcasted in the language of a national minority (with the exception of Jewish and Moravian) and all are accessible and understandable to other viewers through subtitles. The law prescribes subtitles, but RTVS considers it an important tool for inclusion and mutual process of getting to know each other. The RTVS authorities (CEO and RTVS Council) have been pointing out for a long time that without a systematic solution to the financing of public service broadcasting (fees unchanged for 14-years, an additional form of funding through the Treaty with the State) and without launching another program it is not possible to increase the share of national broadcasting to the share set by law. On the one hand, there is a lack of real broadcasting time for it, on the other hand, the funding to develop modern formats with larger broadcasting times. The share of national programs reached during the given period 4.8 per cent of broadcasting time.

Nevertheless, the broadcasting in Hungarian and Romani languages has been modernized in terms of content and form in the given period, and a similar process awaits programs of other nationalities. RTVS is one of the few public broadcasters in the EBU that drops the practice of broadcasting for nationalities, focusing exclusively on traditions and culture, recognizing that ethnic communities are an organic part of the minority states and are organic, living, dynamically developing part of the European Community. RTVS records two unique features within European broadcasters. On the

one hand, it is a strict adherence to the principle that national programs are moderated by members of a national minority in their mother tongue⁴⁵, on the other hand, RTVS is the only broadcaster of the European Broadcasting Union, where Roma broadcasting is carried out exclusively in the Romani language.

Radio broadcasting for minority nationalities has made a progress in terms of content and form in the given period, which is also reflected in the listening ratings of programs. Stabilization of this progress is real and sustainable in the long term. Television broadcasting has been stable during the given period, but this may turn into stagnation, and therefore, the broadcaster will shift tested radio content progress into the television broadcast as well.

Radio broadcasting of private radios

There are also two private radios operating in the Slovak Republic that focus on national minorities, apart from public radio broadcasting. It is Radio Rusyn FM and Radio Roma. Taking into consideration that so far none of the Reports on the Situation and Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities in previous periods has informed about the broadcasting of these radios, the provided overview starts with their establishment.

Radio Rusyn FM

The Radio Rusyn FM successfully started its broadcast on December 3, 2012. The broadcast started with a one-hour block that was repeated every day of the week. The broadcast was made of the block of shows and songs only. Subsequently, the program was gradually being enriched. The radio needed new adjustments and also an extension of original production. In 2014, a studio was opened in Bratislava and cooperation with the *Lemkov* radio, for those living in Poland *lem FM* was established. The radio has since 2015 established cooperation with the Institute of Ruthenian Language in Prešov and with Greek Catholic and Orthodox parishes (Kamienka, Snina). The studio in Prešov was opened in 2016 and cooperation with ANTIK TV began in the same year as well. The iOS and Android applications were programmed to listen to Radio Rusyn FM the same year too. The Radio Rusyn FM has been offering since 2016 the only daily global news in Ruthenian, available in written form in Ruthenian on the radio portal the following year. The radio started in 2018 cooperation with radio Novi Sad and from 2019 also with the Greek Catholic eparchy in Košice.

The Radio Rusyn FM has an ambition to be the media of Ruthenians of all ages worldwide. The main goal of Rusyn FM is to spread awareness among the Ruthenians and awaken interest in their own culture and language. The internet space, where Radio Rusyn FM operates, has proven to be an ideal place and a tool to attract young people with Ruthenian roots, but also people living in non-Ruthenian regions who do not have opportunity to listen to their mother tongue.

⁴⁵Members of some national minorities, e.g. Ruthenians, express dissatisfaction with the way their national minority broadcast is being made.

According to radia.sk portal and its application, Radio Rusyn FM is currently among the Top15 radios out of 110 registered through this portal. The radio has its own website www.rusyn.fm and it is possible to listen to it as a stream in two qualities. In addition, playlist can be downloaded in the same two qualities to run it in music players. The radio has a fan page on Facebook due to the significant current socialization, where the number of fans has risen to 5900 (year-on-year increase by approximately 200). Based on site traffic statistics, it can be estimated that more than 12,000 people listen to the radio on a monthly basis. People from more than 25 countries around the world listen to this radio and it delivers premiere programs on a daily basis, thereby keeping in touch and interacting with the listener.

The Radio Rusyn FM went through major changes in 2018 by adding new shows. A permanent part of the program structure is broadcasting news four times a day, which can be read on rusyn.fm website. Several shows have undergone transformations to make them even more appealing to the audience, the radio broadcasts during a day various educational sessions and live evenings structure continues throughout the working week. Since the weekend is one of the days with the highest number of listeners, on Saturday afternoon, in addition to the fairy-tale, there is broadcasted a program Наши села - Našy sela about introducing Ruthenian villages in Slovakia. The grand final of the broadcasting week are four formats - Sunday lunch cooking in culinary programs (Запражка з Людков - Zaprazka z Ľudkov), essayist reflection (Припомінка - Prypominka), also a new program З нашої хыжы - From our kitchen on architecture and Ruthenian habits and evening records from liturgies, which alternate in transmissions not only from the Greek Catholic Church, but also the Orthodox Church. For the time being, the Bratislava studio is a priority. The radio had its studio in Prešov since 2015 as well, but the lack of people working there led to the decision to close it by the end of 2018.

Radio Roma

The Radio Roma is a Roma national radio, which has been broadcasting since 2013 as an internet radio and since 2017 also terrestrially on the transmitters in Banská Bystrica and Prešov. The radio studios are in Banská Bystrica and Martin. The main goal of the radio is to ensure the exchange of information within the Roma community and mutually between communities. The specific objectives are to disseminate news and journalistic information interesting to the community, to disseminate cultural, educational and edification information, to promote the dissemination of works of the original Roma composers and musical interpretation, and to address young people in the first place.

The target group of the radio is not only the Roma community in general, although the information and music are primarily aimed at this target group and it is the most involved one in listening to the radio and watching the website, but also the majority society. The radio deals with the intermixture of cultures and community life, mutual understanding and good examples of coexistence that are important to the

majority society and they can help create a positive image of the Roma and to increase their willingness to work together to improve mutual relations.

The Radio Roma is a music radio in the first place, since music is a major part of its broadcasting time. Reports in the range of 2 - 5 minutes are prepared every working day. It is short news from the minority world (culture, events, politics, etc.). They also contain news from the regions of Banská Bystrica and Prešov (where radio transmitters are located) and inform about sport events. From 1 November 2017 to May 1, 2018, a moderated block of daily broadcasting was prepared too, which included short entries in the form of news from the world of culture, music, show business and minority circles. The broadcasting included weather forecasts and traffic news from the Banská Bystrica and Prešov regions too.

The morning broadcasting took place every working day from 9:00 - 11:00 and the afternoon block from 13:00 - 15:00. The broadcasting was often bilingual, namely in the Roma and Slovak language. The program lasted for 20 - 90 min.

3.5 Minority cultures museums

The Slovak National Museum (hereinafter referred to as "SNM"), as the largest institution of memory and fund of the Ministry of Culture, deals systematically with the museum documentation of the history and culture of national and ethnic minorities. The museums of national and ethnic minorities started to form within its structure after 1990. This resulted in a unique institutionalization of scientific, research, documentary, collecting activities of life and culture, material and spiritual cultural heritage of nationalities living in the Slovak Republic. The museums represent, within their mission, a history of nationalities, they carry out special collection activities focused on this area, and establish cooperation with the most important foreign institutions. They represent a network of institutions that present the history, culture and art of nationalities in Slovakia not only to members of nationalities, but also to the majority and foreign visitors of these museums.

The SNM includes the following national and ethnic minority museums as separate specialized organizational units:

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

You can find a detailed overview of the activities of museums of national minorities and ethnic groups (acquisition activities, scientific-research activities, permanent exhibitions, temporary exhibitions, publishing activities, cultural and educational activities and attendance) in Annex no.2.

Museum of Jewish Culture

The Museum of Jewish Culture began to form at the Historical Museum of the SNM as the Department of Jewish Culture. It became an independent specialized museum of SNM with nationwide scope in 1994. Its mission is to preserve and promote Jewish culture and art in Slovakia. The museum's activities are focused on the presentation of spiritual and material Jewish culture and the documentation of the Holocaust in Slovakia. It tries to save three-dimensional Judaicas or documents from destruction, oblivion or exportation abroad. At the opening of the museum, only 5% of its own objects were purchased, up to 95% of the objects were borrowed from various Jewish religious communities. These days, loans represent only 20 pieces of the total collection items, 50% are gifts. The Museum of Jewish Culture is located on Židovská Street in Bratislava. There is another exposition in Prešov, Okružná Street 32. The Holocaust Museum is on the site of a former labour and concentration camp in Sered', Kasárenská Street 1005.⁴⁶

The Holocaust Museum in Sered'

The Holocaust Museum in Sered' was set up on the premises of the former labour and concentration camp in Sered', which is an authentic site linked to the tragic period of the Jewish question in Slovakia during World War II. The museum was opened on January 26, 2016. There are exposed contemporary documents, photos and objects related to the persecution of Jews in Slovakia. One of the exhibited artefacts is a cattle wagon, where Jews were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Part of the museum is an educational centre, which provides educational events, seminars and trainings aimed at familiarizing the public with Jewish culture and the impact of the Holocaust on the life of Jews in our territory.

The aim of these programs and events is to bring the life of the Jews closer to Slovakia and to help them acquire basic knowledge of the Jewish community regarding the Holocaust. The museum also serves as a memorial to all murdered Jews from Slovakia, with 16,000 Jews passing through the Sered' camp alone between 1941 and 1945, most of them were murdered during the Holocaust.⁴⁷

Museum of Carpathian German Culture

The Museum of Carpathian German Culture was established on 1 January 1997 as a specialized museum of the SNM. Its predecessor was the Department of History and Culture of the Carpathian Germans within the SNM Historical Museum, established on 1 August 1994. The museum focuses on the collection, protection, professional processing and presentation of evidence of the material and spiritual culture of the Carpathian Germans, as well as the most objective elaboration of their history and culture. It has its expositions in Nitrianske Pravno and Handlová. The museum includes

⁴⁶ You can find more information at: <https://www.snm.sk/?muzeum-zidovskej-kultury-uvodna-stranka>

⁴⁷ You can find more information at: <https://www.muzeum.sk/muzeum-holokaustu-v-seredi-snm.html>

a documentation and information centre specializing in the history and culture of the Carpathian Germans. Its basis is a library collecting Slovak and foreign periodical and non-periodical literature. The Museum of Carpathian German Culture is located in the Sunyal Curia on Žižkova Street in Bratislava. Other expositions of the museum can be found in the House of the Carpathian-German Association in Handlová and the House of the Carpathian-German Association in Nitra.⁴⁸

Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia

The Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia is a specialized museum of the SNM with a nationwide scope, which focuses on the history and culture of Hungarians in Slovakia. It started to form at the Historical Museum of SNM as the Department for Research and Documentation of Hungarian National Culture in the Danube Museum in Komárno, later (since 2001) Documentation Center of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia. It became an independent specialized museum within the organizational structures of the SNM in 2002. The mission of the museum is an ambitious acquisition, protection, scientific and professional elaboration and making the museum collections and funds documenting the history and development of material and spiritual culture of the Hungarians in Slovakia accessible. The museum is located in the restored Brämer manor house on Žižkova Street in Bratislava. The museum has extended exhibitions in the Imre Madách manor house in Dolná Strehovová and in the Kálmán Mipieceszáth Memorial House in Sklabiná. The museum created and secured operation of the Sándor Márai Memorial Exhibition in a residential building on Mäsiarska Street in Košice, where Sándor Márai, one of Europe's most read writers, spent his childhood in 2018 cooperation with the Hungarian Social and Cultural Association in Slovakia (MV Csemadok Košice). The exposition was opened in January 2019.⁴⁹

Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia

The Documentation Center of Croatian Culture was established in 1996 at the SNM - Historical Museum as a centre for the history and culture of the Croatian national minority in Slovakia. It has been intending, since its inception, to become an independent specialized national museum with nationwide competence, operating in the network of the Slovak National Museum, similarly to other minority museums. This process culminated in 2006. The workplace moved to a new building built for these purposes on Istrinská Street in Devínska Nová Ves. Furthermore, its exposition is located in the reconstructed premises of the former bakery and inn Furmánka in Devínska Nová Ves. The museum is a documentary, scientific-research and methodological museum centre focused on the history and culture of Croats in Slovakia from their arrival at the territory of contemporary Slovakia up until now. The museum

⁴⁸You can find more information at: <https://www.snm.sk/?muzeum-kultury-karpatskych-nemcov-uvodna-stranka>

⁴⁹You can find more information at: <https://www.snm.sk/?muzeum-kultury-madarov-na-slovensku-uvodna-stranka>; <http://madari.sk/publikacie/jozsef-liszka-muzeologia>

collects, protects, professionally processes and presents material documents related to its profiling.⁵⁰

Museum of Ukrainian Culture

The museum was established in 1956 in Prešov. It was a part of the Regional Museum in Prešov as its Ukrainian department after 1958. Two years later, after the territorial-administrative reform and in connection with the change of character of the Regional Museum in Prešov, it was decided to set up the Eastern Ukrainian Museum in Krásny Brod. The Museum of Ukrainian Culture moved in 1964 to Svidník in accordance with the decision of the Regional National Committee in Košice, namely due to its nationwide competence in the area of research, documentation and cultural and educational use of the monuments of material and spiritual culture of the Ukrainian minority. The museum was incorporated in 2002 into the SNM under the name Museum of Ukrainian-Ruthenian Culture. It has been named the Museum of Ukrainian Culture since 2007.

The museum in Svidník systematically participates in the organization and implementation of various scientific and research tasks, as well as conferences and other events. The museum's experts are the authors of many studies and independent book publications. The museum cooperates on dealing with synthesizing of works and many international projects, especially in the field of research of traditional folk culture in the Carpathian Mountains and adjacent areas. It focuses on documentation of the basic stages of the cultural-historical and socio-economic development of Ukrainians in Slovakia. It has three expositions: Main cultural and historical exhibition, Ethnographic exhibition in nature - Open-air museum and Artistic-historical exhibition - Gallery of Dezider Milly in Svidník.⁵¹

Museum of Ruthenian Culture

The Museum of Ruthenian Culture is the youngest museum in Slovakia. The acceptance of the Ruthenian national minority in Slovakia was accelerated by the results of the 1991 Housing and Population Census, the codification of the Ruthenian language on January 27, 1995, and the subsequent results of the 2001 Housing and Population Census. Based on the decision of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic in 2006, an independent organizational unit - Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov was established effective from 2007. The museum was opened to the public in 2008 as a multifunctional space in temporary leased premises. It acquired the building of the former barracks of A. Zápotocký on Masaryk Street in Prešov at the end of 2011. Following the relocation of the museum's administration and collection fund, part of the premises in the museum building was made available on 30 December 2013.

⁵⁰You can find more information at: <https://www.snm.sk/?muzeum-kultury-chorvatov-na-slovensku-uvodna-stranka>

⁵¹You can find more information at: <https://www.snm.sk/?muzeum-ukrajinskej-kultury-uvodna-stranka>

The museum is operating nationwide. This documentation, scientific-research and methodological department is focused on the history and culture of the Ruthenian ethnic group in Slovakia. The mission of the specialized museum is a purposeful acquisition, protection, scientific and professional elaboration and making the museum collections, which document the development of material and spiritual culture of Ruthenians in the Slovak Republic and in the world, accessible.⁵²

Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia

The museum is a specialized part of the SNM in Martin. This nationwide institution started to be formed at the SNM - Ethnographic Museum in Martin as the Documentation Center of Roma Culture in Slovakia in 2002. It has been the museum's documentary and scientific-research institute that puts emphasis on the acquisition, methodological-professional and cultural-educational activity since its transformation in 2004. It presents Roma culture and informs about its peculiarities. Nowadays, it is located in the area of the SNM - Museum of the Slovak Village in Jahodnicke háje.⁵³

Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia

The Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia is the youngest permanent exhibition of the Slovak National Museum in Martin, which depicts the peculiar environment and work of spouses PhDr. Anna and academic Jiří Horák, important personalities documenting the traditions of the relationship between Czechs and Slovaks. It systematically maps life and work of important Czech personalities in relation to Slovakia and the way of life of the Czech minority in Slovakia through occasional exhibitions.⁵⁴

⁵²You can find more information at: <https://www.snm.sk/?muzeum-rusinskej-kultury-uvodna-stranka>

⁵³You can find more information at: <https://www.snm.sk/?muzeum-kultury-romov-na-slovensku-uvodna-stranka>

⁵⁴You can find more information at: <https://www.snm.sk/?muzeum-kultury-cechov-na-slovensku-uvodna-stranka>

Table no. 11: Overview of financing of organizational units of the Slovak National Museum – specialized, the so-called national minority museums in 2011 - 2018 (the given amounts represent common expenses excluding priority projects and capital expenditures, including funds paid for cultural vouchers).⁵⁵

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Museum name								
Museum of Carpathian German Culture	101 833	107 530	104 783	109 283	103 282	113 091	126 920	132 546
Museum of Jewish Culture	385 127	446 441	424 880	449 363	510 209	441 289	391 184	485 205
The Holocaust Museum in Sereď	0	0	0	0	0	259 176	273 956	340 731
Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia	234 614	241 198	249 640	269 074	249 318	268 204	295 219	310 320
Museum of Ukrainian Culture	272 561	277 484	301 652	303 278	273 165	300 752	325 198	399 398
Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia	58 718	45 268	61 501	66 044	62 448	68 694	70 895	75 838
Museum of Roma Culture	28 419	31 629	31 629	39 613	31 533	48 372	53 096	52 715
Museum of Czech Culture	28 117	33 861	33 861	35 241	33 540	41 767	44 524	42 231
Museum of Ruthenian Culture	90 702	95 300	99 202	109 394	105 583	124 726	148 047	149 854
SNM in total	1 202 102	1 280 723	1 309 161	1 383 304	1 318 644	1 668 087	1 731 056	1 990 856

Source: Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

⁵⁵The budget of the Hungarian Museum of Culture in Slovakia includes capital funds of EUR 361,000 to re-finance the cross-border project Madách and recovery of the park at the manor house in Dolná Strehová, which will be returned after the refund. Apart from the cross-border cooperation to renovate the park, the museum received EUR 20,000 and EUR 33,352 to renovate exhibition spaces and expositions on Žižkova Street, in Bratislava. The budget of the Museum of Ukrainian Culture includes capital funds in the amount of EUR 52 830 for the settlement of land at the open-air museum in Svidník. Furthermore, the museum received a total of EUR 130,000 to repair the roof of the residential building and the museum. The Museum of Culture of the Carpathian Germans received € 8,500 to renovate of exhibition spaces and expositions on Žižkova Street, in Bratislava. The minority museums received in 2018 EUR 95,000, most of them was used to buy collection items for the Holocaust Museum in Sereď.

Development of funding the Slovak National Museum, so-called national museums in 2011 - 2018

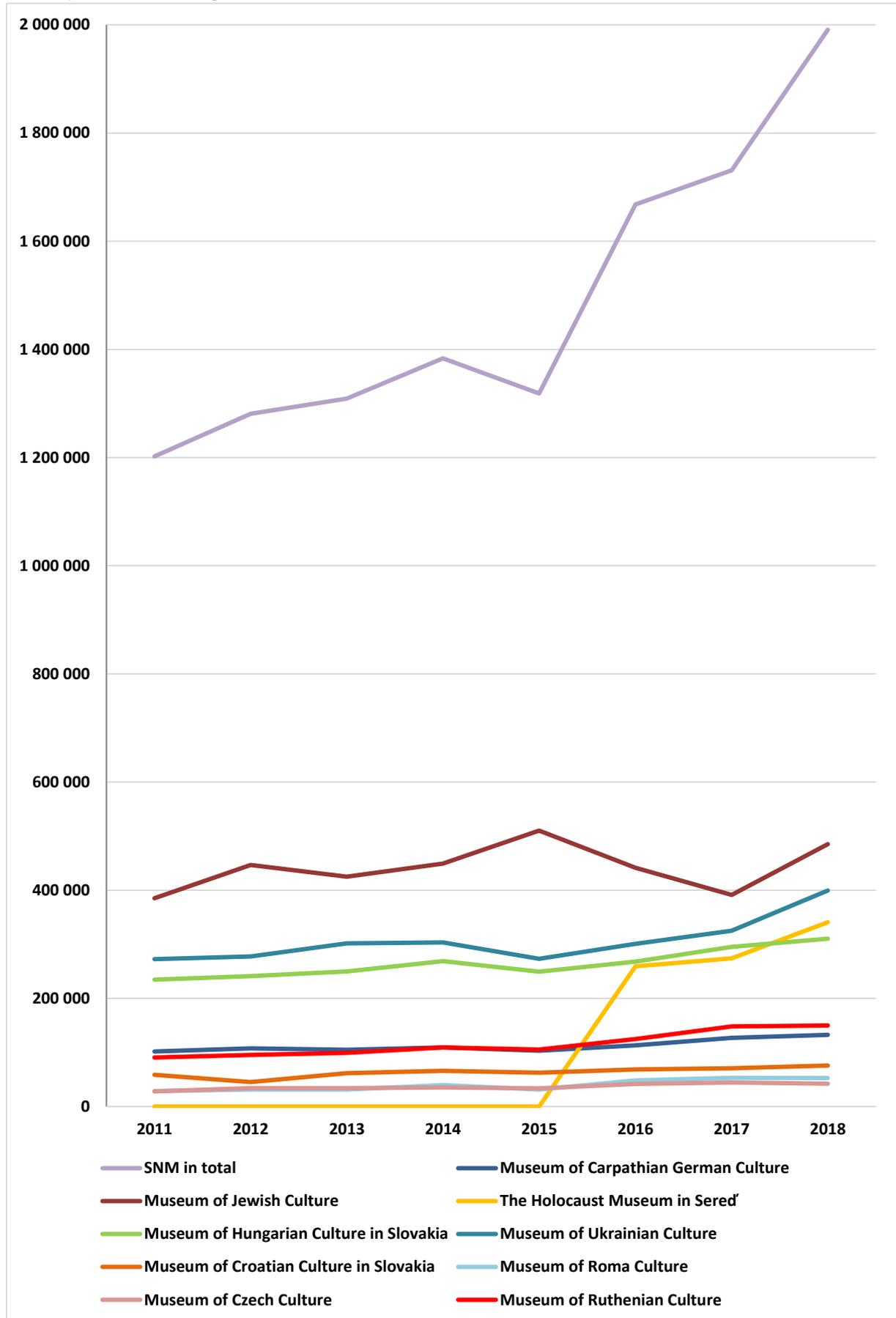


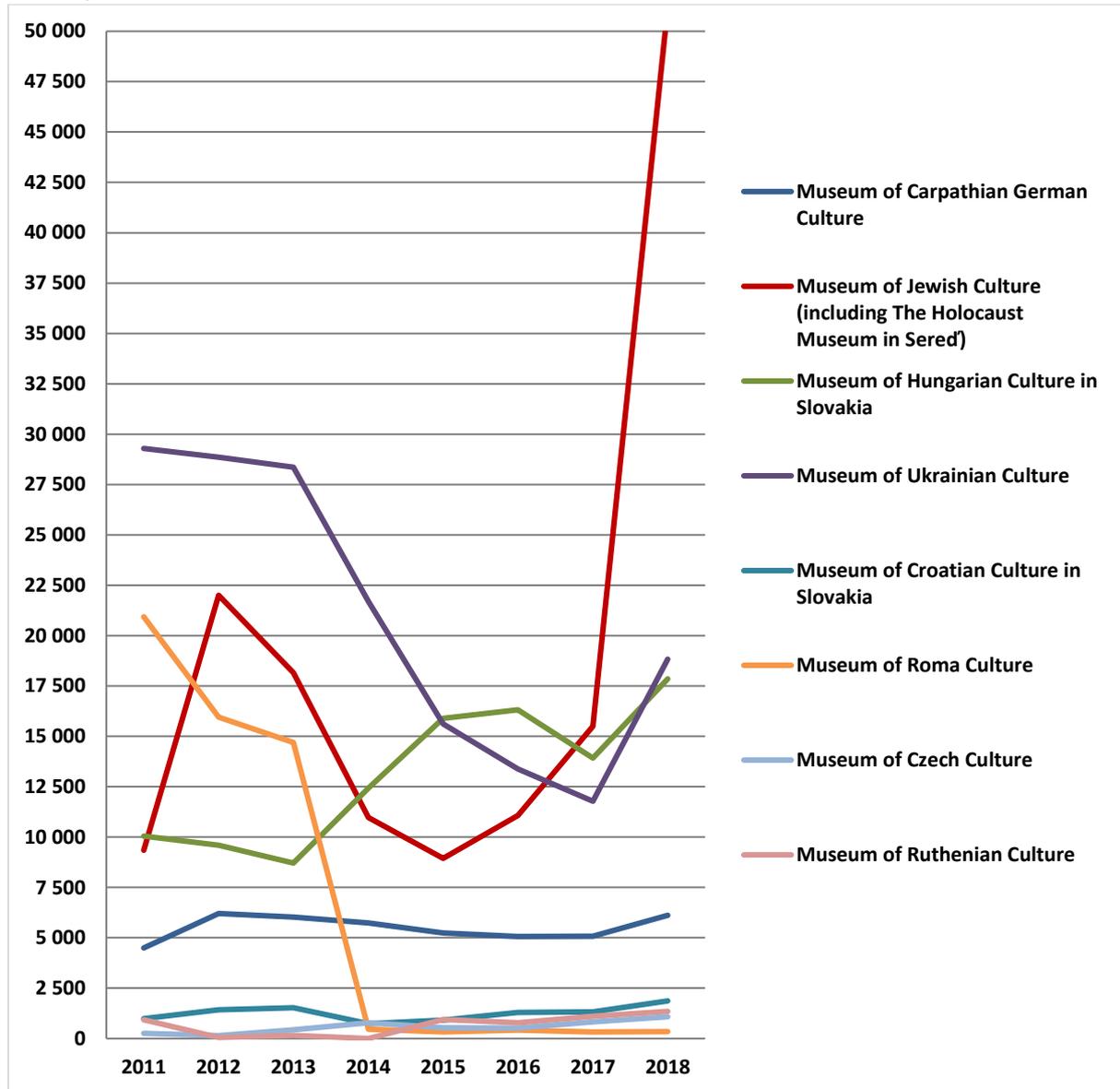
Table no. 12: Attendance of national minority museums of the Slovak National Museum in 2011 - 2018

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Museum name								
Museum of Carpathian German Culture	4 497	6 206	6 036	5 742	5 237	5 068	5 079	6 124
Museum of Jewish Culture (including The Holocaust Museum in Sered')	9 347	21 996	18 166	10 963	8 943	11 072	15 505	51 190
Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia	10 043	9 592	8 711	12 436	15 888	16 312	13 914	17 852
Museum of Ukrainian Culture	29 291	28 855	28 363	21 701	15 617	13 382	11 779	18 830
Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia	989	1 420	1 533	738	910	1 289	1 326	1 866
Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia⁵⁶	20 936	15 948	14 700	468	333	417	325	345
Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia	256	144	431	780	537	523	833	1 080
Museum of Ruthenian Culture	922	49	148	1 416	946	787	1 108	1 346

Source: Annual reports of the Slovak National Museum for 2011 - 2014, Reports on activities and economy for 2015 - 2017, Information from the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

⁵⁶The Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia is located on the premises of the Museum of the Slovak Village in Martin. It is not possible to sell tickets exclusively to the Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia, but they can be purchased only as part of the tickets to the Museum of the Slovak Village. The methodology of detecting the attendance of the Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia was changed in 2014 and the data on attendance has been since then containing exclusively the attendance of special events organized by this national minority museum.

Development of attendance of national museums of the Slovak National Museum in 2011 - 2018



Following the field of activity of the museums of national minority cultures within the meaning of the resolution of the Committee no. 119/2018, the Plenipotentiary as Chairman of the Committee organized on 26 September 2018 a meeting with the directors of national museums, SNM's general director and representatives of the Ministry of Culture with the participation of representatives of national minorities. The goal of this meeting was to identify shortcomings in the national minorities' museums and address them together. The conclusions of the meeting encompassed the need to increase financial resources for national minority museums for professional and acquisition activities, support of professional activities also through strengthening the staff of national museums, support of cooperation of national museums with national minority organizations, ensuring regular meetings on national museums and renewal of the Commission for the Documentation of National Minorities and Ethnic Group Cultures. Moreover, there was a recommendation to re-implement a successful joint project of national minorities museums entitled *Museums and Ethnics*, which was of

particular importance also to the majority society and the need to strengthen the emphasis on using minority languages in national minorities museums promotion' of linguistic diversity in Slovakia, including in making general information available to the public in the language of a national minority.

The activities to support and preserve national minorities culture are also being developed by some regional museums under the administration of self-governing regions, namely the Novohrad Museum and Gallery in Lučenec, the Gemer-Malohont Museum in Rimavská Sobota and the Horehronie Museum in Brezno in the Banská Bystrica self-governing region, Danube Museum in Komárno, Ponitrianske Museum in Nitra and Ján Thain Museum in Nové Zámky in Nitra self-governing region, Liptov Museum in Ružomberok and Považie Museum in Žilina in Žilina self-governing region and Museum in Kežmarok, Šariš Museum in Bardejov, Ľubovňa Museum in Stará Ľubovňa, Vihorlat Museum in Humenné and Regional Museum in Prešov within the Prešov self-governing region. You can find more information on these activities in Annex no. 2.⁵⁷

3.6 Publishing periodical press and national minorities publications

An integral part of preserving and promoting the culture of national minorities is the publication of periodical and non-periodical press focusing on cultural life and education of persons belonging to national minorities, especially news and information periodicals, literature, children and youth, social-scientific, enlightenment periodicals and annexes of religious periodicals focused on culture and language of national minorities. By signing the 1995 Framework Convention in Article 9, the Slovak Republic committed itself to recognize that the right to freedom of expression of any national minority member includes freedom of opinion and freedom to receive and communicate information and ideas in minority language without interference of state authorities and regardless of the borders; and that within its legal system it will ensure that persons belonging to national minorities are not discriminated in terms of access to the media. Furthermore, the Slovak Republic committed itself not to hinder persons belonging to national minorities in setting up and using print media. The Act no. 167/2008 Coll. on Periodical Press and Agency News and on Amendments to Certain Acts (the Press Act), as amended, defines periodical press as newspapers, magazines or other prints published under the same name, with the same content and in a uniform graphic layout, at least twice a year. The publishing of periodical press is a collection of identical copies of periodical press or copies different only in their regional sections or their language. The Ministry of Culture keeps a list of periodical press where it records press also according to the language in which it is published.⁵⁸ The priority

⁵⁷Apart from the museums, the galleries in the founding competence of the self-governing regions, namely the Nitra Gallery and the Art Gallery of Ernest Zmeták in Nové Zámky in the Nitra self-governing region and the Šariš Gallery in Prešov and the Tatra Gallery in Poprad within Prešov self-governing region, are trying to support and maintain culture of national minorities.

⁵⁸The list is available at: <http://www.culture.gov.sk/pertlac/modul/tlac>

objective of financial support through the grant programs Culture of National Minorities by 2017⁵⁹ and the Fund to Support Minorities Culture in 2018⁶⁰ is to publish at least one periodical for each national minority, which is apart from Serbian and Moravian⁶¹ national minority successful.

Table no. 13: Overview of the number of print supported under the grant program Culture of National Minorities in 2017, within the Fund to Support Minorities Culture in 2018 and recorded at the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for individual national minorities

National minority	Press supported by the grant program Culture of National Minorities in 2017	Press supported within the Fund to Support Minorities Culture in 2018	Press recorded at the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic in a minority language or a combination of languages
Hungarian	23	25	101
Roma	1	1	2
Czech	2	3	38
Ruthenian	3	4	8
Ukrainian	3	3	3
Russian	1	1	4
Polish	1	1	3
Croatian	1	1	1
Bulgarian	1	1	2
Jewish	1	0	0
German	2	2	6

Source: Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Fund to Support Minorities Culture, OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

The grant program CNM 2017 and the Fund in 2018 supported and issued non-periodical press, namely book publications focused on supporting the development of the culture and language of national minorities, including translation literature from the languages of national minorities into Slovak.

Table no. 14: Overview of the number of non-periodical press supported under the grant program Culture of National Minorities 2017 and within the Fund for the Support of Culture of National Minorities in 2018

National minority	Press supported by the grant program Culture of National Minorities in 2017	Press supported by the Fund to Support Minorities Culture in 2018
Hungarian	49	12
Roma	3	1
Czech	0	0
Ruthenian	4	0
Ukrainian	3	1
Russian	0	0

The Jewish national minority publishes the press in Slovak. Some print titles published in the languages of national minorities are professional periodicals published on the academic soil, which do not primarily focus on the life and culture of national minorities (e.g. SLAVICA NITRIENSIA).

⁵⁹Available at: https://dotacie.vlada.gov.sk/2014/statistiky_verejne.php

⁶⁰Available at: <https://podpora.kultminor.sk/statistiky/program>

⁶¹In 2018, the periodical of Moravian culture was published for the first time with the support of the fund's grant program.

Polish	0	0
Croatian	0	0
Bulgarian	0	1
Jewish	1	0
German	0	0
Serbian	1	0
Moravian	0	1

Source: Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Fund to Support Minorities Culture, OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

3.7 The support of national minorities culture

The grant program Culture of National Minorities 2017

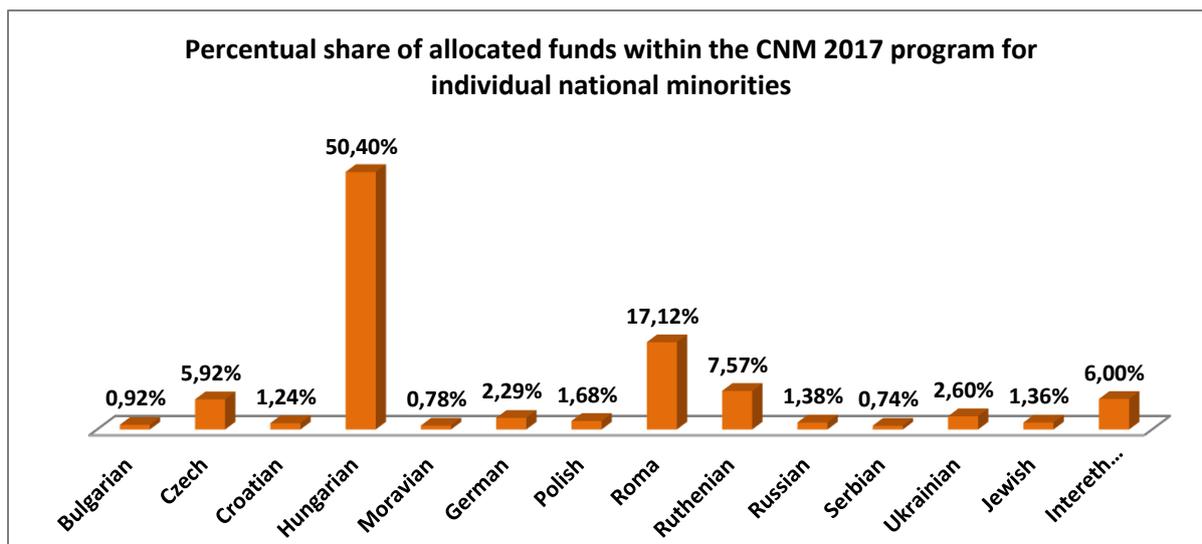
The grant program Culture of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "CNM") was until 2017 an important financial tool to ensure the preservation, expression, protection and development of the identity and cultural values of national minorities, education and training of persons belonging to national minorities, interethnic and intercultural dialogue and understanding between national majority and national minorities and ethnic groups.

In terms of the year 2017, 4 500 000 euros from state budget was earmarked for this program. Compared to 2016, when 3 879 250 euros was earmarked, this represented an increase of 620 750 euros. The method of redistribution of funds among individual national minorities was based on the rules for the allocation of funds within the CNM, which reflected several criteria when recalculating the amount of allocation for individual national minorities. These rules for distribution of funds were elaborated and approved by the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups.

Table no. 15: Distribution of funds for the Culture of National Minorities 2017 program

National minorities	Allocated funds based on the 2017 allocation	
	€	%
Bulgarian national minority	41 400	0,92 %
Czech national minority	266 400	5,92 %
Croatian national minority	55 800	1,24 %
Hungarian national minority	2 268 000	50,40 %
Moravian national minority	35 100	0,78 %
German national minority	103 050	2,29 %
Polish national minority	75 600	1,68 %
Roma national minority	770 400	17,12 %
Ruthenian national minority	340 650	7,57 %
Russian national minority	62 100	1,38 %
Serbian national minority	33 300	0,74 %
Ukrainian national minority	117 000	2,60 %
Jewish national minority	61 200	1,36 %
Interethnic and intercultural dialogue *	270 000	6,00 %
In sum	4 500 000	100,000 %

Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES



Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary prepared and published on 16 November 2016 the Call to submit applications for a grant within the Culture of National Minorities for 2017 program. There were information seminars organized on this matter in three cities in Slovakia, namely in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica and Košice in order to inform potential applicants about the conditions of the call and a procedure to award the grant.

The applicants submitted, in accordance with the Call, only one application to get a grant that could consist of several projects included in one or more sub-programs. In total, 15 Evaluation Committees were organized, one for each national minority, with the exception of the Hungarian national minority with two Evaluation Committees, the so-called 'written commission' and commission for the so-called live culture. The separate committee was set up for multicultural and interethnic activities. The commission members, mostly persons belonging to national minorities, as well as representatives of the state administration among the candidates proposed by the Committee members, were appointed by the head of the Office of the Government on the proposal of the administrator and the relevant minister.

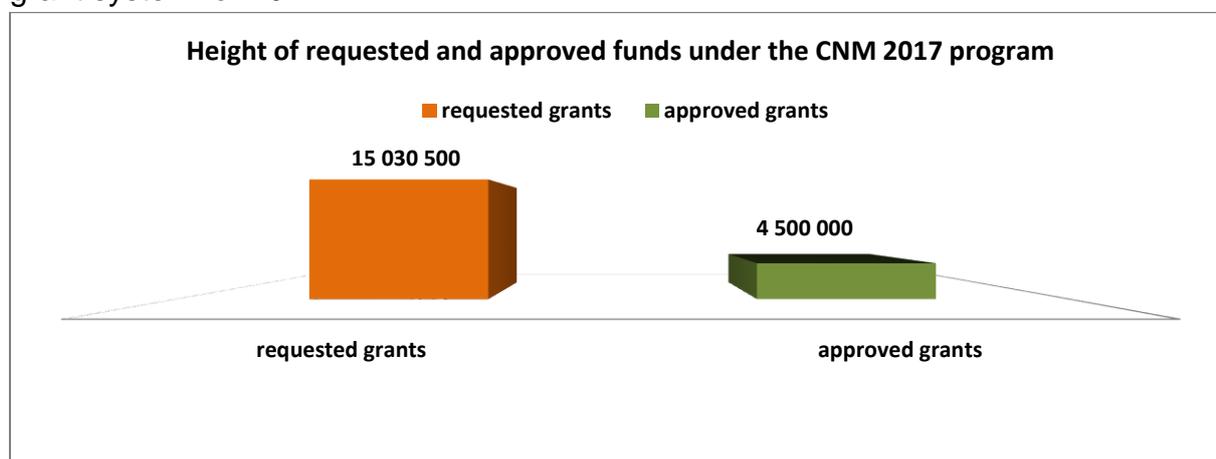
The members of the Evaluation Committee assessed the projects from a professional point of view according to the criteria set out in the Call and in generally binding legal regulations and they assessed the effectiveness of the use of the grant, justification and adequacy of the requested funds as well. The evaluation process of projects carried out by 15 commissions started on 15 February 2017, with a total of 797 grant applications received to support 1,886 projects in the total requested amount of 15 030 500 euros. Following the Evaluation Committees meetings, a total of 625 applications for 1342 projects amounting to 4 500 000 euros were recommended for support. 18 entities returned the provided grant of 55 190 euros. The Office of the Government did not sign a contract with 4 entities in the amount of 31 800 euros due to non-compliance of conditions, and 19 applicants did not sign a contract with the Office of the Government in the total amount of 71 650 euros.

Table no. 16: Overview of projects

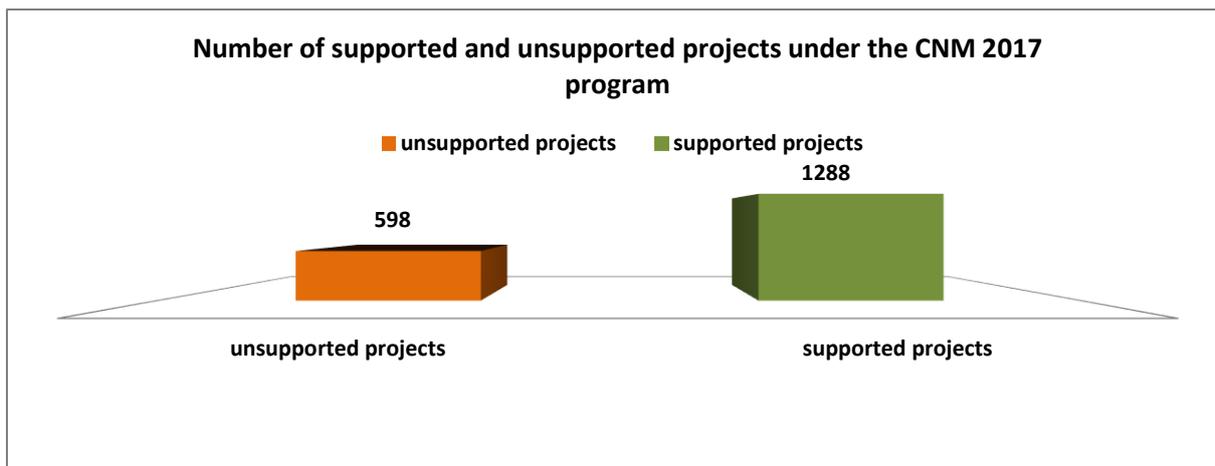
National minority	Requested grant amount	Number of submitted projects	The financial resources amount recommended for approval		Number of projects recommended for approval
			€	%	
Bulgarian	109 712	21	41 400	0,92	16
Czech	306 300	54	266 400	5,92	49
Croatian	63 200	9	55 800	1,24	9
Hungarian	8 217 994	1124	2 268 000	50,40	815
Moravian	76 884	10	35 100	0,78	9
German	147 485	14	103 050	2,29	11
Polish	151 150	27	75 600	1,68	19
Roma	2 869 543	253	770 400	17,12	142
Ruthenian	955 039	170	340 650	7,57	117
Russian	133 000	18	62 100	1,38	17
Serbian	42390	7	33 300	0,74	7
Ukrainian	170 118	24	117 000	2,60	23
Jewish	264 268	33	61 200	1,36	21
interethnic and intercultural dialogue *	1 523 417	122	2 700 00	6,00	87
In total	15030500	1886	4500 000	100	1342

Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

In total, 1 886 projects were submitted in the CNM 2017 program within the Call. 107 of them were not evaluated and excluded projects, mainly due to submission of incomplete applications, submission of applications after the deadline specified in the Call, or because the applicant was not entitled to the activity for which he requested the grant. As far as the submitted projects are concerned, 437 of them were evaluated but not supported, for several reasons, including lower quality projects or limited amount of available resources. Another 54 projects were evaluated and approved but not implemented, for example because the beneficiaries returned the provided grant and so on. 1288 projects were evaluated, approved and implemented under the CNM grant system for 2017.



Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

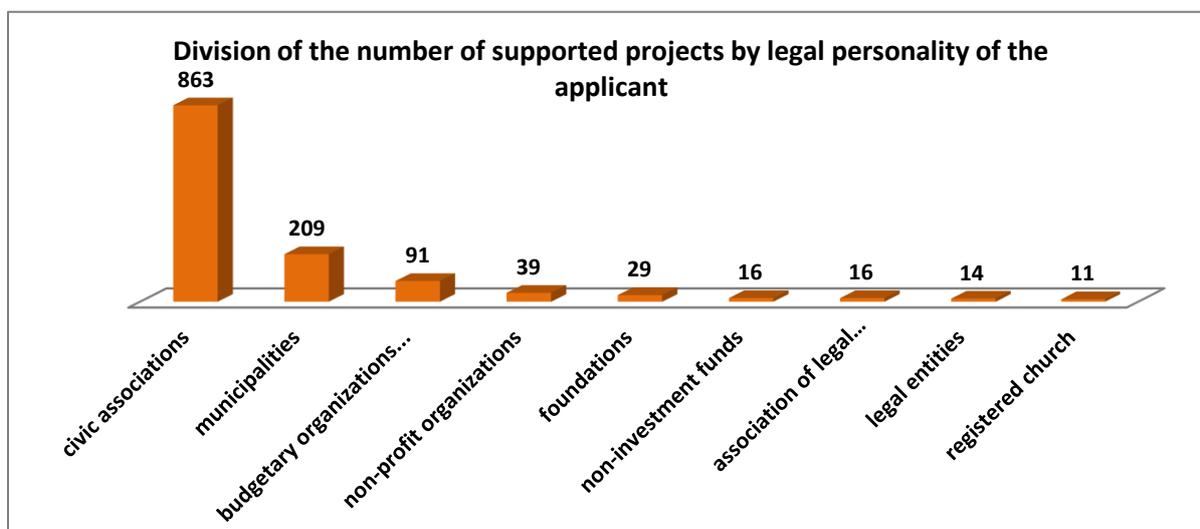


Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

The selected statistical indicators of the grant program CNM 2017

The following organizations, divided according to applicant's legal personality, were supported within CNM 2017:

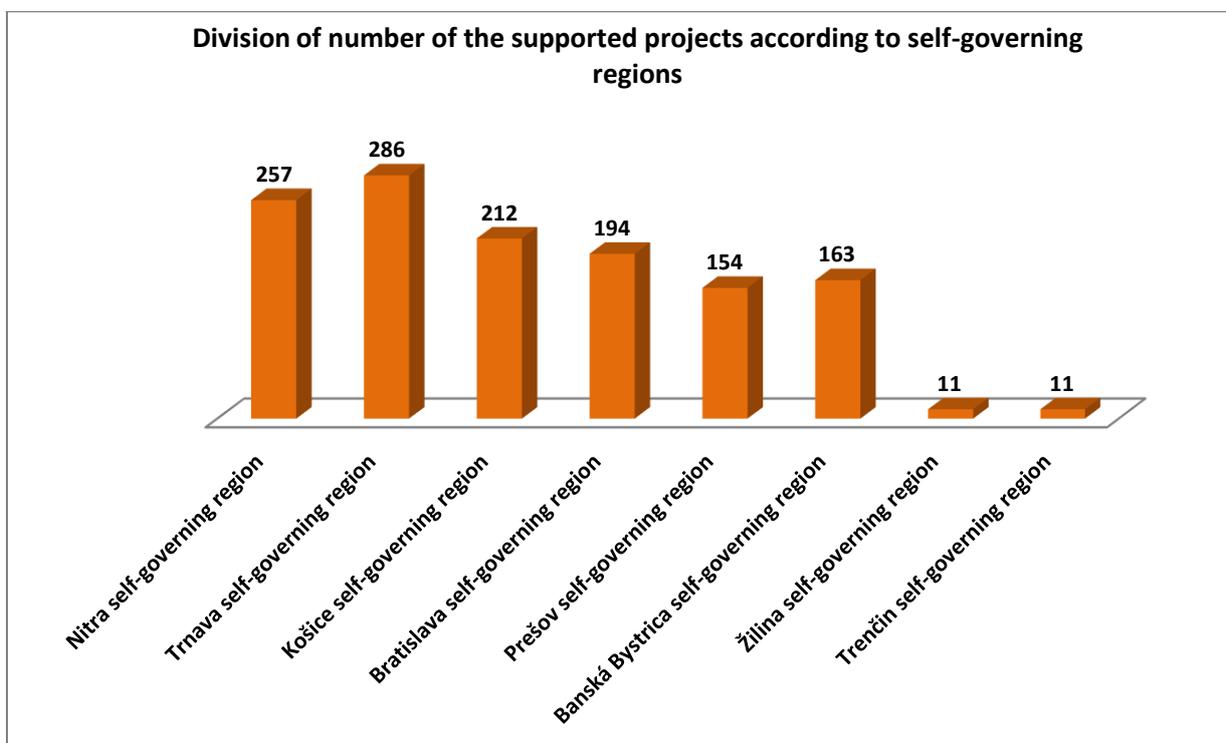
- 863 projects (67%) of civic associations;
- 209 projects (16.23%) of municipalities;
- 91 projects (7.07%) of budgetary organizations or contributory organizations established by a municipality or a higher territorial unit;
- 39 projects (3.03%) of non-profit organizations providing services of general interest;
- 29 projects (2.25%) of foundations;
- 16 projects (1.24%) of non-investment funds based in Slovakia;
- 16 projects (1.24%) of associations of legal entities, if they are legal entities;
- 14 projects (1.09%) of legal entities established by a special law (public universities);
- 11 projects (0.85%) of registered churches or religious societies.



Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

The division of supported projects under the CNM program according to 8 self-governing regions:

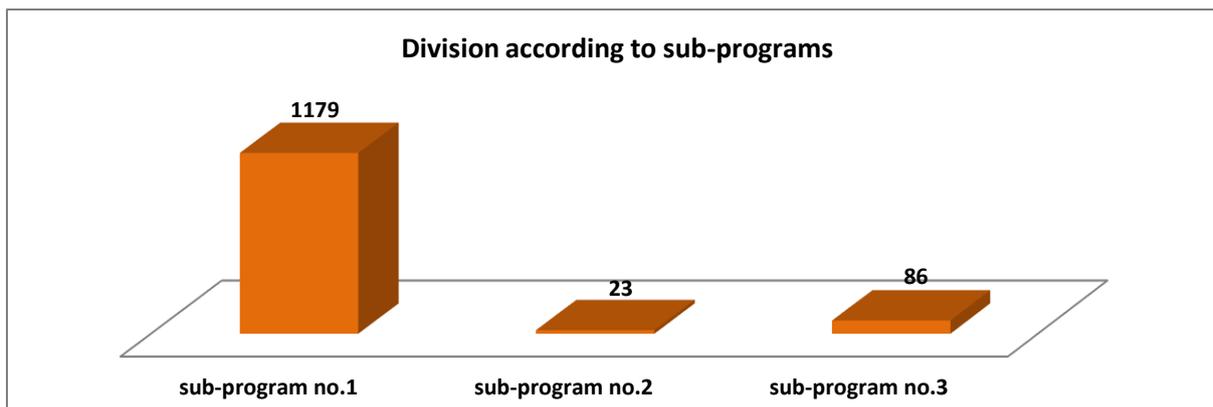
- 257 projects (19.953%) were supported in the Nitra self-governing region;
- 286 projects (22.205%) were supported in the Trnava self-governing region;
- 212 projects (16.460%) were supported in the Košice self-governing region;
- 194 projects (15.062%) were supported in the Bratislava self-governing region;
- 154 projects (11.957%) were supported in the Prešov self-governing region;
- 163 projects (12.655%) were supported in the Banská Bystrica self-governing region;
- 11 projects (0.854%) were supported in the Žilina self-governing region;
- 11 projects (0.854%) were supported in the Trenčín self-governing region.



Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

The CNM 2017 program was divided into 3 sub-programs and 15 priorities as follows:

- in sub-program 1. Support to preserve, express, protect and develop the identity and cultural values of national minorities were supported by 1,179 projects (91.54%);
- in sub-program 2. Support of education and training in the rights of national minorities were supported 23 projects (1.78%)
- in sub-program 3. Promotion of interethnic and intercultural dialogue and understanding between the majority and national minorities and ethnic groups were supported 86 projects (6.68%).



Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

Fund to Support Minorities Culture

The Fund to Support Minorities Culture was established on 1 July 2017 pursuant to Act no. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund to Support Minorities Culture and on the Amendment to Certain Acts. Under the Fund Act, the volume of funds provided to the national minorities culture increased from 4 500 000 euros provided in 2017 to 8 000 000 euros (at least).

The Minister of Culture appointed the first director of the Fund, Norbert Molnár, as of 17 July 2017. In 2017, the bodies of the Fund were established; namely supervisory board, expert boards and board of directors. In addition, the main documents of the Fund were drawn up and received, and all necessary elements for the start of the main activity of the Fund, namely the receipt and evaluation of applications and provision of funds, were secured and prepared.

The Fund provided in 2018 financial resources for the first time to support the preservation, expression, protection and development of the identity and cultural values of national minorities, education and training for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and ensuring intercultural dialogue and understanding between Slovaks and national minorities or ethnic groups members.

The fundamental document dealing with the focus of support for cultural and scientific activities within the supportive activities of the Fund to Support Minorities Culture is the Structure of Supportive Activities.

The objective of the Fund is to ensure, through the Structure of Supportive Activities, the development of:

- edification and educational activities, science and research;
- literature, publishing and editorial activities;
- theatre, music, dancing, fine and audio-visual arts;
- ensuring intercultural dialogue and understanding between citizens of Slovak nationality and persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups.

The support in the form of grants and/or scholarships is provided for the above-mentioned fields within the Structure of Supportive Activities. The amount of funds earmarked for supportive activities is distributed by the Fund among expert boards within the meaning of the Fund Act.

Table no. 17: Financial resources redistributed by the Fund within individual national minorities

National minority	%	€
Bulgarian	1	76 800,00
Czech	3,7	284 160,00
Croatian	1	76 800,00
Hungarian	53	4 070 400,00
Moravian	1,4	107 520,00
German	1,8	138 240,00
Polish	1,4	107 520,00
Roma	22,4	1 720 320,00
Ruthenian	6,4	491 520,00
Russian	1,1	84 480,00
Serbian	0,7	53 760,00
Ukrainian	2	153 600,00
Jewish	1,1	84 480,00
intercultural dialogue and understanding	3	230 400,00
In sum	100	7 680 000,00

Source: Fund to Support Minorities Culture

In total, seven calls to apply for grants or scholarships were declared in 2018. On the basis of these calls, 2 259 applications were received for a total amount of 21 502 545 euros. All projects passed through the prescribed inspection in accordance with §17 of the Fund Act. 2,126 applications met the completeness condition and were passed to expert board for review. The expert boards recommended 1447 projects in total (of which 55 scholarships) in a total amount of 7 394 538 euros. In case of 20 projects, the applicants withdrew from their implementation. The Fund did not sign 27 projects, beneficiaries of which did not deliver materially and financially correct documentation. The Fund concluded in 2018 in total 1 400 contracts with beneficiaries amounting to 7,251,689 euros.

Table no. 18: Overview of evaluated and supported projects and related contracts

National minority	Number of evaluated projects	Number of supported projects	Number of withdrawal from realization	Number of concluded contracts	Number of not-concluded contracts	Total paid sum in euros
Bulgarian	25	16	0	16	0	69 570,00
Czech	70	56	0	56	0	272 469,00
Croatian	12	11	0	11	0	76 800,00
Hungarian	1227	851	11	823	17	3 935 965,00
Moravian	13	11	0	11	0	107 520,00
German	15	14	0	14	0	137 724,00
Polish	21	21	0	21	0	104 557,00
Roma	355	196	5	184	7	1 461 598,00
Ruthenian	157	134	4	128	2	484 082,00
Russian	34	25	0	25	0	84 480,00

Serbian	20	13	0	13	0	51 444,00
Ukrainian	33	30	0	30	0	153 600,00
Jewish	31	19	0	19	0	84 480,00
intercultural dialogue and understanding	113	50	0	49	1	227 400,00
In sum	2126	1447	20	1400	27	7 251 689,00

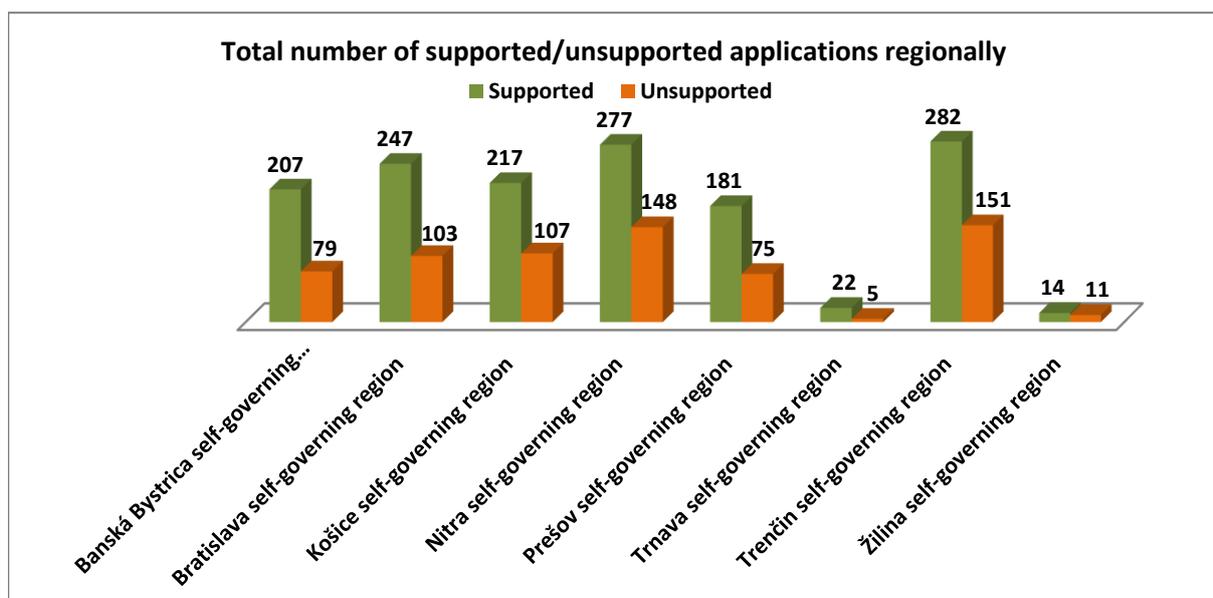
Source: Fund to Support Minorities Culture

From the regional point of view, the most supported applications were in Trnava region, followed by Nitra region and Bratislava region. The least applications were supported in the Žilina and Trenčín regions.

Table no. 19: Total number of supported / unsupported applications regionally

Requests	BB	BA	KE	NR	PO	TN	TT	ZA	In total
Supported	207	247	217	277	181	22	282	14	1447
Unsupported	79	103	107	148	75	5	151	11	679
In total	286	350	324	425	256	27	433	25	2126

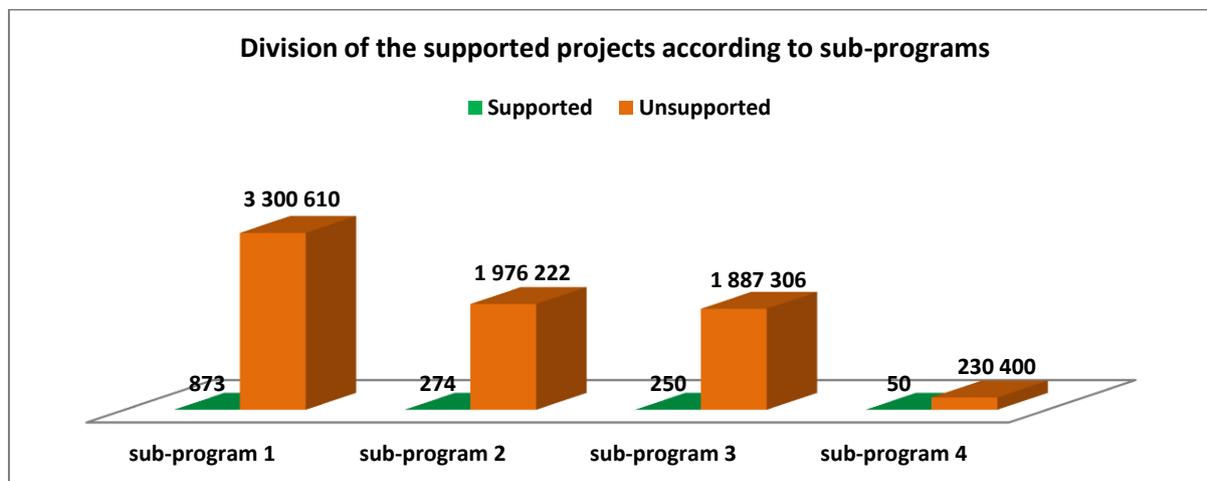
Source: Fund to Support Minorities Culture



Source: Fund to Support Minorities Culture

The structure of support for the Fund to Support Minorities Culture, including the names of individual sub-programs, is contained in annex no. 3. Under Program 1, which aims to support cultural, edification and educational activities, 873 applications were supported with a total amount of 3 300 610 euros. The aim of Program 2 is to support literature, publishing and edition activities. Under this program, 274 applications were supported in the total amount of 1 976 222 euros. The aim of Program 3 is to support theatre, music, dance, fine and audio-visual art. In 2018, 250 applications amounting to 1 887 306 euros were supported. Under Program 4, which aims to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding between citizens of Slovak nationality and persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, 50 applications amounting to 230 400 euros were supported. The Fund provides funding

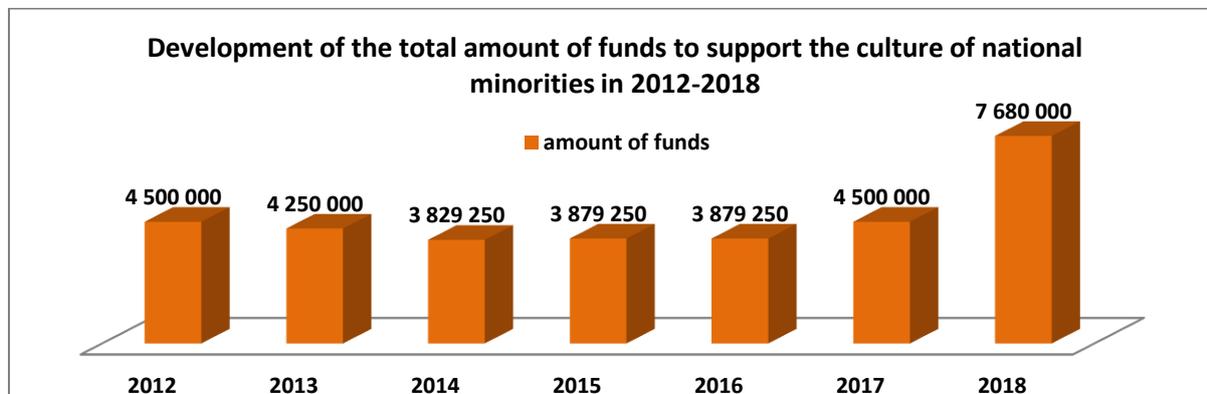
for the production of audio-visual works and periodical and non-periodical press through state aid schemes. The Fund provided in 2018 through these schemes support to 179 applications from 106 entities in the form of grants amounting to 1 524 025 euros.



Development of support for the culture of national minorities through grant programs between 2012 and 2018

The culture of national minorities has been in Slovakia continuously supported since 1995. The Ministry of Culture established in 2001 a system of providing funds under the name Culture of National Minorities to finance projects focused on cultural activities and publication of periodical and non-periodical press. The grant program Culture of National Minorities was in 2011 passed from the Ministry of Culture to the Office of the Government. The last change in this field was the establishment of a public institution, namely Fund to Support Minorities Culture in 2017.

The following tables provide an overview of the development of the amount of funds for the support of the culture of national minorities, as well as an overview of the amount of funds allocated to the representatives of individual national minorities together with the percentage share from the total amount, an overview of the number of supported and implemented projects and an overview of the funds used to support the culture of national minorities.



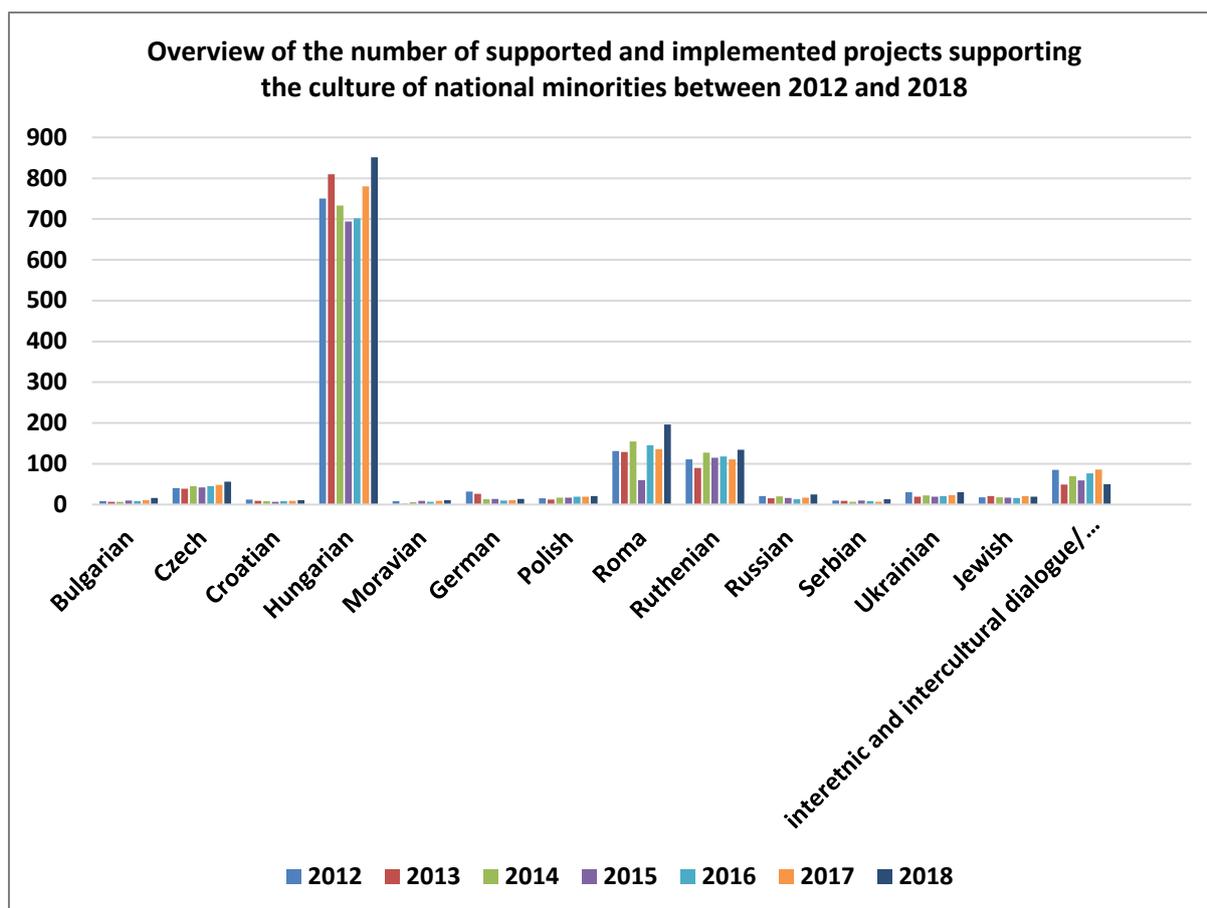
Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES and Fund

Table no. 20: The amount of funds allocated to support the culture of national minorities in 2012 – 2018 according to national minorities

National minority	2012		2013		2014	
	€	%	€	%	€	%
Bulgarian	34 000	0,76%	32 000	0,75%	34 215	0,89%
Czech	176 000	3,91%	160 000	3,76%	206 023	5,38%
Croatian	64 000	1,42%	60 000	1,41%	49 375	1,29%
Hungarian	2 470 000	54,89%	2 600 000	61,18%	1 983 057	51,79%
Moravian	24 000	0,53%	20 000	0,47%	27 908	0,73%
German	144 000	3,20%	80 000	1,88%	96 604	2,52%
Polish	80 000	1,78%	40 000	0,94%	62 060	1,62%
Roma	576 000	12,80%	588 000	13,84%	634 109	16,56%
Ruthenian	230 000	5,11%	200 000	4,71%	263 482	6,88%
Russian	52 000	1,16%	40 000	0,94%	51 270	1,34%
Serbian	20 000	0,44%	20 000	0,47%	27 703	0,72%
Ukrainian	155 000	3,44%	100 000	2,35%	108 142	2,82%
Jewish	75 000	1,67%	60 000	1,41%	55 547	1,45%
interethnic and intercultural dialogue / intercultural dialogue and understanding	400 000	8,89%	250 000	5,88%	229 755	6,00%
In total	4 500 000	100 %	4 250 000	100 %	3 829 250	100 %

2015		2016		2017		2018	
€	%	€	%	€	%	€	%
35 504	0,92%	35 504	0,92%	41 400	0,92%	76 800	1%
229 815	5,92%	229 815	5,92%	266 400	5,92%	284 160	3,70%
48 064	1,24%	48 064	1,24%	55 800	1,24%	76 800	1%
1 955 296	50,40%	1 955 296	50,40%	2 268 000	50,40%	4 070 400	53%
30 489	0,79%	30 489	0,79%	35 100	0,78%	107 520	1,40%
88 880	2,29%	88 880	2,29%	103 050	2,29%	138 240	1,80%
64 683	1,67%	64 683	1,67%	75 600	1,68%	107 520	1,40%
664 152	17,12%	664 152	17,12%	770 400	17,12%	1 720 320	22,40%
294 032	7,58%	294 032	7,58%	340 650	7,57%	491 520	6,40%
53 377	1,38%	53 377	1,38%	62 100	1,38%	84 480	1,10%
28 706	0,74%	28 706	0,74%	33 300	0,74%	53 760	0,70%
100 673	2,60%	100 673	2,60%	117 000	2,60%	153 600	2%
52 825	1,36%	52 825	1,36%	61 200	1,36%	84 480	1,10%
232 754	6,00%	232 754	6,00%	270 000	6,00%	230 400	3%
3 879 250	100 %	3 879 250	100 %	4 500 000	100 %	7 680 000	100 %

Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES and Fund to Support Minorities Culture



Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES and Fund to Support Minorities Culture

Table no. 21: Overview of the number of supported and implemented projects supporting the culture of national minorities between 2012 and 2018

National minority	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bulgarian	8	7	7	10	8	11	16
Czech	40	39	45	42	45	48	56
Croatian	12	9	8	7	8	9	11
Hungarian	750	810	733	694	702	780	851
Moravian	8	2	6	9	7	9	11
German	32	26	13	14	10	11	14
Polish	15	12	17	17	19	19	21
Roma	131	129	155	60	145	136	196
Ruthenian	111	90	127	115	118	111	134
Russian	21	15	20	16	13	17	25
Serbian	10	9	7	10	8	7	13
Ukrainian	30	19	22	19	21	23	30
Jewish	18	21	18	17	16	21	19
interethnic and intercultural dialogue / intercultural dialogue and understanding	85	49	69	59	76	86	50
In total	1271	1237	1247	1189	1196	1288	1447

Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES and Fund to Support Minorities Culture

Other grant programs

The promotion of national minorities' culture has a regional dimension as well. In terms of the given period, it was supported via grant programs of higher territorial units apart from the nationwide grant system. Trnava and Nitra higher territorial unit have the grant program for the support of national minorities, according to the data available to the Office of the Plenipotentiary.

The grant program of the Trnava self-governing region

Trnava self-governing region annually provides grants to cultural actors within the program "Support of cultural and artistic activities and youth". The projects in the field of national culture were supported in 2017 and 2018 under this program too. In 2017, 17 projects were supported with a sum of 6 450 euros, in 2018 19 projects with a sum of 12 520 euros.

Provision of grants to support the culture and sport from the budget of the Nitra self-governing region

On the basis of the generally binding regulation of the Nitra self-governing region from 2014, grants to support culture and sport are provided from the budget of the Nitra self-governing region. In 2017 and 2018, the following financial resources were provided to civic associations, further only to national minorities:

Table no. 22: Overview of projects supported within subsidies from the budget of the Nitra self-governing region

Year	2017		2018	
	Number of projects	Allocated amount in euros	Number of projects	Allocated amount in euros
Csemadok	36	44 574,80	42	44 801,00
Civic association of national minorities	43	58 240,00	71	63 930,00
Civic association of Roma community	2	3 300,00	2	1 700,00

Source: Nitra self-governing region

IV. Part – The national minorities rights in the field of their education and training

4.1 Legislative and conceptual frameworks

Under Article 34(2)(a) of the Constitution, citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups are guaranteed, in addition to the right to master the State language, the right to education in their own language under the conditions laid down by law. It derives from international documents of the Council of Europe ratified by Slovakia, namely the Framework Convention and the Language Charter. The Act No 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Training (Schools Act) and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended (hereinafter the "Schools Act"), and § 6 and § 9 of MESRS SR Decree No 320/2008 Coll. on primary schools, as amended⁶², regulate this right legislatively. The Government's Manifesto was one of the most important conceptual documents in several domains, including education and training for national minorities, for which it set several important priorities.⁶³

The amendment to Act no. 597/2003 Coll. on the Financing of Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and School Facilities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Schools Financing Act"), effective from 1 September 2017, adjusted a provision of contribution to improve the conditions for education of students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. At the same time, the law stipulated that from 1 September 2017 to 31 December 2018, a student coming from a socially disadvantaged background is also considered to be a member of a household, a member of which gets social assistance benefit and the student's legal representative proves this fact to the headmaster of the primary school. This contribution is beyond the normal standard per student.

The founder of a primary school with more than 85 students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds being educated, is obliged to use at least 50% of the total contribution to improve the conditions for education and training of pupils from socially disadvantaged background for primary school at the personal expenses of teacher's assistant for students from disadvantaged background or social educator. The Act no. 367/2018 Coll. of 4 December 2018 amending the Schools Financing Act, extended the transitional period until 31 December 2019.

As of 1 September 2017, in accordance with the amendment to the Schools Financing Act, the legal representative of a public school or a religious school student is entitled to have travel expenses for commuting of a student from his/her permanent residence to the nearest school with the language of instruction of the relevant national

⁶²Other laws governing this field are mainly:

Act no. 596/2003 Coll. on State Administration in Education and School Self-Government and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts, as amended; Act no. 597/2003 Coll. on the Financing of Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and School Facilities, as amended; Act no. 317/2009 Coll. on Pedagogical and Professional Staff and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts, as amended.

⁶³You can find more details in: Report on the Situation and Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities in 2016, p. 61 and 62.

minority and back refunded, if it is a student of a primary school with the language of instruction of a national minority and no primary school with the language of instruction of the relevant national minority is established in the municipality or school district where a student of a national minority resides.

The Government Provision no. 630/2008 Coll., laying down the details of the breakdown of funds from the state budget for schools and school facilities, as amended, there are standards for training-educational process being elaborated, which means increased standard from 108% of primary school with a language other than Slovak to 113% of the corresponding standard and the new standard of the primary school learning the language of a national minority is 104% of the corresponding standard. It is becoming effective on 1st January 2018.

The MESRS SR, as part of the commitment resulting from the Manifesto, which committed the Slovak government to develop a concept for deepening teaching in Ruthenian language and culture in kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools, drawn up a proposal for Concept to develop teaching in Ruthenian language in the Slovak kindergartens, primary and secondary schools. The concept is focused mainly on stabilization and systematization of the process of forming, organizing and coordinating schools in relation to the teaching of the Ruthenian language as one of the subjects offered by the school curricula and as an educational language and language of instruction in terms of the various levels of education and types of schools, including continual education of teachers and university preparation of future teachers.

4.2 Institutional framework

In accordance with the Schools Act, persons belonging to national minorities are provided education and training in schools and school facilities that use their minority language as the language of instruction and education. The part of education in primary and secondary schools with a language of instruction other than the state language is also a compulsory subject of Slovak language and Slovak literature in the extent of teaching necessary for its acquisition. In addition to schools with the language of instruction of a national minority, the education and training of persons belonging to national minorities takes place in schools and school facilities with classes given in the languages of national minorities. Education acquired in schools using a minority language as the language of instruction or schools providing instruction in a minority language is equivalent to that acquired in schools using Slovak as the language of instruction.

The process of education and training in schools using a minority language as the language of instruction or providing instruction in a minority language is carried out in accordance with the national educational programs for the various levels of education. The separate Section of National and Inclusive Education was established at the MESRS SR on April 1, 2018, which is divided into the Office of the Section of National and Inclusive Education, the Section of National Minorities Education and the Section of Cross-section Topics in Education. Key tasks and competencies in the educational process of persons belonging to national minorities are also provided by

the National Institute for Education, the State Institute of Vocational Education and Training (hereinafter referred to as the "SIVET"), the National Institute of Certified Educational Measurements (hereinafter referred to as "NICEM"), IUVENTA - Slovak Institute of Youth (hereinafter referred to as "IUVENTA"), as well as the Methodology and Pedagogy Centre (hereinafter referred to as "MPC"), which is further divided into Directorate General and 9 regional workplaces, from which the Regional Office of MPC Prešov is of particular importance for national minorities, within which continuous education for Ruthenian language and literature takes place, but also ROCEPO - Roma Education Center Prešov operates within it.⁶⁴

The Council of the Minister for National Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Council of Minister") is an advisory body of the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic for the above-mentioned area and for the implementation of the Charter according to which the Contracting Parties take into account the needs of persons belonging to national minorities. The first meeting of the Council of Minister took place on 15 December 2017. It provided up-to-date information on education in schools with the instruction language of national minorities and with classes given in the language of national minorities. The second meeting dealt with information on the creation and development of the National Program for the Development of Education, elaborated in mutual correlation of the Report on the Current State of Education from 2013 and the document *Learning Slovakia*.

4.3 Content framework

The training and education in schools and school facilities is carried out according to educational programs. State education programs define the compulsory content of education in schools to acquire competences. The MESRS SR issues and publishes it. The state educational programs include, apart from the language of instruction, educational standards and framework curricula as well. The following changes occurred in the content framework of training and education in the years 2017 - 2018:

- The MESRS SR approved under number 2017-7512 / 20194: 1-10I0 the Annex no. 1, which changes the framework curricula for primary schools with teaching of the language of national minorities. The approved annex is effective from 1 September 2017 starting from the first year of primary school. The school can choose one of two framework curricula:⁶⁵
 - Framework curriculum for primary schools with teaching of the national minority language valid from 1 September 2015⁶⁶ and

⁶⁴Information on accredited and non-accredited educational programs implemented by MPC and ROCEPO in 2017 and 2018 and new educational programs that were accredited in 2018 are contained in Annex no. 4

⁶⁵Document is available at: https://www.minedu.sk/data/files/7461_dodatok-c-1_vjnm.pdf

⁶⁶Document is available at: http://www.statpedu.sk/files/articles/dokumenty/inovovany-statny-vzdelavaci-program/rup_zs_pre-z-s-vyu_ovan_m-jazyka-n_rodnostnej-men_iny.pdf;
http://www.statpedu.sk/files/articles/dokumenty/inovovany-statny-vzdelavaci-program/rup_zs_pre-z-s-vyu_ovan_m-jazyka-n_rodnostnej-men_iny.pdf

- Framework curricula for primary schools with teaching of the language of a national minority (amendment to the innovated state education program for primary education) effective from 1 September 2017.
- The MESRS SR approved with effect from 1 September 2017:
 - Framework curricula for grammar schools with eight-year study with the teaching of the national minority language⁶⁷ and
 - Framework curricula for grammar schools with four-year study with the teaching of the national minority language.⁶⁸
- On 24 April 2017, MESRS SR approved the Framework curricula for students with developmental learning disabilities for primary education and lower secondary education with a minority language of instruction as part of the Education Program for Students with Developmental Learning Disabilities ISCED1, ISCED 2, effective from 1 September 2017.⁶⁹
- The National Institute for Education drawn up at the request of the MESRS SR:
 - educational standards for a subject Russian language and literature for primary and lower secondary education for schools teaching Russian language. The given materials were approved on 27 February 2018.⁷⁰
 - educational standards for a subject German language for primary and lower secondary education for schools teaching German language. The materials were approved on 19 March 2018 with effect from 1 September 2018.⁷¹

4.4 The education in the language of national minorities

The training and education of persons belonging to national minorities takes place in kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and school facilities with a language of instruction or with classes of the Bulgarian, Hungarian, German, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian and Ukrainian languages. The founder of the school may be a municipality, a self-governing region, a district office in a regional seat, a state-recognized church or religious society, or any other legal or natural person.

⁶⁷Document is available at: <https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/12058.pdf>

⁶⁸Document is available at: <https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/12059.pdf>

⁶⁹Document is available at: <https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/11634.pdf>

⁷⁰Available at: <https://www.minedu.sk/vzdelavacie-standardy-pre-vyucovaci-predmet-rusky-jazyk-a-literatura-isced-1-isced-2-pre-skoly-s-vyucovanim-ruskeho-jazyka/>

⁷¹Available at: <https://www.minedu.sk/vzdelavacie-standardy-isced-1-a-isced-2-pre-vyucovaci-predmet-nemecky-jazyk-pre-skoly-s-vyucovanim-nemeckeho-jazyka/>

Table no. 23 schools with a language of instruction (mother tongue) of national minority⁷²

Language of instruction	School year	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
	School type								
Bulgarian	kindergarten	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	primary school	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	grammar school	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hungarian	kindergarten	263	266	266	266	269	269	271	271 ⁷³
	primary schools	234	238	237	234	230	227	223	222
	grammar schools	19	19	19	19	19	18	18	16
	secondary vocational schools	10	10	9	9	11	11	11	12
	special secondary schools	7	7	14	14	8	7	6	7
Slovak and Hungarian	kindergarten	81	75	75	73	72	71	73	74
	primary schools	33	27	26	27	28	28	28	28 ⁷⁴
	grammar schools	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8
	secondary vocational schools	30	31	31	32	32	29	26	25 ⁷⁵
German	kindergarten	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	primary schools	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	grammar schools	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ruthenian	kindergarten	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3
	primary schools	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
Slovak and Ruthenian	kindergarten	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
	primary schools	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Ukrainian	kindergarten	12	6	6	7	5	4	3	2
	primary schools	5	5	5	3	2	1	1	2
	grammar schools	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Slovak and Ukrainian	kindergarten	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	primary schools	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0

Source: The Statistical yearbooks available at: http://www.cvtisr.sk/cvti-sr-vedecka-kniznica/informacie-o-skolstve/statistiky/statisticka-rocenka-publikacia.html?page_id=9580

⁷²The table does not include schools in which the language of a national minority (e.g. German) is taught as a foreign language. Consequently, the table does not include, for example, 5 bilingual grammar schools, which also teach in German.

⁷³+ 10 special combined and primary kindergartens in the school year 2018/2019 (this figure is unavailable for previous school years)

⁷⁴+ 18 special combined and primary kindergartens in the school year 2018/2019 (this figure is unavailable for previous school years)

⁷⁵+ 2 special secondary schools in the school year 2018/2019 (this figure is not available for previous school years)

A. Kindergartens

As of 15 September 2018, a total of 3 001 kindergartens (2 748 state, 164 private and 89 religious) were included in the network of schools and school facilities in Slovakia, of which 352 (11.73%) were using a language of instruction other than Slovak, namely with Hungarian, Ukrainian, Ruthenian, German and Bulgarian.

Table no. 24: Number of kindergartens in the Slovak Republic by language of instruction

Language of instruction	Number of kindergartens	Percentage share
Slovak and Hungarian	74	2,47 %
Hungarian	271	9,03 %
Ukrainian	2	0,07 %
German	1	0,03 %
Ruthenian	3	0,10 %
Bulgarian	1	0,03 %
In total	352	11,73 %

Source: The Statistical Yearbook of kindergartens

B. Primary schools

As of 15 September 2018, there were a total of 2,087 primary schools included in the network of schools and school facilities, of which 1 910 were public state, 116 were church and 61 were private schools, with a total of 23 787 classes. As of 15 September 2018 Of the above 2 087 primary schools, a total of **256 (12.21%) of primary schools with a language of instruction Hungarian, German, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Russian and Bulgarian**, were included in the network of schools and school facilities as of 15 September 2018.

Table no. 25: Number of primary schools using a minority language as the language of instruction as of 15 September 2018

Language of instruction	Number of primary schools	Percentage share
Slovak and Hungarian	27	1,29 %
Hungarian	222	10,64 %
Ukrainian	1	0,05 %
Ruthenian	2	0,10 %
German	2	0,10 %
Bulgarian	1	0,05 %
Russian	1	0,05 %
In total	256	12,27 %

Source: The Statistical Yearbook of Education, Primary schools, The MESRS SR

In primary schools using Hungarian as the language of instruction, there were:

- a total of 1 743 classes in public schools attended by a total of 27 961 pupils, of which 901 were 0-4th grade classes with 13 657 pupils and 842 were 5-9th grade classes with 14 166 pupils;

- a total of 96 classes in church schools attended by a total of 1 431 pupils, of which 642 were 0-4th grade classes with 642 pupils and 51 were 5-9th grade classes with 789 pupils;
- a total of 1 class in private schools attended by a total of 7 students, all of them were 0-4 grade classes;

In primary schools using Ukrainian as the language of instruction, there were:

- a total of 9 classes in public schools attended by a total of 141 pupils, of which 4 were 0-4th grade classes with 64 pupils and 5 were 5-9th grade classes with 77 pupils;

In primary schools using Ruthenian as the language of instruction, there were:

- a total of 6 classes in public schools attended by a total of 62 pupils, of which 2 were 0-4th grade classes with 42 pupils and 2 were 5-9th grade classes with 20 pupils;

In primary schools using German as the language of instruction, there were:

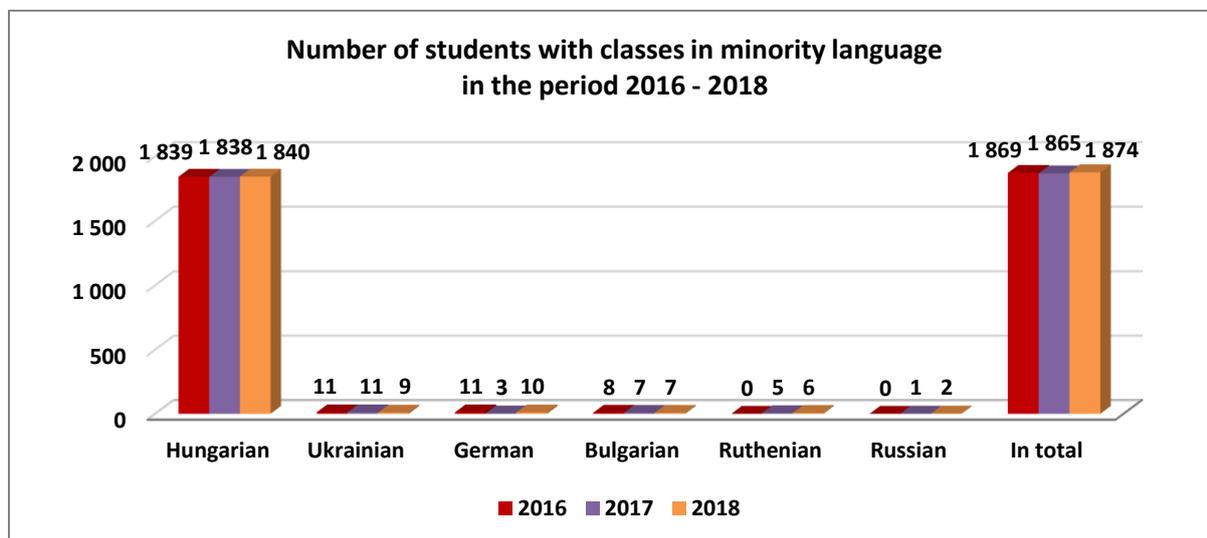
- a total of 2 classes in public schools attended by a total of 33 pupils, all of them were 0-4th grade classes,
- a total of 8 class in private schools attended by a total of 133 pupils, all of them were 0-4th grade classes;

In primary schools using Bulgarian as the language of instruction, there were:

- a total of 7 class in private schools attended by a total of 84 students, of which 4 were 0-4th grade classes with 52 pupils and 3 were 5-9th grade classes with 32 pupils;

In primary schools using Russian as the language of instruction, there were:

- a total of 2 classes in public schools attended by a total of 10 pupils, all of them were 0-4th grade classes.⁷⁶



⁷⁶ See: The Statistical Yearbooks, available at: http://www.cvtisr.sk/cvti-sr-vedecka-kniznica/informacie-o-skolstve/statistiky/statisticka-rocenka-publikacia.html?page_id=9580

Table no. 26: Number of students using a minority language as the language of instruction in the period 2016-2018

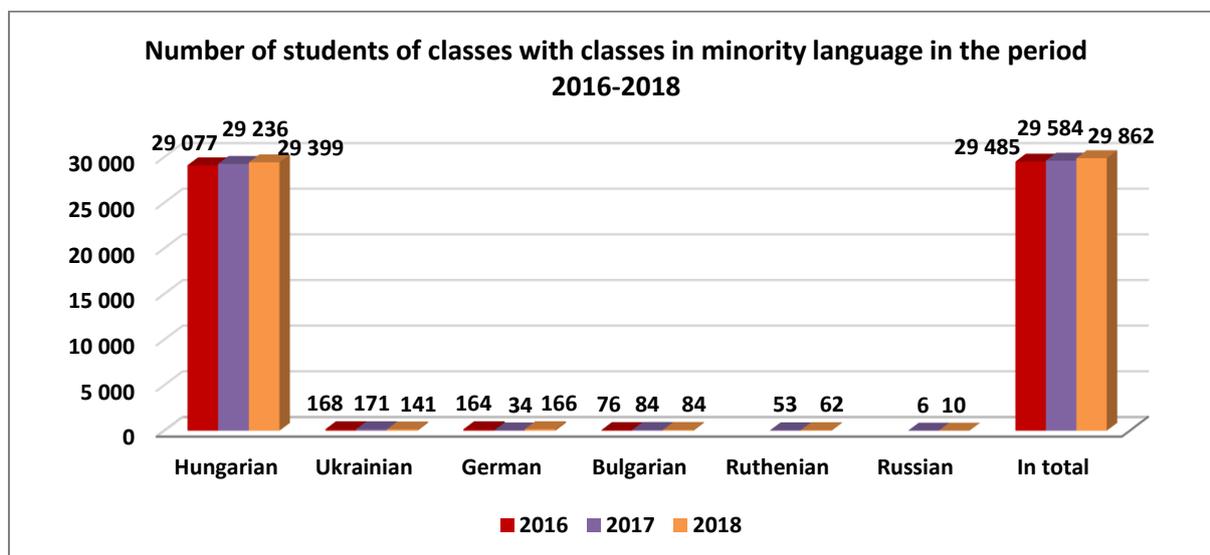
National minority language of instruction	Hungarian	Ukrainian	German	Bulgarian	Ruthenian	Russian	In total
2016	1 839	11	11	8			1 869
2017	1 838	11	3	7	5	1	1 865
2018	1 840	9	10	7	6	2	1 874

Source: The Statistical Yearbook of Education, Primary schools, The MESRS SR

Table no. 27: Number of students of classes using a minority language as the language of instruction in the period 2016-2018

National minority language of instruction	Hungarian	Ukrainian	German	Bulgarian	Ruthenian	Russian	In total
2016	29 077	168	164	76			29 485
2017	29 236	171	34	84	53	6	29 584
2018	29 399	141	166	84	62	10	29 862

Source: The Statistical Yearbook of Education, Primary schools, The MESRS SR



C. Secondary schools

As of 15 September 2018, there was a total of 441 secondary vocational schools (of which 337 were public, 87 were private and 17 were church schools) were included in the network of schools and school facilities. Of the above-mentioned number of secondary vocational schools, **37 secondary vocational schools using a language of instruction other than Slovak**, 25 of them were bilingual secondary vocational schools and 12 with classes given in Hungarian language. At the same time, there were 236 grammar schools included. Of the above-mentioned number of grammar schools, **27 were using a language of instruction other than Slovak**.

Table no. 28 Number of secondary technical schools according to language of instruction as of 15 September 2018

Language of instruction	Number of secondary vocational schools	Percentage share
Slovak and Hungarian	25	5,67 %
Hungarian	12	2,72 %
In total	37	8,39 %

Source: The Statistical Yearbook of Education, Secondary schools

Table no. 29: Number of grammar schools according to language of instruction as of 15 September 2018

Language of instruction	Number of grammar schools	Percentage share
Slovak and Hungarian	8	3,39 %
Hungarian	16	6,78 %
Ukrainian	1	0,42 %
German	1	0,42 %
Bulgarian	1	0,42 %
In total	27	11,44 %

Source: The Statistical Yearbook of Education, Secondary schools

As the information above suggests, for the time being, there is no secondary school in Slovakia using Romani or Ruthenian as the language of instruction. In this regard, it should be noted that instruction of Romani as a compulsory elective course is provided at the Zefyrín J. Malla Private Grammar School in Kremnica. Taking into account that 105 738 inhabitants of the Slovak Republic claimed to belong to Roma minority in the 2011 Houses and Population Census (122 518 people stated Roma as their mother tongue) and 33 482 inhabitants of the Slovak Republic claimed to belong to Ruthenian minority (55 469 people identified Ruthenian language as their mother tongue), the need to set up such schools is apparent.

D. Higher education

Higher education is governed by Act No 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended. We distinguish between public, state, private and foreign higher education institutions. In the academic year 2018/2019, as of 31 October 2018, higher education was provided at 34 higher education institutions, of which 20 were public, 3 were state and 12 were higher education institutions, in total at 128 faculties.

It is possible to complete university courses with classes in several languages of national minorities (Hungarian, German, Russian, Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Roma, Serbian, Croatian, Bulgarian, Polish) at the following departments, institutes and houses of higher education:

- Comenius University in Bratislava (Department of Hungarian Language and Literature, Department of German, Dutch and Scandinavian Studies, Department of Russian Studies and East European Studies, Department of Slavic Philology);
- University of Prešov (Institute of Russian Studies, Institute of Ukrainian and Central European Studies, Institute of German Studies at the Faculty of Arts and

within the Center for Languages and National Minorities) Institute of Hungarian Language and Culture, Institute of Ruthenian Language and Culture and Institute of Roma Studies);

- University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (Department of Russian Studies, Department of German Studies);
- Catholic University in Ružomberok (Department of German Studies);
- Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Department of German Studies, Department of Russian Studies at the Faculty of Arts and the Institute of Hungarian Linguistics and Literary Science and the Department of Central European Languages and Cultures at the Faculty of Central European Studies);
- Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (Department of German Studies, Department of Slavic Languages).

The Selye University in Komárno was established on January 1, 2004. It is the only independent public university in Slovakia, where education is provided mainly in the language of the national minority, namely in the Hungarian language. This means that it completes continuous education in this language from kindergarten to higher education institution.

In comparison to the previous period, the most important change is the planned opening of the study program Teaching of Romani language, literature and culture (in combination) at the University of Prešov in the academic year 2019/2020.⁷⁷

4.5 Activities in the field of training and education of national minorities children in schools and school facilities

In 2018, the **National Institute for Education prepared the document Zero Grade - Recommendations for Training-Educational Activities** in the zero grades of primary school.⁷⁸ The issue of zero grades is related to the implementation of the National Program of Education approved by the Slovak Government via Provision no. 302/2018, which proposes in the Implementation plan the introduction of compulsory pre-primary education in kindergarten for each child one year before compulsory education in primary school.

Activities of the National Institute for Education resulting from the Action Plan

In the framework of operational objective 3 of the Action Plan: More effective reflection of the peculiarities of the training-educational needs of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, there is a proposal of several activities falling under the responsibility of the MESRS. In concrete terms, it deals with these activities:

The activities related to operational objective 3 of the Action Plan, namely activity 1: Strengthening the process of reflecting specific needs of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups based on different conditions

⁷⁷ More information available at: <https://www.unipo.sk/aktuality/32209/>

⁷⁸ Material is available at the website of NIE: <http://www.statpedu.sk/sk/svp/inovovany-statny-vzdelavaci-program/inovovany-svp-1.stupen-zs/>

and requirements, including ways to address education of their members' education in mother tongue

- **Monitoring the implementation of innovated educational standards from the Slovak language and literature and the Hungarian language and literature into pedagogical practice in primary and secondary schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction.**

The task encompassed monitoring the educational process in 2018 intended for mapping the current state of implementation of innovated educational standards into pedagogical practice in the first, second, third, fifth, sixth and seventh grades of primary schools and in the selected grades of secondary schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction. The partial goal was to carry out field research in the selected primary and secondary schools and to devise pedagogical documents for the subject Slovak language and Slovak literature in accordance with Government Provision no. 196/2010. The outcome of the monitoring will be an interim report on the current state of implementation of innovated educational standards in pedagogical practice.

The outputs of the monitoring of the implementation of innovated educational standards in schools Hungarian as a language of instruction: the task included carrying out questionnaire surveys focused on mapping the implementation of the existing Hungarian primary and high school curricula with Hungarian as a language of instruction and the task continued, according to the research plan, with an elaboration of the research report, including recommendations for pedagogical research and pedagogical practice. As part of a more effective implementation of the innovated state educational programs, expert assessments, expert opinions and approval protocols on material didactic means of Hungarian language and literature and Slovak language and Slovak literature for schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction were drawn up in the process of expert assessment. There were also personal consultations with teachers, headmasters of primary schools and grammar schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction (directly at the school premises, or at professional seminars, conferences).

- **Monitoring the implementation of innovated educational standards from the Romani language and literature into pedagogical practice in primary and secondary schools**

In 2018, the task included monitoring the implementation of innovated educational standards from the Romani language and literature into pedagogical practice in primary and secondary schools, where Romani language and literature is taught. Taking into account that there is a small number of schools teaching Romani language and literature, especially in Kremnica, Rimavská Sobota and Košice, qualitative research methodology has been picked. The methodology of this research was focused on the analysis of pedagogical documents developed by schools according to the currently valid educational standards of Romani language and literature in primary and secondary schools. The analysis focused on the following areas: school curricula, time-topic plans for the subject of the Romani language and literature, preparation for lessons of the Romani language and literature, textbooks and supplementary teaching

resources. The individual consultations with teachers of the Romani language were part of this task that were aiming mainly at methodological guidelines on how to implement the innovative educational standards of the Romani language and literature in pedagogical practice. The task will continue in 2019 as it requires long-term research so that it is compatible and runs in parallel with researches for other national minority languages.

- **Monitoring the implementation of innovative educational standards from the Ruthenian language and literature into pedagogical practice in primary schools**

The task was focused on monitoring the implementation of innovative educational standards in primary schools with Ruthenian as a language of instruction and in primary schools with classes of Ruthenian language. The outputs of the task are documents serving as a basis for a methodology of the research task, namely a survey conducted in the form of interviews with members of the subject committee, teachers of Ruthenian language and literature, and analysis of the current state of teaching of Ruthenian language and literature in schools.

- **Monitoring the implementation of innovative educational standards from the Ukrainian language and literature into pedagogical practice in primary schools**

The task was aimed at monitoring the implementation of innovative educational standards in primary schools with Ukrainian as a language of instruction and in primary schools with classes of Ukrainian language. The output of the task is documents to analyse the current state of teaching Ukrainian language and literature in schools.

Activities related to operational objective 3 of the Action Plan, via proposed activity 2: *More effective creation of opportunities for training and education of Roma children in their mother tongue*

- **The education of national minorities**

The aim of the task was to prepare the educational staff (teachers, teacher assistants, educators) of the primary schools for effective education in primary schools with students from Roma communities. The content of the innovative education program was focused on acquiring and improving the professional competence of educational staff beyond subjects, which is necessary for the application of new knowledge in the field of education and training of pupils from Roma communities. The curriculum included the following thematic units: 1. Introduction to intercultural education, 2. History, ethnography and folklore of the Roma people, 3. Motivation of pupils by conversation in the Romani language, 4. With innovative methods to achieve inclusion in education. The innovative education is accredited by the MESRS SR under the name *Intercultural education in primary school with pupils from Roma communities*. The accredited program of continuous education is one of the outputs of the predefined project *We will achieve more together with the Roma people*, which was funded from

the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and from the state budget of the Slovak Republic. The task was realized within the sustainability of this project.

- **Analysis of the condition of methodological support for teachers of pre-primary education of national minorities**

The intention of this task was to monitor the current state of methodologies for multicultural topics in pre-primary education during the implementation of the innovated state educational program. During March and April 2018, there was drafted an analysis of available pedagogical documents, as an orientation in didactic tools for the given topic of multicultural pre-primary education made by the MESRS SR and various school portals and analysis of statistical data. In May 2018, there was a preparation of a survey questionnaire and the Center of Scientific-Technical Information of the Slovak Republic was addressed with a request for a database of kindergarten on the basis of set criteria.

4.6 The support to improve the quality of classes of Slovak language given to members of national minorities

The Slovak Government promised in its Manifesto, apart from increasing support and ensuring the development of education of children and pupils belonging to national minorities in their mother tongue, to change the methodology of teaching Slovak language in minority schools in order to improve its mastery. The draft concept of classes of Slovak language and Slovak literature in schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction is currently waiting for approval.

The national project **Educational process of teaching Slovak language and Slovak literature in schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction**, which MPC realizes in cooperation with NIE, NICEM and SSI, is focused on improving the quality of teaching Slovak language and Slovak literature in schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction and on monitoring implementation of innovated state educational program (practical application of student-oriented pedagogy, support for individual learning, creation of an inclusive environment in teaching, effective and efficient use of information-communication technologies). The duration of the national project is planned until 2020. The activities of the national project implemented in 2018 are listed in 3rd Evaluation Report on the national project Educational process of teaching Slovak language and Slovak literature in schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction.

V. Part – Rights of national minorities in terms of use of languages of national minorities

5.1 Legislative and conceptual frameworks

The Constitution guarantees persons belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue and the right to use their language in official contact. Slovakia is bound in the field of protection of language rights of national minorities by international treaties as well. The most important are the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages. The legislative framework for the use of languages of national minorities within the meaning of the Constitution is supplemented in particular by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, and a number of other generally binding legal regulations. The Act recognises nine minority languages: Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian and Ukrainian. This Act allows citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to national minorities to use the language of a national minority and lays down rules for the use of the language of a minority in official communication and other areas as well.

The legislation implementing Act no. 184/1999 Coll. includes Government Regulation No 535/2011 implementing certain provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. (hereinafter referred to as "Government Provision no.535/2012"), which lays down the details relating to the provision of information on the possibilities for using national minority languages in official contact and in connection with the form of bilingual official documents. The Government Provision no. 221/1999 is another implementing legislation to Act. On the Use of Languages of National Minorities.

In its Manifesto, the Slovak Government undertook, in relation to the use of minority languages, to ensure that the Railways Act is aligned with the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities with regard to train station signs in ethnically-mixed areas and committed itself to creating conditions for aligning the practice with the applicable Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities on the basis of an analysis conducted in ethnically-mixed areas. In accordance with the above, this task started to be executed gradually in early 2017 by placing railway station markings in the languages of national minorities in the respective municipalities in accordance with the instruction of the Minister of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic he issued on 20 December 2016. The Minister ordered the General Director of the Railways of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "RSR") with this instruction to designate railway stations in the languages of national minorities with effect from 1 January 2017. The given measure concerned 55 railway stations, 54 of them in Hungarian and 1 in Ruthenian.

The Railways Act was amended by Act No. 55/2019 Coll., which, effective from 15 March 2019, imposed on the infrastructure manager an obligation to secure labels in the language of national minorities, apart from the railway stations, also on those railway stops at which regular passenger services are carried out in municipalities

under the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities; namely till 31 December 2019.⁷⁹

In the construction field, the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic issued Methodological Guidelines of the *Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic, Section of Construction, Section of State Building Administration*, on the use of national minority languages in construction⁸⁰, as of 13 December 2018, which was subsequently published on the Ministry's website. In this methodological guideline, it draws attention of all obliged subjects, i.e., builders and owners of buildings, to the obligation to provide information in places accessible to the public concerning threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens.

When it comes to traffic signs, at the initiative of the Plenipotentiary, in the Decree of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 9/2009 Coll., that implements the Act on Road Traffic and on Amendments to Certain Acts, was incorporated legislation on the languages of national minorities. The mentioned legislation is, effective from 1 February 2018, concerning the identification of a municipality in the language of a national minority on traffic signs indicating the beginning and end of the municipality, as well as information concerning the endangerment of life, health, safety or property also in the language of the national minority. The given legislation deals with traffic signs indicating general information, which may be not only in the state language but a language of national minority as well. The decree also introduces a new form of traffic signs indicating the beginning and end of a municipality in the language of a national minority. The gradual replacement of these traffic signs started in 2018 and their number has been gradually increasing over the given period.

The Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities enables a possibility to place inscriptions and announcements intended for public information at airports also in the language of a national minority. For example, the Košice International Airport provides information on its website not only in Slovak and English, but also in Hungarian and German, which is a part of pro-client approach.

The adoption of Government Decree No. 126/2017 Coll., laying down details on the training of civil servants, was an important step towards active promotion of the use of minority languages in official communication, as recommended by the Framework Convention, in order to ensure a sufficient number of employees with adequate training and ability to respond to requests in minority languages. The Decree stipulates that language competence training for civil servants is aimed at maintaining and improving the level of command of a national minority language for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a separate regulation. In connection with the provision of the above-mentioned language competence education, the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Department of Hungarian Language and Literature) drafted a curriculum for language competence education in Hungarian. The given education of

⁷⁹Available at: <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2019/55/20190315>

⁸⁰Available at: <https://www.mindop.sk/ministerstvo-1/vystavba-5/statna-stavebna-sprava/dokumenty-a-materialy/usmernenia>

employees of selected district offices will be carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic during 2019. Currently, there are on-going negotiations between the Plenipotentiary and the Center for Languages and National Minorities of Prešov University, Institute of Ruthenian Language and Culture, on providing similar educational program for the Ruthenian language too.

5.2 Expert and methodological assistance in the use of national minority languages

In accordance with the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, the Office of the Government provides expert and methodological assistance to public authorities and organisational units of security forces and rescue services with regard to the implementation of this Act and handles administrative infractions related to the use of minority languages. The authority competent to exercise the above powers and obligations on behalf of the Office of the Government is the Head of the Civil Service Office at the Office of the Government who, in doing so, acts in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary according to the Organisational Rules of the Office of the Government. The permanent advisory body of the Head of the Civil Service Office is the Expert committee to apply the Act no. 184/1999 Coll. (hereinafter referred to only as "Expert Committee").

The Expert committee dealt in the given period with the complaints of natural and legal persons. In 2017, the Expert committee dealt with the drafting of *the Methodological Guideline to Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities*, as amended, whose elaboration the Government of the Slovak Republic imposed on the Head of the Civil Service Office at the Office of the Government and the Plenipotentiary via Government Resolution to the Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities for a period between 2015 and 2016. The methodical guidance meets pursuant to § 7a, clause 1 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. the role of the practical guide in addressing specific issues from the application practice of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., according to which the Office of the Government provides expert and methodological assistance to the authorities in the implementation of this Act.

In connection with the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., the Office of the Plenipotentiary cooperated with the office of the Secretary General of the Service Office in dealing with language submissions from natural and legal persons, mostly in connection with the application practice of § 4, clause 6 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., which regards the obligation to provide information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens at the places accessible to the public not only in the state language but in the minority language as well.

In 2017, a total of 11 language submissions were dealt with, 5 of them from individuals and 6 from state administration bodies and legal entities. In 2018, a total of 5 language submissions, 4 of them were from natural persons and one from a legal entity. In 2017 and 2018, resolving a collective filing of one legal entity from 2016 continued in 117 cases, where violation of § 4, clause 6 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. was

pointed out. The breaches of law were supposed to occur at power engineering facilities at the area of municipalities, which are listed in Government Provision no. 221/1999, containing information concerning threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens presented at places accessible to the public not only in the state language but in the language of a national minority as well. Taking into consideration the fact that there was a significant number of objections, the activities connected with their resolution lasted until the beginning of 2019, when process of elimination the identified deficiencies was successfully completed.

The Plenipotentiary provided expert and methodological assistance in the field of application practice of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities to 13 entities in 2017 and in 2018 to 22 entities, namely public authorities and natural and legal persons, including business entities. The largest number of requests for expert and methodological assistance from public authorities was dealing with the way of marking municipalities and offices in the languages of national minority and the marking and reporting of stations and stops of public transport in the languages of national minority. The Plenipotentiary provided expert and methodological assistance during the given period to natural persons too. In this context, the largest number of requests for opinions or methodological assistance concerned bilingual register documents, namely birth and marriage certificates.

Table no. 30: Number of language submissions from 2012 till 2018.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Language submissions – NP	1	3	0	2	0	5	4
Language submissions – LP	0	34	0	68	117	6	1
IN TOTAL	1	37	0	70	117	11	5

Key: LP – legal person, NP – natural person

Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

Table no. 31: Number of professional and methodological assistance provided from 2016 to 2018 to LP and NP

	2016	2017	2018
Number	11	13	22

Key: LP- legal person, NP – natural person

Source: OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

In this respect, it should be noted that, during the given period, the submissions concerning the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including linguistic ones, were addressed by the Public Defender of Rights as well. In 2018, she addressed a submission concerning a possible breach of the principle of equal

treatment in employment relations and access to employment. The submission contained an objection to the employer's request in the job offer, expressed as "Slovak as a native language".

5.3 Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the 2017-2018 period

The Slovak Government by its Resolution no. 15 from 11 January 2017 approved the Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the 2015 – 2016 period. It imposed on the Head of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Plenipotentiary with a resolution to draw up methodological guideline for Act No. 184/1999 Coll., on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended; to establish an inter-departmental working group to make an analysis of generally binding legal regulations in the field of language rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the Slovak Republic and, in cooperation with Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia, in order to identify needs in the area of systematic education of employees of local state administration bodies, local self-government bodies and employees of legal entities established by local self-government in the area of rights and obligations arising from Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended.

Following the adoption of this Resolution, the Office of the Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the Office of the Head of the Civil Service Office of the Government, drew up a draft of methodological guideline to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. The Expert committee dealt with a draft of methodological guideline and it approved this material.

Following the findings of the Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the 2015 – 2016 period, the Plenipotentiary took measures to eliminate individual shortcomings in cooperation with the relevant ministries. He addressed the concerned parties with a letter and called on them to eliminate the found shortcomings. He addressed all relevant municipalities with the same call as well. He visited several cities and villages with persons belonging to national minorities, out of his own initiative. The aim of these visits was, first and foremost, to monitor the application practice of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities.

The fourth Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities for the 2017-2018 period mapped the state of application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. from 1 January 2017 to 1 July 2018, namely in the field of national legislative and institutional framework, international legal framework and the use of languages of national minorities by public authorities and organizational units of the Fire and Rescue Service, armed security forces, The Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and other armed forces associations. The Report was based on an extensive questionnaire survey. It has been the most extensive report in terms of the extent of the mapped areas so far as well as the breadth and depth of the monitored parameters of the use of minority languages. As a follow-up to previous reports, it provided a comparison in time sequences, which present important statistical data that can be used to further examine

the dynamics of phenomena over time, as well as to analyse the facts that have affected and influenced these phenomena.

The scope of the questionnaire survey, which the language report was based on, was optimized in comparison with surveys conducted in 2014 and 2016 in the preparation of previous reports. The questionnaire focused on detecting data in 6 thematic areas dealing with the use of languages of national minorities in the competence of local self-government bodies, as they follow from the Act no. 184/1999 Coll. The municipalities were asked a total of 71 questions in 6 areas: markings in the language of a national minority, official contact, bilingual documents, negotiations of local administration bodies, disclosing information to public and final questions. The data was collected between August and October 2018. In total, 773 respondents were addressed (638 municipalities; 6 self-governing regions, 89 public administration bodies, 27 district directorates of the Police Force, 6 district directorates of the Fire and Rescue Service, 6 organizational units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic - military units and 1 organizational unit of the Prison and Court Guard Service - Institute for imprisonment). 760 out of all respondents sent answers, representing 98% of the total return. The letter addressed all the municipalities that are mentioned in the list of municipalities set out in Annex to the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 221/1999. In total, there were 638 municipalities, 507 of them with Hungarian, 56 with Ruthenian, 50 with Roma, 6 with Ukrainian, 1 with German national minority, as well as 18 municipalities with population with two national minorities (Ruthenian and Ukrainian 11, Hungarian and Roma 5, Ukrainian and Roma 1 and Ruthenian and Roma 1). The municipalities that had not sent the completed questionnaires were repeatedly called on to send them, thus achieving the highest (up to 98%) return from the surveys conducted so far.

The survey addressed legal entities established by local government authorities (municipalities and self-governing regions) for the second time. Since there is no list of such legal entities, the Office of the Plenipotentiary addressed all the concerned municipalities and 6 self-governing regions where such municipalities are present (Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov). The report processed data for 65 legal entities established by local self-government bodies (55 legal entities established by municipalities and 10 legal entities established by self-governing regions). The legal entities were in total asked 55 questions in the same 6 monitored fields as in the case of local self-government or public administration bodies.

The survey also explored the use of languages of national minorities among public administration bodies. 89 public administration bodies as well as their organizational units (branches, contact points, workplaces or stations) were addressed, 85 of them public administration bodies in municipalities with the Hungarian national minority and 4 public administration bodies in municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority. In concrete terms, these included 14 district offices, 27 Central Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (hereinafter referred to as the "COLSAF"), 16 tax offices, 13 customs offices, 8 regional veterinary and food administrations (hereinafter referred to as "RVFA"), 6 regional public health care offices (hereinafter also referred to as "RPHC") and 5 archives. The public administration

bodies were asked in total 52 questions in 6 fields and 54 questions were asked to the customs offices. As far as public administration bodies are concerned, a 100% return on questionnaires was achieved. The survey also identified the use of the languages of national minorities by members of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as "PF") and members of the Fire and Rescue Service (hereinafter referred to as "FaRS"). The 6 addressed district directorates of the Fire and Rescue Service sent the completed surveys. The survey examined for the first time also the use of national minority languages by members of 6 military units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "AF SR") and members of Prison and Court Guard Service - Institute for imprisonment.

The report focused on three categories of language rights following from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in all monitored subjects:

- a) language rights, the observance of which is compulsory and their non-observance is pursuant to §7b of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. an administrative offense;
- b) language rights, the observance of which is compulsory and their non-observance is under Act no. 184/1999 Coll. not an administrative offense;
- c) language rights, the application of which is according to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. an option.

The Report included also a separate annex containing a list and a number of specific shortcomings in the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. identified on the basis of a questionnaire survey.

The linguistic rights defined in §7b, clause 1 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. are those, observance of which is compulsory and non-observance is an administrative offense. An administrative offense in the field of the use of languages of national minorities shall be committed by a public administration body in the municipality pursuant to §2, clause 1 if:

- does not allow the citizen who is a member of national minority to communicate in oral and written communication in the language of a national minority or does not inform him / her of this possibility (§ 2, clause 3);
- at the request of a citizen who is a member of national minority, does not issue a copy of the decision and a birth certificate, marriage certificate or death certificate in the language of a national minority as well (§ 2, clause 4 and 5);
- does not provide its designation at the building where he operates also in the language of a national minority (§2, clause 6);
- does not provide, upon request, an official form issued within the scope of his competence also in the language of a national minority (§2, clause7);
- does not ensure the designation of a municipality in its national minority language within its jurisdiction in cases provided for in § 4, clause 1;
- does not ensure that information, inscriptions and notices are included within his competence (pursuant to § 4, clause 6, first sentence);
- does not provide information on generally binding legislation upon request in the language of a national minority (§4, clause 8);
- does not provide the Office of the Government with information and written documents (pursuant to § 7a, clause 3).

The administrative offense is in the field of the use of languages of national minorities, pursuant to §7b, clause 2 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., committed by a legal entity or a natural person, businessman who does not provide an inscription or notification pursuant to §4, clause 6 in the language of a national minority, if it deals with an inscription or announcement containing information concerning the threat to the life, health, property or safety of Slovak citizens. The results of the monitoring show that in 1 267 cases in the above-mentioned areas, there could have been possible errors in the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

Another category of language rights, the observance of which is compulsory and their non-observance is under Act no. 184/1999 Coll. not an administrative offense, includes the following rights:

- providing the public administration authorities with a response to a submission written in the language of both state language and national minority language;
- issuing permissions, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations also in the language of a national minority upon request;
- issuing decisions of public administration bodies in administrative proceedings also in the language of a national minority, if the proceeding was initiated by submission in the language of a national minority;
- issuing decisions of public administration authorities in administrative proceedings on request also in the language of a national minority;
- disclosing of important information mentioned on the official notice board of the municipality, on the website of the municipality and in the periodical press published also in the language of a national minority.

The results of the monitoring show that there could be 709 misconducts while respecting language rights in this category.

The language rights, the application of which is laid down in Act No. 184/1999 Coll. as optional, include

- designation of a municipality⁸¹ also in the language of a national minority, whereas railway station, bus station, airport and port in the municipality are marked;
- street markings in the municipality also in the language of a national minority;
- marking of local geographical indications in the municipality also in the language of a national minority;
- managing the official agenda, in particular the minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balances, public information and agendas of churches and religious societies intended for the public, apart from registry office, in the language of a national minority as well;
- keeping the municipality's chronicle also in the language of a national minority;
- also members of the municipal police use the language of a national minority on duty;
- the use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal police, armed security forces, other armed forces, the Fire and Rescue Service, who speak

⁸¹ Use the term municipality within the meaning of § 2, clause 1 of Act no.. 184/1999 Coll.

- the language of a national minority when communicating with Slovak nationals belonging to a national minority;
- the use of the language of a national minority by the members of the municipal council during its sessions;
 - discussions of public authority in the language of a national minority as well;
 - issuing generally binding regulations to public authorities in the language of a national minority as well;
 - publishing announcement intended to inform the public via local radio or other technical facilities in the language of a national minority;
 - placing inscriptions on monuments, memorials and plaques also in the language of a national minority.

The results of the monitoring show that language rights in this category are used in 2 194 cases, partly in 1 053 cases and they are not used in 2 611 cases.

While, according to the 2016 report, there could have been 1 712 cases of violations of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., there could have been only 1 267 cases in the period from 2017 to 2018. As far as language rights is concerned, the observance of which is compulsory and their non-observance is under Act no. 184/1999 Coll. not an administrative offense, it was in 2016 found out that possible misconducts in this area could have occurred in 590 cases, whereas in 2018 it was in 709 cases. Language rights, the application of which is laid down in Act No. 184/1999 Coll., were used as a possibility in 2016 in 1 736 cases, partially used in 698 cases and not used in 2 440 cases. The language rights in this category were in 2018 used in 2 194 cases, partly in 1 053 cases and not used in 2 611 cases.

In terms of municipalities, there has been an improvement in the use of national minority languages in official communication for each national minority, with the greatest progress being made in the use of Hungarian. There has been no change in the only municipality with a German national minority.

Regarding the public administration, the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official communication was ensured in almost all public administration bodies, the majority of which used the Hungarian language and Ruthenian language was partially used in 4 cases. In the area of designations in the language of a national minority, the number of public administration bodies having the designation of a municipality in the language of a national minority listed alongside the name of the municipality in the state language has increased. There has been a slight improvement in the area of public information in the language of a national minority. One area where no progress has been made is the availability of bilingual documents, due to the fact that bilingual forms have been issued in isolated cases and decisions drawn up in duplicate and in the language of national minorities and public documents (permissions, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations) are not issued bilingually. Creating conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication was evaluated by less than half of municipalities and public administration authorities as problematic or partially problematic, whereas they identified as main causes of this situation: insufficient amount of funds, insufficient

The Slovak Government approved the given report on 9 January by Resolution no. 10/2019, whereby also imposing on the Head of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities to establish an inter-departmental working group by 31 December 2019, to prepare documents for the application of §4, clause 6 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., to elaborate methodological guidance to ensure competence education aimed at maintaining and improving the level of knowledge of the language of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a special regulation (Government Provision No. 221/1999) and to establish a group to coordinate the issue of bilingual forms within the competence of municipalities and public administration bodies.

This resolutions imposed, at the same time, on the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Female Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Information Technology, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Transport and Construction, the Minister of Defence, and the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Roma Communities by 31 December 2019 to take measures to eliminate the shortcomings listed in Annex no. 10 to Report and to continuously evaluate their fulfilment within their competence.

5.4 Supporting the improvement of the application practice of respecting the rights to use the languages of national minorities

The Plenipotentiary has held during the given period several working meetings focused on information exchange and consulting of proposals to improve the application practice of respecting the language rights of minorities with representatives of central public administration bodies and representatives of the private sector. One of the important activities of the Plenipotentiary in this field was also a series of negotiations with representatives of retail chains operating in the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Post (Slovenská pošta) a.s., transport and energy companies. The aim of these meetings was to draw attention to legal obligations as well as language rights and subsequently to provide methodological assistance. Negotiations with these entities resulted in the improvement of practice concerning the life and health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public not only in the state language but in the minority language as well as the use of a possibility to publicize information intended for public in the language of a national minority, in other words, visual bilingualism in municipalities, which are listed in Government Resolution No. 221/1999. In this context, it has to be emphasized that it is in the interest of these entities to proceed customer-friendly and to disclose information to the public in the language of national minorities as well.

As part of the Plenipotentiary's priority to align practice with the law, including improvements in the field of visual bilingualism, with an emphasis on presenting information related to threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens in places

accessible to the public in national and minority languages, the Plenipotentiary initiated several meetings with responsible entities in order to set up systematic steps in this field. There were several meetings held during the given period with the management of the Slovak Trade Inspection⁸² and the National Labour Inspectorate⁸³. Both the Slovak Trade Inspection Authority and the National Labour Inspectorate have published information on their websites and alert relevant entities (e.g., entrepreneurs and other obliged entities) of their obligation to comply with the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities. The inspectors of the Slovak Trade Inspection monitor the presentation of mandatory information in a minority language during their inspections. The Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic also responded positively to the Plenipotentiary's initiative and as the supreme public administration body in the field of construction issued and published the Methodological Guideline of the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic on using minority languages in the construction field, where it warns businessmen, constructors, owners of buildings and all obliged persons to comply with the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities⁸⁴.

As regards the use of minority languages in official communication, it is necessary to highlight the positive step of the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia (ZMOS), as well as the DataCentre of electronisation of local self-administration in Slovakia in the use of languages of national minorities in providing electronic services to public administration. To this end, the DCOM Data Center of Municipalities and Cities project was launched and its main objective is to make available and improve the provision of e-Services to citizens at regional and local government level. In the given period, bilingual forms, submissions and decisions of the most used services by citizens in the Hungarian language have been made available to the public in the DCOM system. Further language versions of these forms will continue to be made available in the next period.⁸⁵

An important step forwards in the implementation of the recommendations of the Charter, which stipulates that the Contracting Parties are bound to make, fundamental national legislation affecting people using these languages available in the languages of national minorities, available in regional or minority languages, is to make. The Plenipotentiary's advisory language group consisting of five separate subgroups for five languages, has prepared translations of the most important legal standards concerning minority rights⁸⁶. These were published, in cooperation with the

⁸²Available at: <https://www.soi.sk/sk/informacie-pre-verejnost/informacia-pre-podnikatelske-subjekty-oznacenia-v-jazyku-narodnostnych-mensin.soi?ind=>

⁸³Available at: <https://www.ip.gov.sk/pouzitie-jazykov-mensin-na-bezpecnostnych-oznaceniach/>

⁸⁴Available at: <https://www.mindop.sk/ministerstvo-1/vystavba-5/statna-stavebna-sprava/dokumenty-a-materialy/usmernenia>

⁸⁵Available at: <https://www.dcom.sk/>

⁸⁶Announcement no. 588/2001 Coll. of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic on the conclusion of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Announcement no. 160/1998 Coll. of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic on the conclusion of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; 460/1992 Coll. Constitution of the Slovak Republic, Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language of the Slovak Republic, Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities;

Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, in the Section Legal Regulations in the language of national minorities on the legal and information portal SLOV-LEX⁸⁷.

In order to ensure the continuity of publication of other relevant legal translations on Slov-lex portal in January 2019, the Plenipotentiary and the Minister of Justice signed a Memorandum on Long-Term Cooperation. Its primary objective is to fulfil the obligations of the Slovak Republic in the field of language rights of national minorities in accordance with the Charter. The Memorandum regulates the way in which both Parties cooperate. The Office of the Plenipotentiary will secure professional supervision and provide experts on translations of selected legal norms into the languages of national minorities, and the Ministry of Culture will finance these activities and subsequently publish their results on the Slov-lex portal.

Another important activity in the field of language rights of national minorities was the completion of the preparation of a modern and user-friendly version of the terminology dictionaries⁸⁸. The dictionaries serve to simplify, facilitate and streamline the use of minority languages in official communication. They are primarily intended for employees of public authorities who use the languages of national minorities in their daily communication, interpreters and translators as well as citizens who need to use professional expressions in minority languages when dealing with their official affairs. The two-way Slovak-Hungarian, Slovak-Ukrainian, Slovak-Ruthenian and Romani-Slovak dictionary can be downloaded from the authorized representative's website to desktop computers and can be installed on android phones.

The Plenipotentiary's advisory group provided in the given period translations not only of legal norms but other texts, such as texts of announcements and information for the needs of public authorities, marking of public administration buildings, supplementary tables to selected traffic signs in minority languages, and others as well.

In cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary and the Hanns Seidel Foundation, an international workshop entitled "*New Challenges in the Protection of Languages of National Minorities*" took place on 26 October 2018 in Bratislava. The main topics of the event were the return to the spirit of the Framework Convention and Charter while searching for new impulses focused on improving language rights application of national minorities; identification of conditions and limits of application of language rights of national minorities in individual European countries and in Slovakia; the search for new tools for the application of the language rights of national minorities and new challenges and trends in the light of the dynamic social changes linked to the development of IT technologies in the field. The workshop consisted of 3 panels, first two focusing on the presentation of international and domestic examples of the

amending and supplementing Provision of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 221/1999 Coll., issuing a list of municipalities where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to national minority make up at least 20% of the population; The Slovak Government Provision no. 535/2011 Coll., implementing certain provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, Act no. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund to Support Minorities Culture and on the Amendment to Certain Acts

⁸⁷Available at: <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy-v-jazyku-narodnostnych-mensin>

⁸⁸Available at: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/odborne-terminologicke-slovniky-v-jazykoch-narodnostnych-mensin/>

development of the protection of the languages of national minorities. The new tools to exercise language rights were presented in the last panel. The Office of the Plenipotentiary can thanks to them optimize the further development of the protection of the language of national minorities.

The Plenipotentiary presented his activities in the field of language rights of national minorities at the European Parliament as well. At the invitation of the Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Claude Moraes and MEP József Nagy, he attended the Committee hearing on minimum standards for national minorities in the EU. The Plenipotentiary in his presentation pointed out that visual bilingualism is of particular importance for the promotion of language rights and its level faithfully reflects the language situation of national minorities in a given country, whereas having several missions: in case of national minorities members, it strengthens and increases confidence in the use of the mother tongue and sends a positive signal to the majority population about the presence of linguistic diversity.

Conclusion

The Report on the Situation and Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities for the years 2017-2018 keeps, already for the sixth time, the continuity of providing a comprehensive picture of the situation and rights of persons belonging to national minorities, whereby taking into consideration current developments in the given field. It maps changes that have been made in this area during the given period (in justified cases also before and after it) and provides relevant data and information on key areas related to the situation and rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Since the reports are monitoring already seven year long period, if possible, this report provides an assessment of the development so far.

The Report is in individual sections based on the results of monitoring and analysis of observance of rights of persons belonging to national minorities carried out by the Office of the Plenipotentiary, as well as other relevant public administration bodies, local administration bodies and other relevant entities. Given the limits on the scope of the report, it only contains data and information directly related to the area. Further relevant information from extensive documents provided by the relevant resorts is attached to this report.

The last two years have been extremely important for national minorities, mainly in relation to the adoption of strategic and conceptual documents and legislative changes concerning their situation and rights. As far as culture is concerned, it deals primarily with the adoption of the Fund Act and its constitution, thereby strengthening the participation of minorities in decision-making on the allocation of funds in the field of national minority culture. The establishment of the Section for the Development of Local and Regional and National Minority Culture within the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic was a significant step to strengthen the institutional support in this important area of national minority rights as well. In terms of strategy elaboration in this area, an important step was an initial phase of preparation of the Strategy for the Development of Local and Regional and National Minority Culture of the Slovak Republic by 2030, which should include the Action Plan with concrete measures in the area of local and regional culture and national minority culture for 2020 – 2030.

When it comes to education in the given period, there have been also significant advances in the building of the institutional background of education and training of children belonging to national minorities. These include, first and foremost, the establishment of an independent Section of National and Inclusive Education within MESRS SR. Practical solutions to open questions in this area were enhanced by legal amendments, which led to an increase in norm per pupil of the primary school with the language of instruction or the teaching of the national minority language, reimbursement of travel costs for commuting of pupil from his permanent residence into the closest school with classes given in language of a national minority. A positive step in this field was also the approval of new framework curricula for primary schools and grammar schools with teaching of a language of the national minority.

In the field of participation, the voting system of the Committee was changed in order to optimize its functioning and it was done also in accordance with requirements

of some national minorities. Under new circumstances, all members of two Committee Chambers have a right to vote.

As regards the use of the language of national minorities, several facts can be mentioned. Firstly, the extension of the Plenipotentiary's scope to include proposals for legislative and non-legislative measures related to the use of national minority languages, several important legislative steps relating to traffic signs, railways, education of civil servants, as well as publishing translations of the most important legal enactments in national minority languages. The findings of the language report, indicating a slight improvement in the current situation in the use of national minority languages in official communication, are also important in this area.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, it has to be highlighted that there are still significant shortcomings in several areas. The legal obligations in practice have not yet been fully met. It is important to mention that this is not only about compliance of norms and laws in general, but mainly about practical implementation of national public policy, the availability, enforceability and quality of specific minority rights. Those authorities and institutions that have specific areas within their competence considered to be one of the most serious reasons of the current situation a lack of financial resources. Therefore, it is necessary to approach the budget of central state and public administration bodies, local government and all obliged entities with regard to the necessity to allocate funds to remove the persisting deficiencies this Reports identifies. This is a prerequisite for the actual fulfilment of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as declared in the Constitution and other legal regulations of the Slovak Republic and its international legal obligations.

The protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities is a task for a whole society. It is necessary to realize how important the role the self-government bodies, whether at the level of higher territorial units or municipalities, play in the process of protection and strengthening the identity of persons belonging to national minorities, apart from public administration bodies. It is necessary, to the extent permitted by law, to address this issue to a greater extent by establishing basic participatory mechanisms within their competence in the field of national minority culture, in the use of national minority languages and in national minority education.

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Annex no. 1: Libraries' activities in 2017 and 2018

Annex no. 2: Museums' activities in 2017 and 2018

Annex no. 3: Structure of the Fund to Support Minorities Culture and schedule of calls

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Annex no. 1: Libraries' activities in 2017 and 2018

Libraries under the administration of the Ministry of Culture

State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica

The State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica played a special role in the field of national minorities' culture in 2017-2018 thanks to cooperation with national minorities and promotion of their culture. The State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica focused mainly on cooperation with the Bulgarian national minority, namely civic association House of Nations – Raduana, in the preparation of the exhibition Bulgarian painting and graphics, presentation of the work of three Bulgarian artists, namely Deyan Valkov, Ludmil Georgiev, Dimitar Petrov (6.7.-25.8.2017), with the Russian national minority with the civic association Rossija and Molodaja Rossija during the exhibition Tatiana Vavrzina: Philosophy of Beauty (16.11.-3.12.2017), as well as via mutual informing on cultural activities organized by both parties in order to get to know mutual cultures. It cooperated with the German national minority in the event Tied Languages, As we were speaking in the old Bratislava, discussion with Germanist Jozef Tancer (23.3.2017). The collection of books of the Center of Slavic Studies was supplemented with documents concerning the culture of the Ruthenian national minority and documents in the languages of national minorities according to the language profile. The State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica held in 2018 (3.10.2018) a seminar "The presence and future of the German language in Slovakia", which was organized along with the Association of Carpathian Germans in Slovakia. 42 participants from Germany, members of the EBV (European Educational Association) from Hesse took part in it. The State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica was presented at the seminar with a contribution in a German language called Dialogue of cultures, which evaluated the activities of the library and, among other things, the activities of members of the German national minority in the region. The library fund was supplemented with documents on national minority issues, non-periodical publications in national minority languages were made available in print or electronic form, periodical publications in national minority languages that were issued by national minorities or in the national minority language were made available. The collection was supplemented with DVDs on the life of the Carpathian Germans in Slovakia, such as The culinary specialties of the Carpathian-German cuisine / Kulinarische Spezialitäten der karpatendeutschen Küche; Personalities of Carpathian Germans in Slovakia / Persönlichkeiten karpatendeutscher Abstammung aus der Slowakei; German dialects in Slovakia / Deutsche Mundarten in der Slowakei; Carpathian Germans in Slovakia / Karpatendeutschen in der Slowakei. The periodicals in Hungarian, German, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Russian, Polish and Roma languages were made available.

State Scientific Library in Prešov

The documentary-information Center of Roma Culture (hereinafter referred to as "DICRC") is a specialized workplace that has expanded the portfolio of activities of the State Scientific Library in Prešov with dimension and activities focused on documentation, mapping and building a database of digital objects from the area of Roma culture in Slovakia. This workplace was built as a nationwide documentation and information centre with financial support from the European Union within the implementation of the national project of the Operational Programme Informatisation of Society, Priority axis 2. The operation and activities of the centre are aimed mainly at promoting the rights of the Roma national minority by documenting the Roma culture and providing access to it for general public.

In 2017, DICRC processed and made available 81 digital cultural objects in the categories of video, audio, photo, scan. They were made available at www.portalsvk.sk portal.

At the premises of the Gemer-Malohont Museum in Rimavská Sobota, an exhibition entitled Unknown Colours of Personalities was held on August 2- September 8, 2017. Jozef Fečo created the paintings of 13 world-famous personalities of Roma origin. The audio dramatization of three short stories was carried out in the course of the editorial activity. The first was a story of Queen of Water written by Zlatica Rusová (a member of the Romani Literature Club) elaborated in Slovak and Romani languages. Similarly, two world classics have been drawn up in the Romani language: Romeo and Juliet written by William Shakespeare and Portrait of Dorian Gray written by Oscar Wilde. The project's ambition was to bring, apart from Romani literature production, also works from world literature and thus bring world works in the Romani language closer to the Roma national minority. Every year, DICRC prepares events for three important memorial days for members of the Roma national minority. The first was International Roma Day. On this occasion, DICRC prepared an event entitled Women to Women on April 12, 2017.

The topic of the event was Roma women Gabriela Gáborová and Ildiko Górová, who disclosed their life story to the public. Arpi Farkaš Jazz trio performance was a part of the event as well. Furthermore, DICRC prepared on 9 July 2017, in cooperation with the Regional Museum in Prešov, an open event Roma people and Crafts. The blacksmith Ivan Šarközi from Dunajská Lužná and the craft fields of the Private secondary vocational school in Kežmarok performed there. The family band of Julyias Bandy showed a musical tradition to the public. The second memorial day was the Roma Holocaust (August 2). On this occasion, DICRC prepared a monodrama performance Roma Boxer for high school students on 25 September 2017. The Theatre performance is based on the true story of the Roma boxer Johann Trollmann, who became a German champion in the light-heavyweight in 1933. The title was taken away from him due to his Roma origin. The performance was followed by a discussion with the ethnologist Zuzana Kumanová on the Roma Holocaust topic. The third was International Romani Language Day (5 November). On this occasion, DICRC prepared on 27 November 2017 an event, where three audio dramatizations were presented to

the public. The writer Zlatica Rusová was talking about her works, Marián Balog introduced the activities of the Romani Literary Club. The folk music of Karel Adam was a musical guest.

In 2017, DICRC prepared also discussions and excursions for children from the community centre Stará tehelňa in Prešov, audio recordings from the book "How I went to school" written by Tera Fabián were presented to children during this event. As part of the Slovak Libraries Week, DICRC prepared an event entitled "Genres and Overlaps of Roma Music", which introduced to primary school pupils and high school students Roma music in Slovakia from its beginnings connected with the arrival of Roma in Slovakia in the 15th century up to now. The children from the kindergarten in Rokycany near Prešov had a possibility to see the fairy-tale of the Romathan Theatre "Who's the Most Beautiful in the World". Similarly, a professional event entitled "Education and Leadership in Roma Communities" organized by the Open Society Foundation and the Roma Education Fund took place at the DICRC premises. The State Scientific Library in Prešov was a partner of this event.

Another event was a lecture for children and youth from the community centre Stará tehelňa in Prešov on the topic "Roma people and the Holocaust". The speakers were employees of DICRC, who at the end of the lecture projected the screening of the documentary film "Baro mariben / The Great War" made by civic association Jekhetane-Together based in Prešov. The DICRC premises hosted also a day-long excursion, lecture, presentation and discussion for clients of the community centre LUNÍK IX in Košice. The children were within it introduced to Roma music in Slovakia and its genres, and the Roma Holocaust during World War II was a topic as well. On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the State Scientific Library establishment in Prešov, an exhibition of paintings by the Roma artist Jozef Fečo entitled "Unknown Colours of World Personalities" and an exhibition of photos entitled "Bread and Games", illustrating work of Romani craftsmen and artists, took place from September till the end of the year. In October 2017, DICRC participated in the presentation of a collection of poems entitled "Cold touch of the lost morning" written by Roman Gorol, who works as a teacher assistant at Čaklov's primary school. The launch of the collection of these poems took place in 2016 as part of the "*Living Book (Živá kniha)*" events.

The Roma studies room is an important part of DICRC, which provides space for on-site loans and study of documents covering a wide range of Romani literature from the library collection of the SSL. Apart from these funds, visitors also had access to other new acquisitions in this area published in Slovakia as well as abroad, various studies, surveys and publications. The collection of the study room is gradually expanded in a way that it offers the latest publications and to be constantly updated. The access to the created digital content is a part of the study room services. In 2017, 62 students (16 of them used the Internet) used the Roma studies room. Out of the total number of submitted information, 9 information (including 6 bibliographic ones), 88 on-site loans, 6 857 copies were made (517 print copies and 627 scans were made for users) 4 excursions (75 visitors), 19 lectures and presentations (384 visitors) and 4 exhibitions. All in all, 852 people attended all events in the study room. In 2017,

DICRC carried out a unique virtual gallery project as well. The primary school 192 in Jarovnice commemorated its 50th anniversary in 2017. This school is known to be attended exclusively by Roma children, but also owing to the fact that the works of art created by these children are known almost all over the world. The children have been under the leadership of a teacher Jan Sajk, involved in art competitions since 1987. The pupils got first awards in 1988 at an international competition in Hungary. The corridors in the school are some kind of small gallery and DICRC has created a virtual tour out of it. The application user has a possibility to walk through the corridors of the school and view the works of art in a virtual environment, whereas 40 of them have a separate description. The application is in Slovak, Roma and English language.

In 2018, DICRC processed and made available 93 digital cultural objects in the categories of video, audio, photo, scan. They were made available at www.portalsvk.sk. DICRC organized exhibitions such as "Unknown colours of world personalities", a panel exhibition of a series of 13 portraits of world-famous personalities who have Roma roots, made by Jozef Fečo. The exhibition was held at the exhibition premises of the Slovak Technical Museum - manor house Budimír from February to September 2018. Another exhibition held at the Regional Museum in Prešov on the occasion of World Roma Day was the exhibition "Bread and Circuses" carried out as 30-large format photos of Roma people, namely from April to May 2018. DICRC kept on creating audio-dramatization. The Slovak classic Rysavá jalovica written by Martin Kukučín was elaborated in the Romani language. DICRC contributed, thanks to audio processing of the selected work, to the education of the Roma minority also in the field of Slovak culture, in accordance with the recommendations of the Strategy of Culture Development for 2014 - 2020, where support and development of cultural education is one of the priorities. DICRC organized an annual event for three important memorial days for members of the Roma national minority in April as part of the Living Book project on the occasion of the World Roma Day at the Alexander Duchnovič Theatre in Prešov, where Ivan Akimov, head of the Roma folk ensemble Kesaj Tcháve, was the Living Book. The musical guest was the ensemble itself. Similarly, the DICRC organized in June an event focused on craft - smithery at the premises of the Regional Museum in Prešov. The main living book was Igor Radič, an artistic blacksmith from Klenovec. The musical guest was the ensemble Gipsy Angels, which performs under the civic association Roma Podskalky. The civic association is led by the Kudráčovci brothers who were, at the same time, the second living book. The third living book was Mgr. Lenka Cinová from the Methodology-pedagogy centre in Prešov. The event was organized for participants of the 20th meeting of the National Commission for Services, which was held at the State Scientific Library in Prešov.

DICRC offered its last living book to secondary school students in Prešov in October and it was dedicated to the Roma Holocaust,. The lecturer was Mgr. Lucia Segľová, PhD. The event was accompanied with a musical performance of a young violinist Samuel Bandy, who played Roma and Jewish compositions that are linked to the war period, together with his band, for the students of the Private Conservatory of Dezider Kardoš. In terms of the Week of Slovak Libraries, DICRC in March prepared for students of the Private Conservatory of Dezider Kardoš in Prešov an event called

Musical Diversity. In 2018, DICRC prepared also discussions and excursions for female students of the 3rd and 4th grades of the Secondary academy of education and social studies in Prešov, field teaching of kindergartens and pedagogy, social work, on the topic of crafts using modern media - virtual display, 3D videos, further workshop - work with camera, light and sound for members of civic association Pal'ikerav – Ďakujem. Similarly, there was a lecture organized for pupils of the primary school in Chminianske Jakubovany on the Roma Holocaust, a discussion for a delegation of journalists from Denmark on Roma culture in Slovakia, as well as a lecture and video projection on "Roma Culture in Slovakia" for the Kojatice Community Center. The Roma studies room provided also in 2018 space for on-site loans and study of documents covering a wide range of Roma literature from the library collection. The collection of the study room is gradually expanded to offer the latest publications and to be constantly updated. In 2018, 39 students used the Roma studies room (12 of them used the Internet). Out of the total number of submitted information, 9 information (including 6 bibliography ones), 80 on-site loans, 8 115 copies (197 print copies and 3,420 scans were provided to users in the study room) 3 excursions (50 visitors)), 16 lectures and presentations (364 visitors) and 4 exhibitions (2,717 visitors). All in all, 3131 people attended all events.

State Scientific Library in Košice

The State Scientific Library in Košice (hereinafter referred to as "SSL") is as the only library in Slovakia building its own specialized bibliographic database ROMANO on the life of the Roma ethnic group, accessible online at www.svkk.sk. As part of the scientific research activities of the inter-ethnic context of national and ethnic minority culture, the library staff was working on already the fourth selective bibliography from the life of the Roma people entitled "Roma Art" written by Valéria Farah and published in 2017.

In 2018, SSL presented a book "Romani blacksmiths in Slovakia" by Arne B. Mann. The library organized exhibitions and events aimed at supporting national minorities also in 2018. These were the exhibitions "Czech Artists and Slovakia" (the exhibition was realized in cooperation with the Czech association in Košice and the Czech centre in Bratislava); "Crafts of the past"; "From the world fire to the common State of Czechs and Slovaks" (exhibition on the occasion of 100th anniversary of the foundation of Czechoslovakia in cooperation with the Czech association in Košice and the Czech centre in Košice).

Other events in 2018 were a lecture on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of German-Slovak relations and 25 years of the German library of the Goethe Institute in cooperation with the Embassy of Germany in Bratislava; presentation of the book Éva Gyulai: Régi Diárium - Clementis János fancsali evangélikus lelkész plója, 1719 - 1760 (diary of an evangelical pastor operating in the 18th century). The book was presented by historian prof. Peter Kónya, PhD., rector of the University of Prešov in Slovak language; the exhibition "The Košice bohemia on the pages of the magazine Kassai Színházi Ujság" presented the SSL in Košice at the premises of the State Theatre

Košice (STK) during intervals of the performances, later the STK presented it in Rzeszów, Poland. In October, STK borrowed the exhibition “Czech theatre actors and musicians in Košice after 1918” and the Zemplin Library in Trebišov borrowed the exhibition “From the war fire to the joint state of Czechs and Slovaks” in November.

Libraries under the administration of the self-governing regions

Banská Bystrica self-governing region

Novohrad Library, Lučenec

The most intensive activities of the Novohrad Library (hereinafter referred to as “NL LC”) are focused on citizens of Hungarian nationality living in this region. The library supports the culture of national minorities via regular purchase of periodicals and library units. In 2017, NL LC offered to its readers 22 periodical titles, whereas in 2018, 18 titles in Hungarian language. The library added 1,360 library units in Hungarian language to its library collection over the given period. NL LC organizes events supporting the culture of national minorities:

- **Society of Friends of the Word meetings (2017 - 2018)** – the library has been organizing cycle of events for several years and a period between 2017 and 2018 was not an exception. One of the goals of these afternoon sessions of people interested in literature and cultural life of Hungarian minority is talking in Hungarian on topics connected with history, important personalities of the region, reading and using the living language. There were 20 events held and devoted to personalities associated with the city of Lučenec (J. Kármán, P. Ráday), the forgotten authors (A. Lesznaiová, G. Hegedüs); writers' anniversaries, new books' presentations and other topics.
- **Ringató (2017 – 2018)** –a cycle of cultural- educational events for little children and their parents in Hungarian language. This cycle of events is implemented in cooperation with the program Cseperedő (MR);
- **Reading marathon (2017 – 2018)** –pupils of primary school with Hungarian as a language of instruction were also involved in the joint event in order to involve them in a joint reading with pupils from other schools. The event was held in both Slovak and Hungarian;
- **Magical stories from library (2017) and Nature is waking up (2017)** –events in Slovak and Hungarian language for children from the Rapovce Community Center;
- **Animals in nature (2017)** –debating of primary school pupils on the given topic in Hungarian;
- **The Christmas is around the corner (2017)** –the meeting with the pupils of primary schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction was carried out in the festive atmosphere, accompanied with singing together, games and reading Christmas stories. The event was held in both Hungarian and Slovak;

- **Resonance (2017)** – the exhibition of graphics made by young artist Réka Jakab from Košice
- **Fairy-tales from the fairy-tale wardrobe (2018)** –VSG dance theatre from Budapest based on well-known fairy-tales intended for pre-school children. The event was organized in cooperation with the program Cseperedö (MR);
- **The connection between movement, speech and reason during infancy (2018)** – a lecture and discussion with lecturers of the Hungarian Republic focused on the role of mother and woman in contemporary society with sensorimotor development of toddlers. The event was held in Hungarian and conducted in cooperation with the program Cseperedö (MR);
- **The whole Slovakia reads to children (2018)** –the project involved kindergarten children and pupils of primary schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction, to whom regional famous personalities read their favourite fairy-tales from childhood. The event was held in both Slovak and Hungarian;
- **We like fairy-tales (2018) and National Hungarian fairy-tales (2018)** –experiential reading for children from primary schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction aimed at reading fairy-tales of Hungarian and other authors in the Slovak language, its aim is to popularize and practice Slovak language;
- **Winter with books (2018)** –experiential reading for children from primary school with Hungarian as a language of instruction;
- **Fašiagy in library (2018)** –an event intended for primary school pupils with Hungarian as a language of instruction, also aimed at comparing customs in Slovak and Hungarian households. The event was held in Slovak;
- **Happy snowmen (2017), In the footsteps of P. Dobšinský (2018), The world of phantasy, magic and ghosts (2018), Fairy-tale characters (2018)** - creative workshops for children of kindergartens and primary school pupils with Hungarian as a language of instruction. The events were held in Slovak.

Matej Hrebenda Library in Rimavská Sobota

The Matej Hrebenda Library carries out its activities in a nationally mixed territory and therefore, it focuses its activities on citizens of nationalities living in Rimavská Sobota and the surrounding area every year. The library collection was in 2017 supplemented with 424 library units in Hungarian language and 170 units in Czech language. In 2018, a total of 622 library units, 397 of them in Hungarian and 225 in Czech language. The events for national minorities are prepared for visitors of all ages, but mainly for children of kindergartens, primary schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction and secondary schools. They are prepared in accordance with their interest in the topics as well as the library's capabilities. The Matej Hrebenda Library in Rimavská Sobota prepared in the given period a number of one-off and cyclical events, from which we pick the following ones:

- **One book said to the other book (2017-2018)** - loud reading for primary school pupils with Hungarian and Slovak as a language of instruction;

- **Social problems among minors (2017 - 2018)** –a cycle of lectures on problems of children and youth. The events for primary school pupils with Hungarian as a language of instruction (10 events);
- **Matej Hrebenda Hačavský and history (2017), Natural richness of Gemer (2017), Book of my heart (2017), Interhuman relationships (2017)** –lectures, discussions, e.g. with RNDr. Ľubomír Gaál, writer Zoltán Szászi for pupils of primary schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction;
- **Let's read (2017)** – nationwide reading marathon of loud reading for the 2nd - 5th grade of primary schools in Slovak and Hungarian languages;
- **Library – information wall** – cyclically recurring events (52 events) - information preparation for children, pupils and students in Hungarian language;
- **Multicultural education (2017)** –a cycles of discussions and lectures in Hungarian for pupils of primary schools not only with Hungarian as a language of instruction (6 events);
- **Christmas reading (2017)** – experiential reading from the fairy-tales about the most beautiful holidays of the year in Hungarian as well;
- **Folk customs, folk fairy-tales (2018), Monsters from prehistoric times (2018), History of books and letters (2018), The school is just about to explode/ Robban az iskola (2018), Poem on the road./Vers az utczán (2018)** - literature lessons, lectures and discussions for pupils of primary schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction,
- **Golden country. Aranyország. (2018)** –a literary overview of the author's works of primary school pupils and 8-year grammar schools in the town and district of Rimavská Sobota. Self-lectured in Hungarian;
- **The houses breathing with history (2018)** –two lectures and discussions on historical buildings of the Main Square and the surroundings of Rimavská Sobota. The events for secondary schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction.

Hont-Novohrad Library in Veľký Krtíš

The Hont-Novohrad Library supplemented the library collection with 24 library units in 2017 and other 28 library units in 2018. The library organizes for the Roma national minority events in cooperation with the Special primary school in Veľký Krtíš aimed at promoting reading literacy of children and youth. The library conducted in the given period 2 events in the following manner:

- **March, a month of books (2017 – 2018)** –discussion on the importance of reading and books, accompanied with a recitation competition of Roma pupils from the Special primary school in Veľký Krtíš.

Ľudovít Štúr Regional Library in Zvolen

There were several events held in the Ľudovít Štúr Regional Library in Zvolen within the 13th and 14th year of the **Week of Czech-Slovak Reciprocity**. The events in 2017 were organized in cooperation with the Czech association in Zvolen and BONA FIDE Praha with the financial support of the Fund to Support Minorities Culture, the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic under the auspices of the Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the Czech Republic. The events were in 2018 prepared in cooperation with the Czech association in Zvolen and BONA FIDE Praha, with financial support from the Fund to Support Minorities Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. The week activities were focused on topics touching upon both national cultures. The events were realized in the form of puppet theatres for children, presentations of books, exhibitions, discussions and lectures. All in all, 15 events were held and 1213 people visited them.

Ján Kollár Library in Kremnica /JKL Kremnica/

- **Profession of my parents (11/2017 – 1/2018)** –The library organized in cooperation with the Private grammar school of Zefirín J. Malla in Kremnica an exhibition of the winning works of art contest on the profession of my parents, whereas participants were Roma children.

Nitra self-governing region

The important are mainly the dramatization of books for the youngest and children from Roma communities, literature lessons and fairy-tale afternoons, preventive- education events, holiday workshops and quizzes. Furthermore, they also organize competitions in poetry recitation with a separate category of recitation in Hungarian language, "The day of Hungarian fairy-tale", reading Roma fairy-tales, meetings and discussions with Hungarian writers and personalities of Hungarian cultural life.

Anton Bernolák Library in Nové Zámky

The library supports through its activities the development of the culture of national minorities living in the region, with special regard to the larger Hungarian minority. It does so *through grants from Hungary Nemzeti kulturális alap MÁRAI and Kölcsey* as well as purchases and gifts from publishers in Slovakia. The library organizes cultural-educational activities in Hungarian language for schools and the wide public as well. It deals mainly with competitions in the recitation of poetry for kindergartens "*I have a poem on the tip of my tongue*", nationwide and international events in support of reading literacy called "*Night with Andersen*", "*Big and small friends are reading*", "*Reading marathon*", "*Poetry Day*". They organized, in cooperation with the Jewish Religious Community in Nové Zámky, 4 events (presentation of the book *Jewish Destiny in South Slovakia 1938-1947*, discussions on the book, discussion on the Holocaust). It cooperates with the County and Municipal Library of Josef Attila in Tatabánya. They gain *through the Kölcsey Project* new literature in the Hungarian language of their own choice. The working groups meet at professional conferences in Slovakia but in Hungary too.

Tekov Library in Levice

The library builds and maintains the library collection in the Slovak language as well as in the minority languages - Hungarian and Czech, partially also Roma. As part of its cultural and educational activities, it regularly organizes library events for children of Hungarian nationality attending the Gyula Juhász Primary school with Hungarian as a language of instruction in Levice (The library organized in 2017 8 events with a participation of 118 children; there were 11 events with a participation of 218 children in 2018). A part of the students from the joint boarding school in Levice are children from the Roma ethnic group. The school carried out in 2017 22 events for 485 students of the joint boarding school. As far as year 2018 is concerned, there were 15 events for 269 pupils of this school.

József Szinnyei Library in Komárno

The library cooperates closely with schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction and it regularly organizes reading marathon, experiential reading, literature quizzes, art competitions, art vernissages, creative workshops, fairy-tale Saturday mornings - Mesekuckó, day of folk fairy-tale, Night with Andersen. In terms of adult visitors, it organized author discussions, art exhibitions and a lecture on the history of the Hungarian royal crown. In 2018, it implemented two projects that Fund to Support Minorities Culture supported from the public resources: "We invite to the library" and "New books, good reading". Furthermore, concerts of musical groups, theatre performance of the Csavar Színház Theatre - A helység kalapácsa, show of a puppeteer Écsi Gyöngyi and others.

Prešov self-governing region

Vihorlat Library in Humenné

In 2017:

- **Discussion with an author** –representative of Ukrainian literature, translator from Russian and Ukrainian into Slovak, university lecturer **Sergej Makar**
- **Discussion with the Canadian historian Paul Róbert Magocsi** titled: WITH THE BACK TOWARDS MOUNTAINS – The History of Carpathian Ruthenia and Carpathian Ruthenians
- Elaboration of the bibliography: **Ukrainian authors of Slovakia** – 2nd half of the 19th century
- organizing exhibitions and book exhibitions for writers' anniversaries and significant social events

In 2018:

- **exhibitions of photos of TOMÁŠ LEŇO titled RUSÍNI (RUTHENIANS)**
- **Discussion: OCHRID PROLOGUE** – important work of one of the greatest Serbian personalities, St. Nikolai Velimirovich, the spiritual father of the Orthodox Church prot. Peter Sorok, the author of the Slovak translation and the spiritual father prot. Peter Savčák, who talked about the life of bishop Nikolai Velimirovich

- **Execution of exhibitions** and book shows on the occasion of anniversary of authors and important social events

Podtatranská Library in Poprad

- in cooperation with primary school and nursery school in Matejovce - regular meeting of pupils of the Roma nationality of this school at the events of the library to support reading and reading literacy
- building of the collection of the Polish library (monographs and series) in cooperation with the civic association Polonus and the Central mountain library of the Polish tourist-homeland association in Krakow

Podduklianska Library in Svidník

The library provides services, apart from the Roma and Ruthenian national minorities, to the Ukrainian minority in the region as well. It cooperates with the District Organization of Ruthenian Revival in Svidník, the Local Organization of Ruthenian Revival in Svidník and with the Regional Organization of the Union of Ruthenian-Ukrainians in Svidník. There were several events that took place in the Podduklianska Library in 2017-2018.

In 2017:

- **ZBOROV** – a screening of a movie and discussion with its authors for the Association of intelligence of the Slovak Ruthenians
- **DUCHNOVIČ'S PREŠOV** –regional round of the 18th nationwide competition in recitation of Ruthenian poetry and prose for primary and secondary schools
- **ADOLF IVANOVIČ DOBRIANSKY AND HIS ERA** (A.I.DOBRIANSKYJ TA JOHO DOBA). Literature and musical band on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of birth, in cooperation with MUC in Svidník Venue: MUC Svidník
- **EMIL KUBEK – THE FIRST RUTHENIAN NOVELIST IN PREŠOV** – discussion and screening of the documentary film
- **AND I AM WISHING TO YOU (A IŠI VÁM VINČUJU)** – literature-music band of the Podduklianska Library for ATRIUM facility residents. Venue: ATRIUM Svidník
- **IMMIGRATION OF RUTHENIANS** – seminar.
- **FAŠIANGY SESSION WITH KUMA NAŠŤA AND VARVARA** –literature and musical band connected with scenes, poetry and prose.
- **MASTER OF THE WORD AND BRUSH** (Chudožnyk slova i penzlja). Academy dedicated to T.H. Shevchenko, in cooperation with the Museum of Ukrainian Culture (MUC) in Svidník. Venue: MUC Svidník
- **POETRY – PRAYER OF THE HEART** (Poezija – molytva serca). The ceremonial academy dedicated to the poet Sergei Makar, in cooperation with the MUC in Svidník. Venue: MUC Svidník
- **ROUNDTABLE** –discussion with Ukrainian authors of Slovakia and Ukraine and the opening of an exhibition of Ukrainian literature on the occasion of the Ruthenian-Ukrainians' Culture Festival in Svidník.

- **WITH A BACK TOWARDS MOUNTAINS. HISTORY OF THE CARPATHIAN RUTHENIAN AND CARPATHIAN RUTHENIANS** –presentation of a book written by the Canadian historian Paul Robert Magocsi in cooperation with the local organization of Ruthenian revival.
- **THE CRANES HAVE ALREADY FLOWN** (Vše žuravli odletily). The remembrance meeting of Ukrainian poet Eliáš Galajda in Slovakia connected with recitation of his poetry.

In 2018:

- **VASIL' HOPKO, PREOSVJAŠČENYJ RUSIN** –a screening of a movie and discussion with the Greek Catholic priest ThLic František Dancák.
- **STRINGS OF THE IRENA NEVICKÁ'S HEART** (Struny serca Iryny Nevickoj). 28th year of nationwide show in artistic recitation of poetry and prose of women in Ukrainian language, in cooperation with MUC in Svidník. Venue: MUC Svidník
- **DUCHNOVIČ'S PREŠOV** – regional round of the 19^h nationwide competition in recitation of Ruthenian poetry and prose for primary and secondary schools
- **FESTIVAL OF BELIEF – ASSOCIATION OF THE SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST** (Festival viry - Obščestvo – sv. Joanna Krestytelja) topic: Ruthenian Greek Catholic Liturgy, its content and mission - discussion.
- **ROUNDTABLE** – discussion with Ukrainian authors of Slovakia and Ukraine and the opening of an exhibition of Ukrainian literature on the occasion of the Ruthenian-Ukrainians' Culture Festival in Svidník.
- **RUTHENIAN FAMILY, ITS PAST, DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT SITUATION** – discussion.
- **RUTHENIAN LANGUAGE** –discussion with the State Secretary of the MESRS SR Peter Krajňak
- **RUTHENIANS AND RUSSIA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ERA** – lecture of prof. ThDr. Ján Šafin, PhD., dean of PBF Prešov University in Prešov.
- **MAGIC OF THE BESKYDY WORD** –literature and musical evening with Julyus Paňko, Nadežda Varcholová, Štefan Hostiňak, Ukrainian authors in Slovakia, connected with the recitation of their work, in cooperation with PK Svidník. Venue: MUC Svidník.
- **RUTHENIANS AND CHURCH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ERA** –lecture of the Orthodox priest Mgr. Petr Savčák, PhD.

The library has been since 2006 a co-organizer of the Ruthenian-Ukrainians Culture Festival in Svidník, where it organized discussions with Ukrainian authors in Slovakia and from the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine. The library has been since 2012 involved in organizing events at the Ruthenian Festival in Svidník. The female members of the Club of the artistic word, which operates at the Podduklianska library, participated in all events held at the MUC and in the Podduklianska Library

Ľubovňa Library in Stará Ľubovňa

The Ľubovňa Library provides services to persons belonging to national minorities and organizes events for and on national minorities. First and foremost, it deals with a very active cooperation with the Czech association in Stará Ľubovňa, but also with representatives of German and Ruthenian nationality in particular. In terms of Roma people, it deals primarily with cooperation with schools that educate pupils and students from socially excluded communities (Podsadok, Jakubany, Kolačkov ..., special primary schools and remote sites of secondary schools in municipalities with Roma communities).

The following activities took place in 2017 (in cooperation with the Czech association in Stará Ľubovňa):

- ***Cycle: I report obediently*** – we read J. Hašek; reading of a well-known Czech author to be continued
- ***Battle at Zborov*** – a lecture on World War I and the participation of Czechs in it, including a visit to cemeteries from the First World War in the district of Bardejov;
- ***Vilém's stories*** – book presentation;
- ***To all people of good will*** – traditional Christmas program (3 days), with lectures, production of Christmas decorations, charity bazaar and ceremonial programs dedicated to the co-existence of Slovaks and national minorities in the Stará Ľubovňa region.
- ***The days of Czech culture*** organized in cooperation with the Czech centre in Bratislava, the Czech association in Košice and the Czech association in Stará Ľubovňa, and it wants to deepen friendships and cultural ties with the Czech nation.

The Days of Czech culture included the following events:

Sophie's Choice in the Czech way - an exhibition connected with lectures on the fate of Jewish children during the World War II in Bohemia;

World according to Šašek – an interactive exhibition about the work of Czech illustrator Miroslav Šašek;

Romantic piano - concert of Matyáš Novák;

Bonifantes - concert of boys' choir from Pardubice

The following activities took place in 2018 (in cooperation with the Czech association in Stará Ľubovňa):

- ***Night reading in library*** – reading of popular Czech authors;
- ***The biggest secret of the Third Reich*** – Secret of the golden train – lecture of Milan Zach Kučera.
- ***12 worlds*** – an exhibition of contemporary Czech illustrators connected with lectures and experiential activities.
- ***To all people of good will*** – 11.12. – 13.12.2018 – traditional Christmas program encompassed creative workshops for children, Small Christmas market with products of local artists and craftsmen and a moderated program with representatives of national minorities and performance of Johanni Buddies and Ján Jendrichovský.

- **The days of Czech culture** organized in cooperation with the Czech centre in Bratislava, the Czech association in Košice and the Czech association in Stará Ľubovňa, and it wants to deepen friendships and cultural ties with the Czech nation.
The century of Czech comics – an exhibition connected with lectures;
The Czechoslovak statehood 1918 – an exhibition connected with lectures;
Duo du Reve – chamber concert.

The 7th year of multi-genre festival UM UM took place in Stará Ľubovňa on 17-19 August 2018, which traditionally focuses on exploring the possibilities of linking contemporary art with the history and traditions of the multi-ethnic region of Upper Spiš, especially Stará Ľubovňa and its surroundings. The theme of the last year was the Germans, Jews, Slovaks and Stará Ľubovňa. There were two discussions held in the Ľubovňa Library during the festival with eye-witnesses, Carpathian Germans, of the Second World War and a multimedia exhibition of short films about the memories of the expelled Germans: *Divided Memories: Czechoslovakia 1937-48*. The Ľubovňa Library implemented the project *Hello, Neighbour* with a financial support of the Fund to Support Minorities Culture. The output of the project was a cycle of 12 lectures and discussions devoted to the ethnogenesis of the Stará Ľubovňa region and the presentation of cultural, confessional and ethnological attributes of individual national minorities living in the Stará Ľubovňa region. All in all, 6 topics were presented within the cycle: *Introduction to the issue of coexistence of nationalities in the Stará Ľubovňa region* (lecturer Monika Pavelčíková); *Children of the wind* (lecturer PhDr. Arne Mann CSc.); *Where is my home?* (lecturer Mgr. Adrián Drobňák); *What did the German colonization bring* (lecturer Marta Krafčíková); *Jewish Community in Stará Ľubovňa* (lecturer Mgr. Monika Pavelčíková); *Why Ruthenian, why Ukrainian?* (lecturer Ing. Martin Karaš).

Žilina self-governing region

Regional Library in Žilina

The members of the Czech association Žilina met regularly at the premises of the Regional Library in Žilina in 2017-2018. Both institutions cooperated also in the program area, they realized an exhibition of cartoons and humour *Before and After* together. The Czech association Žilina partially subsidized the purchase of periodicals in Czech language for members of the association and other visitors. This grant was in the years 2017-2018 at the height of 1552,30 €. In the same period, the Regional Library expanded its book collection with 2051 titles in Czech language. The Polish Club Library was built in the library on the basis on cooperation with the civic association POLONUS. Over the past two years, 206 documents in Polish language have been added to this collection. The library is an occasional meeting place for members of the Carpathian-German association in Slovakia - Local group Žilina. The Regional Library in Žilina will in 2019 continue to create conditions for a development and protection of the culture of persons belonging to national minorities.

Turiec Library in Martin

The Turiec Library in Martin cooperated in 2017 and 2018 mainly with the Czech national minority, which is the largest minority in Martin. The support of this minority consisted mainly in supplementing the book collection with literature in the Czech language and also in purchasing Czech newspapers and magazines. In 2017-2018, 1456 books and 32 periodicals in the Czech language were purchased into the collection of the Turiec Library.

In May 2018, the Czech association in the Trnava Region, in cooperation with the Czech association in Martin, organized a lecture at the premises of the Turiec Library connected with the discussion *Clouds over Barandov and the secret of Lida Baarová*. On November 29, 2018, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first Czechoslovak Republic, a lecture by the renowned Czech historian, Professor Jan Rychlík, named *International and internal political connections of the downfall of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire 1918 and birth of succession states* took place in the Turiec Library. In May 2018, an exhibition *Poetic collage of Jiří Kalivoda* was made available at the library premises, whose author was a member of the Czech national minority.

The second large ethnic group in the city of Martin is the Polish minority. The corner of Polish literature was established at the Fiction department from 2009 to 2017. The collection of Polish literature was in 2018 divided into individual library workplaces in the context of moving the reading room of newspapers and magazines to these premises, where it is accessible to all visitors.

Liptov Library of G.F. Belopotocký in Liptovský Mikuláš

The activities focused on the Czech and Polish minorities are an integral part of the activities of the Liptov Library of G.F. Belopotocký in Liptovský Mikuláš. The so-called Polish library, where you can find book in Polish language, has been in existence since 2014. It is open to the public and it is being continuously supplemented. The Polish literature collection was in 2017-2018 expanded with 92 new books. In November 2017, the library held a lecture on Joseph Conrad with Professor Jacek Cwetlar from the University of Krakow. The library continuously cooperates with the civic association Polish club.

An exhibition of Simona Mony's books was opened in March 2017 for members of the Czech, Moravian and Silesian nationalities. In December 2017, a lecture dedicated to Jan Welzl's book *30 years in the golden north* was held in the library. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic, the library prepared a thematic event entitled *This Century*, which introduced important personalities of this period, namely T. G. Masaryk and M. R. Štefánik, Vavro Šrobár and Jan Masaryk, Alexander Dubček and Alois Rašín to the public. There was an exhibition of books and documents installed in the library during October and November 2018 that were connected to preparation, establishment and first years of the Czechoslovak Republic. The Liptov Library for the Czech national minority living in and around Liptovský Mikuláš is continually buying books in Czech language. As far as 2017-2018 period is concerned, it was 592 books.

Orava Library of Anton Habovštiak in Dolný Kubín

The Orava Library of Anton Habovštiak in Dolný Kubín, in accordance with the IFLA Manifesto on Public Libraries and Other Documents, provides its services on the principle of equal access for all, regardless of age, race, gender, religion, nationality, language or social situation. As part of its cultural and educational activities, it organizes public events which are free of charge and accessible to all the above-mentioned categories, including members of national minorities and ethnic groups. The events in the library are held in Slovak, exceptionally in Polish and Czech language, and it was also in Russian in 2018 as part of the *Days of Russian Literature* in the Žilina self-governing region.

The members of Polish nationality have at their disposal the Polish library, which was established in 2008. The Polish library collection contains more than 330 library units. The library opened the Polish club with the intention to bring citizens of Polish nationality living in the region and supporters of Polish literature and culture together. Its program activity depends on the interest of registered members.

There are a lot of books and magazines in the Czech language in the book collection for members of Czech nationality. There are available documents in Russian, German, English or French as well.

The Orava Library, as an institution of non-formal education, prepares cultural-educational events for various categories of users. These activities also include lectures on human rights and their observance, including the rights of national minorities and ethnic groups. The library cooperates intensively with the local community and low-threshold centre in organizing leisure activities for their clients, including Roma children and youth.

The library plans to further develop all these activities and continue in them in the future. The ambition of library management is to continue in cross-border cooperation with partner libraries in the Czech and Polish Republic, thus making Czech and Polish languages and culture accessible to persons belonging to national minorities in the Orava region.

Annex number 2: Museums' activities in 2017 and 2018

The museums of the Slovak national museum

Acquisition activity

SNM – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia.

The main priority of the museum in 2017 was the acquisition of collection items (contemporary historical furniture) for a manor house of Madách family in Dolná Strehová. The museum also received a valuable gift - a collection of works of art from the estates of Judit Szalatnai, daughter of a prominent author and cultural activist of the Hungarian minority during the interwar Czechoslovakia period, Rezső Szalatnai. The museum's main priority in 2018 was the acquisition of collection items for the newly prepared exposition in Bratislava.

Field	Increments		Way of acquisition									
			Own research		Purchase		Gift		Exchange		Transfer	
	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces
2017												
History	9	20	0	0	8	19	1	1	0	0	0	0
History of art	16	16	0	0	0	0	16	16	0	0	0	0
Social sciences in total	25	36	0	0	8	19	17	17	0	0	0	0
Increments in total	25	36	0	0	8	19	17	17	0	0	0	0
2018												
History	39	43	0	0	23	27	16	16	0	0	0	0
Ethnography	3	3	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
History of art	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Social sciences in total	44	48	0	0	27	31	17	17	0	0	0	0
Increments in total	44	48	0	0	27	31	17	17	0	0	0	0

SNM – Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia

The museum received in 2017 a book edition of GABRIEL KOLINOVICS SENQUICZIENSIS - CHRONICON MILITARIS ORDINIS EQUITUM TEMPLARIORUM. In 2018, collection fund acquired a collection of photos, manuscripts and personal items after Ferdinand Takáč, who was a Catholic priest of Croatian descent (*27 June 1920 - † 6 April 2013), a Jesuit, political prisoner, author and translator. Ferdinand Takáč is the author of a large Croatian - Slovak dictionary (about 700 pages and more than 50,000 entries), which was published in 1999.

Field	Increments		Way of acquisition									
			Own research		Purchase		Gift		Exchange		Transfer	
	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces
2017												
History	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Social sciences in total	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increments in total	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018												
Data not provided												

SNM – Museum of Ukrainian Culture

The museum gained in 2017 for acquisition activities 1,577 EUR from the targeted grant of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. The collection items from ethnography and artworks of Š. Hapák were bought from these financial resources. The museum bought in 2018 through a priority project a valuable set of wooden folk furniture from the first half of the 20th century and a home-woven hemp rope.

Field	Increments		Way of acquisition									
			Own research		Purchase		Gift		Exchange		Transfer	
	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces
2017												
History	12	28	3	4	0	0	9	24	0	0	0	0
Ethnography	15	24	1	10	9	9	5	5	0	0	0	0
History of art	6	6	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Social sciences in total	33	58	4	14	15	15	14	29	0	0	0	0
Increments in total	33	58	4	14	15	15	14	29	0	0	0	0
2018												
Ethnography	10	13	0	0	10	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Social sciences in total	10	13	0	0	10	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increments in total	10	13	0	0	10	13	0	0	0	0	0	0

The session of collection commission has been: once (15.2.2018)

SNM- Museum of Ruthenian Culture

The museum acquired in 2017 mainly collection items of ethnographic nature from the Ruthenian municipalities of the north-east Slovakia. In 2018, the museum acquired a collection of ecclesiastical textiles, namely priest's robes with fittings and accessories necessary for services. It also bought woodcarving Dancing suite of men of the Ruthenian author Miloslav Sočka.

Field	Increments		Way of acquisition									
			Own research		Purchase		Gift		Exchange		Transfer	
	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces
2017												
Ethnography	65	65	0	0	40	40	25	25	0	0	0	0
Other social sciences	6	6	0	0	1	1	5	5	0	0	0	0
Social sciences in total	71	71	0	0	41	41	30	30	0	0	0	0
Increments in total	71	71	0	0	41	41	30	30	0	0	0	0
2018												
Ethnography	20	20	0	0	0	0	20	20	0	0	0	0
Other social sciences	11	11	0	0	1	1	10	10	0	0	0	0
Social sciences in total	31	31	0	0	1	1	30	30	0	0	0	0
Increments in total	31	31	0	0	1	1	30	30	0	0	0	0

The session of collection commission has been: once

SNM- Museum of Carpathian Germans Culture

The museum expanded its collection fund in 2017 and 2018 with items from the first half of the 20th century, documenting the culture of the everyday life of the Germans around Kremnica and Bratislava.

Field	Increments		Way of acquisition									
			Own research		Purchase		Gift		Exchange		Transfer	
	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces
2017												
History	23	30	0	0	23	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
Social sciences in total	23	30	0	0	23	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increments in total	23	30	0	0	23	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018												
History	41	68	0	0	41	68	0	0	0	0	0	0
History of music	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Social sciences in total	42	69	0	0	42	69	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increments in total	42	69	0	0	42	69	0	0	0	0	0	0

The session of collection commission has been: once

SNM- Museum of Jewish Culture

It acquired in 2017 363 pieces of collection items (259 incremental items), of which 256 pieces (196 incremental items) were purchased and 107 pieces of collection items (63 incremental items) were donated. Most of the acquired collection items were moved to the newly built Holocaust Museum in Sered'. The Museum of Jewish Culture acquired in 2018 683 pieces of collection items (433 incremental items), of which 437 pieces (333 incremental items) were purchased and 246 pieces of collection items (100 incremental items) were donated. The most valuable, art-wise, acquired collection items included a parchment roll The Book of Esther by Avraham Borsehevsky, which was presented at the exhibition itself. The building of the museum's collection fund is fully determined by objective options related to situation of the Jewish community in Slovakia. The workers of the Museum of Jewish Culture are trying to acquire such kinds of subjects that are not sufficiently represented in the collection fund.

Field	Increments		Way of acquisition									
			Own research		Purchase		Gift		Exchange		Transfer	
	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces
2017												
History	259	363	0	0	196	256	63	107	0	0	0	0
Social sciences in total	259	363	0	0	196	256	63	107	0	0	0	0
Increments in total	259	363	0	0	196	256	63	107	0	0	0	0
2018												
History	433	683	0	0	333	437	100	246	0	0	0	0
Social sciences in total	433	683	0	0	333	437	100	246	0	0	0	0
Increments in total	433	683	0	0	333	437	100	246	0	0	0	0

The session of collection commission has been: four times

SNM – Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia

The museum acquired, as part of its acquisition activities in 2018, extremely valuable collection items in the form of gifts and purchases, namely a collection of household linen and wired jewellery.

Field	Increments		Way of acquisition									
			Own research		Purchase		Gift		Exchange		Transfer	
	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces
2018												
Increments in total		38	0	0		38						

SNM – Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia

The museum acquired in 2018 extremely valuable collection items as a gift and purchase as well, namely a collection of music and falcon postcards

Field	Increments		Way of acquisition									
			Own research		Purchase		Gift		Exchange		Transfer	
	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces	increment no.	pieces
2018												
Increments in total		133	0	0		133						

Scientific-research activity of the national minorities museums of the SNM

SNM – Museum of Carpathian Germans Culture

The museum was in accordance with its specialization dealing in 2017 with 4 and in 2018 with 3 scientific-research tasks examining the contribution of the Carpathian Germans in the history and culture of Slovakia in the wider social-political contexts and some regions of Slovakia.

Task name	Responsible person	Duration from-to	Field	Output
2017				
Carpathian Germans in the history and culture of Slovakia	Pöss	2016-2017	History	Other
Political life of the Carpathian Germans	Schvarc	2016-2017	History	study in the expert publications
Ethnography of the Carpathian Germans	Fil'o	2016-2017	Ethnography	Other
500 years of reformation in Slovakia	Pöss, Fil'o, Paulínyová	2016-2017	History	participation in monograph
Total number of scientific-research tasks: 4				
2018				
Carpathian Germans in the history and culture of Slovakia	Pöss	2018-2019	History	Other
Political life of the Carpathian Germans	Schvarc	2018-2018	History	study in the expert publications
Demography of the Carpathian Germans	Fil'o	2018-2019	History	Other
Total number of scientific-research tasks: 3				

SNM-Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia

The objectives of the scientific-research activities of the organization are included in the Plan of the main tasks of the museum, the implementation of which depends on the budget. The outputs from research activities are used mainly in the exhibition and editorial activity of the museum. We do not include continuous research into research activities in connection with setting-up of a collection fund, which is made annually before the session of the Commission to make collections and the result of which is the purchase of collection items in the museum's collections.

Task name	Responsible person	Duration from-to	Field	Output
2017				
Madách-Arany, friendship of the giants	Sipos, Jarábik	January – April 2017		
Erzsébet Frater, a woman in the shadow	Jarábik, Kanczko	January – November 2017		
Cult of personalities of Hungarian Literature in Slovakia II. phase	Siposová	January 2016 - 2017		
Preparation of a new permanent exposition to the MKMS	Jarábik, Hushegyi, Siposová, Feké	January 2016 - 2017		
Total number of scientific-research tasks: 4				
2018				

Preparation of a new permanent exposition to the MKMS	Jarábik, Siposová, Hushegyi, Feke	1.1.2016 - 30.11. 2018	Ethnography	exposition scenario
Rezső Szalatnai and his estate	Hushegyi	1.1. - 16.04. 2018	History	exhibition scenario
Erzsébet Frater, a woman in the shadow	Jarábik, Kanczko	1.1.2017 - 30.11. 2018	History	Other
Cult of personalities of Hungarian Literature in Slovakia II. phase	Siposová	1.1.2016 - 30.11. 2018	History	Other
Life and work of S. Márai	Ötvös Anna	1.1. - 31.05. 2018	History	Other
Total number of scientific-research tasks: 5				

SNM-Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov

The scientific-research activity was in the given period carried out to a limited extent; 3 scientific-research tasks were addressed partially.

Task name	Responsible person	Duration from-to	Field	Output
2017				
Participation of Ruthenians in World War II and SNU	O. Glosíková	2016 - 2018	History	Other
Ethnicity of folk culture in north-eastern Slovakia 2014 - 2018-continuation of fulfilment	O. Glosíková, Džoganík	2014 - 2018	Ethnography	Other
Monuments and plaques of the most prominent Ruthenian revivalists originating from Slovakia (PP No.3 for 2015-2017)	O. Glosíková, and collective of the SNM staff - MRK in Prešov	2015 - 2017	History	exhibition scenario
200 th anniversary of the birth "Adolf Dobrianski's Year - Priority Area No.6	O. Glosíková, Matica Slovenská	2017	History	Other
10 years of SNM - Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov	O. Glosíková	2017	History	Other
Documentation of culture in singing, music, dance, photos and film of Ruthenians in Slovakia and abroad	O. Glosíková, Ivan Čižmár	2016 - 2018	History	exhibition scenario
Total number of scientific-research tasks: 6				
2018				
Participation of Ruthenians in World War II and SNU	Oľga Glosíková	2016-2018	History	Other
Ethnicity of folk culture in north-eastern Slovakia 2014 - 2018-continuation of fulfilment	Oľga Glosíková, Džoganík	2014 - 2018	Ethnography	Other
Documentation of culture in singing, music, dance, photos and film of Ruthenians in Slovakia and abroad	Oľga Glosíková, Ivan Čižmár, collective of employees SNM-MRK	2016-2018	History	exhibition scenario
Ruthenians in the process of integration into the first Czechoslovakian Republic	Oľga Glosíková, collective of employees. SNM-MRK in Prešov	2018	History	Other
Total number of scientific-research tasks: 4				

SNM-Museum of Ukrainian Culture

The museum was in 2017 dealing with 4 scientific-research tasks focused mainly on folk customs and ceremonies, traditional manifestations of material culture. One task is devoted to exploring the artistic expression of Ukrainians. The museum tried in 2018 to change the unsatisfactory state of research activities at least partially by submitting a project within the Scientific council for historical sciences at SNM - HM, topic: Lost wooden churches in Eastern Slovakia.

Task name	Responsible person	Duration from-to	Field	Output
Members of the Transcarpathian painting school and representatives of the Ukrainian arts of Slovakia	Pušár	2017	History of art	exhibition scenario
Erotic motives in family and annual ceremony	Varchol	2017	Ethnography	study in the expert publications
Ritual acts in family, love and harmful magic	Varchol	2017	Ethnography	study in the expert publications
Folk demonology of Ukrainians Slovak monograph.	Varcholová	2017	Ethnography	Other
Total number of scientific-research tasks: 4				

SNM-Museum of Jewish Culture

The museum was dealing with 13 scientific-research tasks in 2017, part of which is related to presentation activity of the museum, another part deals with a solution of the "Jewish question" in Slovakia. In 2018, the museum was dealing with 19 scientific-research tasks, part of which is related to presentation activity of the museum, another part deals with a solution of the "Jewish question" in Slovakia.

Task name	Responsible person	Duration from-to	Field	Output
2017				
Encyclopaedia righteous among nations	Mešťan, Poláková, Šikulová	01.01. 2015-ongoing	Other social sciences	monograph
Anti-Semitism in political development	Mešťan	01.01. 2014-ongoing	Other social sciences	monograph
Retribution legislation and Jews 1945-1947	Šikulová	01.02. 2017 - on-going	Other social sciences	other
History of the Jewish settlement in Bratislava	Vaněk	01.01. 2015-ongoing	Other social sciences	other
Sered' testimonies	Korčok, Vaněk	Since 2009	Ethnography	other
Guide to Jewish Bratislava and MJC	Vaněk	01.01. 2015-ongoing	History	other
Research on exhibition Imi Lichtenfeld and Krav Maga	Vaněk	Since November	History	exhibition scenario
Saved memories library	Korčok	Since October 2009	Ethnography	study in the expert publications
Jewish book printers in Nitra	Naster	October 2017	History	almanac
Martin Luther and the Jews	Naster	December 2017	History	conference
Miranda - Gypsy Holocaust	Lenčేశová	January-August	History	exhibition scenario
Research on the exhibition David Unreich	Vaněk	Since January 2017	History	exhibition scenario

Production of A. Alkalaya printer	Fircáková	1.1.2017-20.5.2017	Other social sciences	study in the expert publications
Territorial - Slovak prints in the Judaica fund of the University Library in Bratislava	Fircáková	1.6.2017 - 31.8.2017	Other social sciences	study in the expert publications
Participation in conferences				
Martin Luther and the Jews	Naster	December 2017	History	lecture
Activities of SNM-MJC-Holocaust Museum in Sereď	Korčok	November 2017	History	lecture
Educational activities of the Holocaust Museum in Sereď	Beránek	August 2017	History	lecture
Anti-Jewish propaganda in the Slovak state	Beránek	October 2017	History	lecture
Holocaust through the eyes of the survivors	Beránek	November 2017	History	lecture
Holocaust education in Slovakia	Korčok	November 2017	History	lecture
Holocaust museums and memorials in Europe	Korčok	November 2017	History	lecture
2018				
Research of athletes of Jewish origin	Vaněk	2017 - on-going	History	other
Anti-Semitism in political development	Mešťan	1993	Other social sciences	other
Retribution legislation and Jews	Šikulová	2017 - on-going	History	other
Sereď testimonies	Korčok	Since January 2009	Ethnography	other
Saved memories library	Korčok	Since October 2009	Ethnography	study in the expert publications
Anti-Jewish propaganda vs. reality of the first wave of deportations	Beránek	May 2017 - February 2018	History	study in the expert publications
Holocaust in Slovakia	Korčok	January 2018	History	lecture
Research with survivors - Matilda Hrabovecká, Alžbeta Schicková, Juraj Szánto, Michal Klein, Ivan Kamenský	Korčok	January - May 2018	Ethnography	other
Jewish-Bolshevism on the pages of Gardista daily in the first months of operation Barbarossa (June - August 1941)	Beránek	Since February 2018	History	study in the expert publications
Milestones of World War II	Naster	April 2018	History	other
History and culture. The role of cultural institutions and non-governmental organizations in preserving historical memory	Beránek	May 2018	History	conference
Helping Czechoslovakia to establish the State of Israel	Korčok	June 2018	History	lecture
Work of Joseph Flavia in Slovakia	Fircáková	December 2018	History	study in the expert publications
Izidor Landau - prominent Prešov bookseller and publisher	Naster	September 2017 - December 2018	History	study in the expert publications
Testimonies - meeting of generations	Korčok	August - December 2018	Ethnography	other

Jews in Slovakia during the Second World War	Korčok	November 2018	History	lecture
Colourful Slovakia - anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia	Korčok	November 2018	History	lecture
Persecution of Jews in Slovakia after the outbreak of the Slovak National Uprising	Beránek	August 2016 - October 2018	History	almanac
Mapping of national, religious and demographic aspects of the composition of the population of Czechoslovakia before and after the Second World War	Kemerovo	January - August 2018	History	other

SNM-Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia

The museum was in 2017 dealing with 2 scientific-research tasks related to the mapping of the Croatian minority in western Slovakia (Chorvátsky Grob, Šenkvice). The museum was in 2018 dealing with one scientific-research task related to the mapping of the Croatian minority in western Slovakia (Chorvátsky Grob, Šenkvice).

Task name	Responsible person	Duration from-to	Field	Output
2017				
Chorvátsky Grob	Solár, Mgr. Zámečníková	January – May 2017	History	exhibition scenario
Šenkvice – cooperation in monograph	Solár	2.1.- still on-going	History	monograph
Total number of scientific-research tasks: 2				
2018				
Šenkvice - cooperation in monograph	Solár	2.1.2017- still on-going	History	monograph
Total number of scientific-research tasks: 1				

SNM-Museums in Martin– Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia

The museum was dealing with one scientific-research task in 2017 and 2018: The Importance of the Czech Phenomenon for the Economic Development of Slovakia on the Example of the Activities of the State Institute for Trade Licenses Improvement.

Task name	Responsible person	Duration from-to	Field	Output
The importance of the Czech phenomenon for the economic development of Slovakia on the example of the activities of the State Institute for Trade Licenses Improvement	Zelinová	2016-2018	Ethnography	study in the expert publications

SNM-Museum in Martin– Museum of Roma culture in Slovakia

Task name	Responsible person	Duration from-to	Field	Output
Historical-ethnographic studies of exposure groups, settlements and objects in MSD: Roma settlements in Turiec	Segľová	2018-	Ethnography	study in the expert publications

Expositions of the national minorities museums of the SNM

The majority of the expositions of museums of national and ethnic minorities was established after 1990. It has been obvious for a long time that a lot of expositions are beyond their lifetime in terms of technology, ideas and they are not up-to-date artistically. The SNM and its individual specialized museums try to prepare new expositions, but the SNM manages a total of 60 expositions, some of which originated from the period before 1990. The upcoming changes are coming late, the museum is often exposed to public criticism that points out to obsolescence (ideological, presentation, content, technical) of some expositions (expositions of the Museum of Roma Culture in the Museum of the Slovak Village in Martin, Cultural-historical exposition in the Museum of Ukrainian Culture). SNM - Museum of Ruthenian Culture makes available a long-term exhibition. The emergence of a new exhibition is there conditioned by a comprehensive reconstruction of the building, or search for an object that would better meet the needs of the museum. The SNM - Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia offers at its premises in Martin only exhibitions, permanent display is missing there. The majority of the museums is in the first months of the calendar year dealing with regular overhaul of expositions and removes minor deficiencies in order to keep the expositions in an acceptable form.

SNM – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia

The museum prepared in 2018 a comprehensive reconstruction of the permanent exhibition of the museum in Bratislava, which describes the ethnographic specifics of the Hungarian ethnic group in Slovakia. Discussions were held with organization Csemadok on the joint operation of the Memorial House of Sándor Márai in Košice. There was signed the Agreement on Cooperation between the Hungarian Social and Cultural Association in Slovakia (MV Csemadok Košice) and the SNM - Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia on November 14, 2018 at the SNM - Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava. The subject-matter of this agreement was an establishment and securing the operation of the Memorial exhibition of Sándor Márai in a residential house on Mäsiarská Street No. 35 in Košice, where Sándor Márai, one of Europe's most read writers, spent his childhood. The exhibition was made available to public only in January 2019.

SNM – Museum of Jewish Culture in Slovakia

The focus of the museum's exposition activities was placed on the works connected with the on-going reconstruction of objects in the Holocaust Museum in Sereď. There were other objects reconstructed in the area and a new (barrack) depicting the life of the interned Jews in the camp before transportation to the extermination concentration camps was made available.

Expositions of the national minorities museums within SNM

Exhibition name	Place of installation	Duration from	Professional field	Catalogue
SNM – Museum of Carpathian Germans culture				
History and culture of Carpathian Germans	Bratislava	1998	social sciences	yes
History and culture of Hauerland	Nitrianske Pravno	1998	social sciences	no
History and culture of Handlová	Handlová	2004	social sciences	no
Carpathian Germans	Martin	2014	social sciences	yes
Huncokars - people from our mountains	Castle Červený Kameň	2016	social sciences	yes
SNM – Museum of Hungarian culture in Slovakia				
Traditions and values. Hungarians in Slovakia	Bratislava	2003	social sciences	yes
He survived here ... Kálmán Mipieceszátha Memorial Exhibition	Sklabiná	2006	Memorial room, house	yes
Where am I actually, where are my dreams? Imre Madach	Dolná Strehová	2014	social sciences	yes
SNM – Museum of Croatian culture in Slovakia				
History and culture of Croats in Slovakia	Bratislava	2006	social sciences	no
4000 years of Devínska Nová Ves settlement	Bratislava	2007	social sciences	no
History and culture of Croats in Devínska Nová Ves	Bratislava	2015	social sciences	no
SNM – Museum of Jewish culture				
Exhibition of Jewish culture in Slovakia	Bratislava	1993	social sciences	no
Exhibition of Judaics from the collection of Ing. Eugen Barkány in Prešov	Prešov	1993	social sciences	no
The Holocaust Museum in Sered'	Sered'	2016	social sciences	no
Exhibition of Judaics - Synagogue in Spišské Podhradie	Spišské Podhradie	2015	social sciences	
SNM – Museum of Ukrainian culture				
Ethnographic exposition in nature (open-air museum)	Svidník	1983	Exposition in nature	guide
Art History Exhibition (D. Milly Gallery)	Svidník	1986	social sciences	
Cultural-historical exposition	Svidník	1991	social sciences	guide
SNM – Museums in Martin – Museum of Czech culture in Slovakia				
Museum of Czech culture in Slovakia	Martin	1999	social sciences	
SNM – Museum in Martin– Museum of Roma culture				
Romano drom/Paths of Roma people	Martin	2009	social sciences	

Exhibitions of the national minorities museums of the SNM

The exhibitions are an important part of the museum's presentation activities. The exhibitions make the museum more attractive to the public, enhance its attractiveness and interest. The exhibitions, at the same time, extend the knowledge of the composition and richness of the museum's collection, as exhibitions usually present collection items not presented in permanent expositions. The exhibitions provide a wide range of possibilities to present collection items in new contextual historical, political and social contexts, thereby expanding the range of information about the museum's acquisition activities, profiling and specialization. In addition to its own exhibitions, which make up more than half of the exhibitions presented, the museum also presents exhibitions to other subjects not only from Slovakia but also from abroad, thus helping to learn about the cultural heritage of other regions, ethnicities and nations. Museums of national and ethnic minorities present history, folk customs and contemporary culture of minorities, for example works of artists.

Exhibition name	Authors	Place of installation	Duration from - to	Originality	Catalogue
SNM - Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava					
Points of View - continuation of the FOTOFO exhibition	Bognár	SNM-MKMS, Bratislava	3.11. 2016 - 31.1. 2017	taken over	yes
Swan song	Miklósi	House of culture, Dunajská Streda, ground floor	21.1. - 28.2. 2017	reprise	no
Through the eyes of Medziobrodčan people	Németi	SNM-MKMS, Bratislava	1.3. - 16.4. 2017	taken over	no
"Dear estimated friend!" - Literary friendship between János Arany and Imre Madách	Jarabik, Sipos, Szabó	SNM - MKMS, Bratislava	12.5. - 15.10. 2017	in cooperation	no
Through my nation	Sipos, Papp, Hushegyi, Rusnák, Feke	Novohrad museum and gallery, Lučenec	9.2. - 2.4. 2017	reprise	no
Through my nation	Sipos, Papp, Hushegyi, Rusnák, Feke	Cultural house, Kráľovský Chlmec	16.5. - 25.8. 2017	reprise	no
Literature personalities operating in the district of Veľký Krtíš	Helena Ferencová	Evangelical presbytery, Veľký Krtíš	1.1. - 30.6. 2017	reprise	no
Exhibition of children's works	Feke	Exhibition pavilion SNM	29.9. 2017 - 27.10. 2017	own	no
The heat of sound, the weakness of the soil	Máté Csanda	SNM - MKMS, Bratislava, 1. floor	7.11. 2017 - 28.1. 2018	own	no
Exchanged homes	Sylvia Sipos, Réka Szabó	SNM-MKMS, ground floor	30.11. 2016 - 31.12.2018	own	yes
Rezső Szalatnai and his estate	Hushegyi, Feke	SNM - MKMS, Bratislava, floor	16.05. 2018 - 26.08.2018	own	no
The heat of sound, the weakness of the soil	Máté Csanda	SNM - MKMS, Bratislava, 1. floor	7.11. 2017 - 28.1. 2018	own	no
Literature personalities operating in the district of Veľký Krtíš	Helena Ferencová	Evangelical presbytery, Veľký Krtíš	1.1. 2018 - 30.6. 2018	reprise	no

Exchanged homes	Sylvia Sipos, Réka Szabó	SNM-MKMS, ground floor	30.11. 2016 -31.12.2019	own	yes
ENTREÉ V4	Éva Bozeman	SNM - Exhibition pavilion	4.5. - 19.5. 2018	taken over	no
100 years in pictures	Hushegyi, Feke	SNM-MKMS, Bratislava, 1. floor	13.12. 2018 - 21.2. 2019	own	no
Exhibition of children's works	Feke	SNM - Exhibition pavilion	28.09. 2018 - 8.10. 2019	own	no
František Gyurkovits	Arnold Feke, Andrea Bozó	SNM-MKMS, Bratislava, 1. floor	12.09.- 4.11. 2018	taken over	no
Fight for the independence of Hungary 1848-49	Jarábik, Feke	Manor house of I. Madách	5.10. 2018 - 3.10. 2019	taken over	
SNM - Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia					
Fairy-tale museum	Kaličiaková (SNM-BKH)	MKCHS	13.2. - 14.5. 2017	taken over	no
Ethnographer Antonín Václavík (1891 - 1959)	Chorváthová	MKCHS	20. - 24.5. 2017	own	no
The art and music school exhibition in DNV		MKCHS	30.5. - 14.6. 2017	in cooperation	no
Chorvátsky Grob	Solár, Zámečnicková, Jankovič	MKCHS	17.6. - 15.9. 2017	in cooperation	no
Zidne Kuharice-Textile sign notice boards	Slovak cultural centre Našice	Istrijská 68	22.9 - 31.10. 2017	taken over	no
Photoforum 2017	Istra Centrum	Istrijská 68	10.11. - 30.11. 2017	in cooperation	no
Iron Christmas	Club of tinkers Džarek at RCR ÚĽUV	Istrijská 68	5.10. 2017 - 26.1. 2018	taken over	no
Life of a beaver	Hulík, Šutek, Čiampor,	Istrijská 68	21.2. - 30.4. 2018	taken over	no
Each one of us has a gift to create	Ružovič	Istrijská 68	4.5. - 20.5. 2018	taken over	no
Exhibition of works by children from the primary art school in Devínska Nová Ves	The art and music school Devínska Nová Ves	Istrijská 68	28.5. - 14.6. 2018	in cooperation	no
30 years of the Festival of Croatian culture in DNV	Association of Croatian culture in Slovakia	Istrijská 68	16.6. 2018 - on-going	taken over	no
Slovak Croats - Croats in Devínska Nová Ves	SNM - MKCHS	Istrijská 68	3.10. - 4.11. 2018	own	no
Photoforum 2018	Istracentrum DNV	Istrijská 68	9.11. - 30.11. 2018	in cooperation	no
Slovak Tinkers - Exhibition "Art sewn by wire"	Slovak art tinkers from the gallery of wire	Istrijská 68	6.12. 2018 - 28.2. 2019	taken over	no
SNM - Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník					
Dezider Milly and Ruthenian-Ukrainian graphics of Slovakia	Puškár	Exhibition wall of the museum	1.12. 2016 - 12.3. 2017	own	no
Easter eggs 2017	Ražina, Holodňáková	Exhibition wall of the museum	30.3. - 2.6. 2017	own	no
Vasiľ and Peter Svaľavčíkovci / Native land	Ražina	Exhibition wall of the museum	16.6. - 30.9. 2017	own	no

The world in Ukrainian-Slovak colours	Puškár	Gallery Alfa K13 Barracks/Kulturpark Košice	28.3. - 14.5. 2017	own	no
Gems of the east in the stamp work of František Horniak	Poliaková, Vasilenková	GDM - SNM-MUC	7.9. 2017 - 22.10. 2017	own	no
The magic of Christmas decorations	Puškár	Exhibition wall of the museum	8.12. 2017 - 16.1. 2018	own	no
SNM - Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov					
History of Ruthenians in Slovakia	O. Glosíková	SNM - MRK in Prešov	30.12. 2013 - on-going	own	no
Paintings of Ruthenian artists	O. Glosíková	SNM - MRK in Prešov	24.11. 2014 - on-going	own	no
From Stalingrad to Berlin	O. Glosíková	SNM - MRK in Prešov	17.1. - 15.5. 2017	in cooperation	no
Easter customs and traditions of the Ruthenians	O. Glosíková	SNM - MRK in Prešov	4.4. - 30.5. 2017	own	no
Embroidered decorations II	O. Glosíková, Studená	SNM - MRK in Prešov	10.6. - 11.8. 2017	in cooperation	no
Guna and son - Harmony	O. Glosíková, Brehový	SNM - MRK in Prešov	18.11. 2016 - 30.1. 2017	in cooperation	no
Woodworks of Miloslav Sočka	O. Glosíková, Sočka	SNM - MRK in Prešov	29.11. 2016 - 30.1. 2017	own	no
Christmas traditions of Ruthenians	O. Glosíková	SNM - MRK in Prešov	15.12. 2016 - 30.1. 2017	own	no
Christmas traditions of Ruthenians	O. Glosíková	1. floor, SNM building - MRK in Prešov	14.12. 2017 - 31.01. 2018	own	no
Easter customs and traditions of the Ruthenians	O. Glosíková	SNM - MRK in Prešov	22.3. - 30.4. 2018	own	no
Tatras – photo-pictures of Mikuláš Jaceček	O. Glosíková, Mikuláš Jacečko	SNM - MRK in Prešov	12.4. - 15.5. 2018	in cooperation	no
Children's world - Dolls and toys	O. Glosíková, Alica Tokarčíková	SNM - MRK in Prešov	1.6. - 31.12. 2018	in cooperation	no
Woodcarvings of icons of Jaroslav Popovec	O. Glosíková, Jaroslav Popovec,	SNM - MRK in Prešov	29.5. - 29.6. 2018	in cooperation	no
Volga milestone - Battle of Stalingrad in historical, period, book, film, Theatre works	Embassy of the Russian federation, club Arbat,	SNM - MRK in Prešov	12.9. - 12.10. 2018	taken over	no
Annals	Alexander Jerašov – author of graphics	SNM - MRK in Prešov	5.11. 2018 - 31.1. 2019	taken over	no
Christmas traditions of Ruthenians	Konečný, Kimák-Fejko, Kořová, H. Glosíková	SNM - MRK in Prešov	18.12. 2018 - 31.1. 2019	own	no
SNM - Museum of Carpathian Germans Culture					
Transformations of Zuckerman dl	Fil'o, Pöss, Šilberský	Bratislava, MKKN	1.1. - 31.12. 2017	own	yes
20 years of the Carpathian Germans' Museum	Šilberský	Bratislava, MKKN	1.1. - 31.12. 2017	own	yes
500 years of reformation	Pöss	Mníšek nad Hnilcom	2.6. - 21.6. 2017	in cooperation	yes

500 years of reformation	Pöss	Kežmarok	23.6. - 13.8. 2017	in cooperation	yes
500 years of reformation	Pöss	Handlová, House of culture	15.8. - 8.9. 2017	in cooperation	yes
500 years of reformation	Pöss	Bratislava, Evangelical Lutheran Theological Faculty UK	12. - 29.9. 2017	in cooperation	yes
500 years of reformation	Pöss	Bratislava, University library	4.10. - 8.11. 2017	in cooperation	yes
500 years of reformation	Pöss	Košice, Evangelical grammar school	23.11. - 8.12. 2017	in cooperation	yes
Transformations of Zuckermannl	Fil'o, Pöss, Šilberský	Bratislava, MKKN	1.1. - 1.12. 2018	own	yes
20 years of the Carpathian Germans' Museum	Šilberský	Bratislava, MKKN	1.1. - 31.12. 2018	own	yes
In two worlds - German minorities	Pöss, Fil'o	Kežmarok, museum	22.6. - 27.7. 2018	imported from abroad	yes
History and culture of Carpathian Germans	Pöss	Ružomberok, university	29.6. - 16.7. 2018	reprise	yes
In two worlds - the German minority	Pöss, Fil'o	Bratislava, Žižkova 16	9.8. - 2.9. 2018	imported from abroad	yes
History and culture of Carpathian Germans	Pöss	Bratislava, Žižkova 16	9.8. - 2.9. 2018	reprise	yes
SNM - Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava					
Greetings from Israel 3	Ran Karpo Prince	SNM-MJC Bratislava	20.9. 2016 - 20.5. 2017	imported from abroad	no
David Unreich - The champion who challenged Hitler to a duel	Vaněk, Mózer	SNM-MJC Bratislava	8.6. 2017 - 31.1. 2018	own	no
Áron Grunhut – Saviour of Jews	Vaněk, Mózer	Jerusalem synagogue, Prague	24.4. - 26.5. 2017	own	no
CONTEMPORARY MOMENTS OF THE PAST.	Korčok	House of quality, Jerusalem Israel	4. - 15.5. 2017	own	no
Passover hagada	Fircáková	library SNM-MJC	17.3. - 30.6. 2017	own	no
Photos exhibition Yuri Dojc/Last Foliolgor Leicht/Fragments	Dojc, Leicht	SNM-MJC-Holocaust museum in Sereď	April 2017 - July 2017	taken over	no
Jews in Slovakia. Pohronie	Fircáková	library SNM-MJC	25.7. - 16.11. 2017	own	no
Jews in Slovakia. Abov, Gemer, Novohrad	Fircáková	library SNM-MJC	22.11. 2017	own	no
Publishing and presentation activities of SNM - MJC 2	Fircáková	library SNM-MJC	12.12. 2017 -	own	no
Miranda - Roma Holocaust	Baltzar	SNM-MJC-Holocaust museum in Sereď	August 2017 - January 2018	imported from abroad	no
Jews in the Polish army	Porwita	SNM-MJC-Holocaust museum in Sereď	August 2017 - October 2017	taken over	no
Ofra Amit - "A journey into the world of illustrated books"	Sternson, Mešťan	MJC, Židovská 17, Bratislava	24.4. - 10.5. 2018	imported from abroad	no

We have 25 ...	Šikulová, Demeterová, Mešťan	MJC, Židovská 17, Bratislava	21.5. - 10.6. 2018	own	no
IMI LICHTENFELD - KRAV MAGA AND ITS CREATION	Vaněk	MJC, Židovská 17, Bratislava	21.6. - 10.12. 2018	own	no
Israel – bricked in photos	Mešťan, Sternson	Israel – House of quality, Hebron road, Jerusalem	10. - 21.5. 2018	Exported abroad	no
FDC – envelopes of the first day of Israel State	Mešťan, Schreiberová	MFEA SR, Hlboká cesta 2, Bratislava.	19.4. - 26.4. 2018	own	yes
Jews in Slovakia Zemplin	Fircáková	library SNM - MJC	28.3. 2018 -	own	no
Traces / reflection of the past	Kunovská	SNM-MJC-Holocaust museum in Sereď	January - April 2018	taken over	no
Zegota - The Council of assistance to the Jews	Urynovicz, Rokicki	SNM-MJC-Holocaust museum in Sereď	March - June 2018	taken over	no
Lessing presents Lessing	Lessing	SNM-MJC-Holocaust museum in Sereď	May-August 2018	imported from abroad	no
Salamonová - Memories	Salamonová, Vaněk	MJC-Židovská 17	December 2018 - March 2019	taken over	no
Jews in Slovakia Zemplin	Fircáková	MJC-Library	6.7. - 24.10. 2018	reprise	no
Jews in Slovakia Zemplin	Fircáková	MJC-Library	26.10.2018-	reprise	no
Publishing and presentation activities of SNM - Museum of Jewish Culture.2	Fircáková	MJC-Library	10.7. 2018 -	own	no
Jose Andres Lacko - Remembrance	Lacko	SNM-MJC-Holocaust museum in Sereď	September - November 2018	imported from abroad	yes
Sobibor		SNM-MJC-Holocaust museum in Sereď	November 2018 - January 2019	imported from abroad	no
Dance cosmopolitan Alica Pastorova-Flachová	Čertezni, Gajdošová	SNM-MJC-Holocaust museum in Sereď	December 2018 - March 2019	taken over	no
SNM – Museum of Roma Culture					
Works of Roma non- professional artists	Danilova	UKF Nitra	7. - 19. 4. 2017	in cooperation	
Romani but/Roma professions	Danilova	EM	12.4. - 26.6. 2017	own	
Exhibition of works by Roma non-professional artists	Danilova	MSD	9. - 14.5. 2017	own	
Lola role him man/I have a red skirt	Danilova	EM	24.4. - 29.5. 2018	own	
Muzika the khel'iben/Music and dance	Daneková	MSD	13.5. - 3.6. 2018	own	
SNM – Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia					
The life and era of a writer K. Čapek	Zelinová	MKČnS	30.3. 2017- on-going	in cooperation	
Tramping and tramp songs of the Turiec region		MKČnS	27.10. 2017 - on-going	Cooperation on exhibition	
T. G. Masaryk in photos	Zelinová	MKČnS	5.3. - 29.4. 2018	imported from abroad	
The Czech traces in Turiec	Zelinová	MKČnS	3.5. 2018 - on-going	reprise	

Edition activity of the SNM national minority museums ⁸⁹

Name	Scope	Language	Circulation	Title type	Responsible person
2017					
Reformation in Central and Eastern Europe - Slovakia	24	Slovak	300	Catalogue	Pöss
Reformation im östlichen Europa-Slowakei	24	German	300	Catalogue	Pöss
Huncokárs - Die Holzhacker - Woodcutter	100	Slovak German English	1 000	Catalogue	Fiľo
Erinnerungen	130	German	500	monograph	Pöss
The German minority	12	Slovak	0	textbook	Pöss, Fiľo
Encyclopaedia of the Righteous Among the Nations THE SAVIOURS OF JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST IN SLOVAKIA I. A-L	230	Slovak	500	encyclopaedia	Mešťan
Anti-Semitism in Slovak publications (2013 - 2015)	108	Slovak	120	monograph	Mešťan
Anti-Semitism in Slovak publications (2013 - 2015)	116	English	120	monograph	Mešťan
Bride	60	Slovak	300		Mešťan
The fates of Slovak engineers	215	Slovak	250		Mešťan
Engineers I	213	Slovak	250		Mešťan
Engineers II	259	Slovak	250		Mešťan
Acta Judaica Slovaca 23	139	Slovak	160	almanac	Mešťan
Exchanged homes	140	Slovak Hungarian German	400	Catalogue	Sipos
Collections and Collectors – e-book	121	Slovak Hungarian	0	almanac	Sipos
Innocent culprits	0	Slovak Hungarian English	300	DVD	Jarábik
Total number of issued books: 16					
2018					
Acta Judaica Slovaca	100	Slovak	150	almanac	Mešťan
The song of all songs from Salamon	23	Slovak	300	monograph	Šikulová, Mešťan
I was there...	199	Slovak	0	monograph	Mešťan
Encyclopaedia of the Righteous Among the Nations II.	287	Slovak	400	encyclopaedia	Poláková, Mešťan, Šikulová,
Total number of issued books: 4					

⁸⁹ Only publishing titles with the allocated ISBNs are included in the publishing statistics, not small prints such as invitations, posters, puzzles - small information materials for exhibitions and expositions. In the attached tables, these titles also include the language of publication and cost of publication, but several publications have been published as multilingual.

Cultural-Schools Activity and other presentation activity of the national minorities museums of the SNM

All specialized SNM's museums offer to the public, in addition to exposition, exhibition and edition activities, a wide range of activities. The activities cover educational programs and lectures for different ages, cultural programs of different forms and content. The museums prepare all activities to expand the scope of program offerings, which will appeal to new visitors in the first place.

The museums of national and ethnic minorities also participated in the long-term project School in the museum, which is funded substantially by Poštová banka Foundation. The basis of the project is an individual approach of museum educators towards visitor, primarily focused on cooperation with schools of the 1st - 3rd degree. The implementation of individual projects emphasizes the creativity of pupils, individual approach to participants, the use of non-traditional activities, which is provided by museum educators and museum lecturers. The museums offer most of the educational programs in the language of national minorities, especially those of the Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia.

SNM – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia

The Museum of Hungarian culture in Slovakia within the framework of cultural and educational activities organized 3 discussions entitled Museum Saloon, 1 memorial event at the K. Mikszáth Memorial House in Sklabiná, and lectures, lectorates and educational programs also at the K. Mikszáth Memorial House (lectures, lectorates and educational courses) in the Madách family manor house (such as book presentation, Children's Day, Easter creative workshops, Night of museums).

The museum organized in 2018 7 meetings entitled Museum Saloon (total number of visitors 485), symposium Attitudes and Literature - Rezső Szalatnai and Bratislava, a memorial event at the Memorial House of K. Mipieceszáth in Sklabiná (103 visitors). The K. Mipieceszath Memorial House hosted various lectures, lectorates and educational programs (2000 visitors) this year as well. The museum held lectures, lectorates and educational programs in Dolná Strehová in the manor house of Madách family (Children's Day, Easter creative workshops, Night of museums, 200 visitors and an international event Literature days of I. Madách entitled: Tragedy of one family, 100 visitors), lectorates, educational programs to exhibitions and expositions in Bratislava (600 visitors). The museum also took part in the Night of museums event (449 visitors in total), and in the event entitled More than a neighbour, the main organizer of which was the Embassy of Hungary.

SNM – Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia

The museum annually organizes an educational program for primary school children about customs during Easter and Christmas holidays. It cooperates actively with a local tourist information office in organizing various lectures throughout the year.

SNM – Museum of Ruthenian Culture

The museum carried out in 2017 cultural-educational activities in cooperation with the Ruthenian edification association of A. Duchnovič in Prešov and local organization of ROS in Prešov.

The museum continued in 2018 in this cooperation; it also established cooperation with the Summer School of Ruthenian Language at the Institute of Ruthenian Language and Culture of Prešov University in Prešov, Ruthenian Revival in Slovakia, Matica Slovenská and other organizations such as Wooden Church in Habura, ARBAT Club, Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Slovak Republic, Prešov Civic Association DUKLA Military History Club, State Scientific Library, etc.. As part of the museum promotion, there was a space provided for carrying out several activities of Ruthenian organizations. As part of the tour of the museum's exhibition areas, school or interest groups were provided with lectures under the leadership of the museum director PhDr. Oľga Glosíková, DrSc., and other employees of the SNM Museum - Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov.

SNM – Museum of Ukrainian Culture

In the field of cultural and educational activities, the museum prepared in 2018 the following events on its own or in cooperation with other cultural institutions: New Year's Traditions - a meeting in the open-air museum according to the Julian calendar; The Rite of God's Birth in the Dukla Region - staging of Christmas carolling made by the Szarotka ensemble; Duklianie and folk music Duklianie from the Polish city of Dukla; ACCORDIONS SKIES - concert of classical music by accordionist Jozef Chovanec; Taras Shevchenko - a ceremonial academy dedicated to the most important Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko; Cineama - regional advancement competition show of amateur film production; The Strings of the Heart of Irina Nevycká - 28th competition show in an artistic recitation of women, Makovická string - 46th year of regional competition show in the singing of Ukrainian folk songs; Night of Museums and Galleries, Halychanka - concert of bandurists from Lvov, Ukraine; Svidník on the screen – open-air of artists from Rachov, Ukraine; So many countries, so many customs. - folklore program within the 64th Culture Festival of Ukrainians in Slovakia; Welcome to the museum - welcome program for descendants of compatriots from the United States; Door-to-door - folklore-ethnographic program in the open-air museum on the occasion of the 64th Culture Festival of Ruthenians and Ukrainians in Slovakia; When hands are talking - an ethnographic and educational program aimed at presenting traditional folk crafts: basketry, pottery, carving, blacksmithing, tailoring, honey-cake making, herbalism, iconography, painting and beekeeping; The Day of folk traditions and Pies 2018 - folklore-ethnographic event focused on the presentation of folk crafts, connected with the international competition in the traditional preparation of pies; Christmas star - regional competition show in singing Christmas songs and carols, The most beautiful traditions of Christmas - public presentation of the project Let's discover talents with the participation of pupils of primary schools Bukovce, Kolbovce and Nižný Mirošov. There were several programs focused on remembering important historical and literature personalities. The cultural-educational events for

youth: How it used to be once, We are painting Easter eggs, Valentine's selfie in a museum, The magical coffin, My dearest book, The Easter is coming!, Heart for mother, The magical world of colours, Village life, Candlesticks, Ikebana, Unbreakable Christmas balls, New Year's calendar, Kite surfing.

SNM-Museum of Jewish Culture

The museum organized several events during 2017. On February 22, there was a screening of the movie *Gojdič love above all*. In March 2017, a commemorative event was held in Poprad to mark the 75th anniversary of the first transport of young Jewish women and girls from Slovakia to the concentration camp Auschwitz. The highest representatives of the state (President of the Slovak Republic, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic) took part in it as well. Within the framework of 11 educational programs, the Holocaust Museum offers educational programs to primary, secondary and higher education institutions focused on the Holocaust issue in Slovakia as well as in Europe. The educational programs depict the life of Jews in Slovakia and help to acquire comprehensive knowledge of the Jewish community in our territory. Their main aim is to prevent all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other manifestations of intolerance. The visit to the SNM-MJC-Holocaust Museum, as well as other museums or memorial sites affected by fascist repression against Jews, Roma and other nations, ethnic groups, political and social groups, was included in the recommendations of the Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport. 14,995 pupils and students from all regions of Slovakia participated in educational programs in 2017.

The museum focused in 2018, as far as cultural-educational field is concerned, on the Holocaust topic, which is of primary interest to the Holocaust Museum in Sereď, which prepares a wide range of lectures on this topic, especially the peculiarities of the Holocaust in Slovakia in 1939-1945.

Activities of museum and galleries set up by the self-governing regions

Banská Bystrica self-governing region

Novohrad Musuem and Gallery in Lučenec

The Novohrad Musuem and Gallery in Lučenec (hereinafter referred to as “NMG LC”) does not organize events specifically for national minorities. The showpieces in the permanent exhibition as well as collection items presented at the exhibitions are marked in Hungarian language as well. Groups of visitors from Hungarian primary and secondary schools are provided with a lecture in their language of instruction. The musuem provides individual visitors of Hungarian nationality with this service, if requested. The museum offers professional lectures every year, which is a part of cooperation with schools. This is a selection of activities of the Novohrad Musuem and Gallery in Lučenec:

- **Lights and shadows (2017)** - exhibition of works of J. Szabó on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of his birth from the museum and gallery collections
- **Lecture Avari and Slavs (2017)** - lecture and demonstration of bow shooting for pupils of primary schools in Hungarian;
- **RAKU technology (2017)** - lecture and creative workshops for RAKU firing technology for students of PaSa Lučenec in Hungarian.

The museum provides, apart from the above-mentioned events, lectured tours of all displays as well as a permanent exhibition in Hungarian language. The museum published in 2017 - 2018 also two catalogues to exhibitions in the Slovak-Hungarian version.

Gemer-Malohont Museum in Rimavská Sobota

The Gemer-Malohont Museum in Rimavská Sobota (hereinafter referred to as “GMM RS”) is a specialized museum to document material and spiritual Roma culture in the wider region. It prepared in 2017 and 2018 the following museum activities for citizens of the Hungarian and Roma national minorities:

- **Romano Dživipen – Roma life, 11th year (2017)** – the exhibition presented the life of the Roma people in the past and present through pupils' art works from the districts of Rimavská Sobota, Revúca and Poltár. The artworks captured the manifestations of Roma culture, crafts, housing, food and excerpts of Roma fairy-tales;
- **The unknown colours of world personalities (2017)** –the exhibition was a result of the project “Living Books (word - picture - sound)”, where amateur artist Jozef Fečo created a series of 13 portraits of world-famous personalities with Roma roots;
- **Folk architecture and housing way of Roma people in Gemer – Malohont (2017)** –the exhibition was held as part of the 16th International Festival of Roma music and singing. It presented the way Roma people live in the following localities: Klenovec, Rimavská Baňa, Rimavská Píla and Rimavské Brezovo;
- **Dezider Fertő. Roma woodcarver. (2018 – 2019)** –the exhibition presents the work of a unique non-professional Roma artist - woodcarver;

- „**Malenkij robot (1945 – 1949)**“. **In the captivity of the Soviet legionaries (2017)** –the exhibition was created in cooperation with Vladimír Lehota from Uzovská Panica, who has been collecting information on camps from former prisoners for decades;
- **Painter of Lučenec. The life and work of František Gyurkovits (1879 – 1968), (2017)** – the exhibition aimed at introducing the painter's artistic career and bringing his personality closer in the context of family relations and historical-social conditions of the era;
- **Barnabáš Holló (1865-1917). Sculptor from Gemer-Malohont (2017 – 2018)** – the exhibition dedicated to sculptor and person originating from Gemer region. The work of the artist was presented at the exhibition through photographic documentation of Works in exterior and items from estates in the Barnabáš Holló's family administration;
- **Towers inundated with sun. The architectonic work of Július Sándy. (2018 – 2019)** – the exhibition is devoted to a significant personality of Hungarian construction industry and architecture. The exhibition is borrowed from the Hungarian National Gallery.
- **Painter Július Sándy (1827-1894), (2017)** – a lecture on the life and work of the painter Július Sándy, with an emphasis on his work preserved in the collection of the Gemer-Malohont Museum in Rimavská Sobota, was presented at the conference of the Museum of Hungaricum in Šamorín, dedicated to the tangible monuments of the Hungarian ethnicity;
- **Dezider Fertő. Roma woodcarver – catalogue to exhibition (2018)** – Catalogue to exhibition Dezider Fertő. The Roma woodcarver., depicting the artistic expression of the Roma people, fine arts, biography, and work of an artist, a list of carvers' works in museums in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, together with a picture annex.

The museum offers, apart from the above-mentioned events, lectured tours of all displays as well as a permanent exhibition in Hungarian language.

Horehronie Museum in Brezno

- **From the history of Jewish community in Brezno (2018 – 2019)** –the exhibition briefly maps the history of the extinct local Jewish community in relation to its place in the economic, cultural, political, sport and civic life of the city until 1944.

Nitra self-governing region

Nitra Gallery

The Nitra Gallery organized in the spring of 2018 an international exhibition entitled "**Without Hate?**", which thematized the position of the Roma minority in our society. The concept of the exhibition, which was created in cooperation with the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno, is based on the assumption that mechanisms to ensure dignified conditions for the life of all people, regardless of their skin colour or ethnic origin, systematically fail. The accompanying event of this exhibition was a literature evening "**Roma and art**". It was an author reading of members of the Romani Literature Club from Banská Bystrica. The event took place as part of the **Week of Roma culture in**

Nitra in cooperation with the Institute of Romological Studies at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra.

Ernest Zmeták Gallery of Art in Nové Zámky

The gallery carries out almost all exhibitions and publications in two, or three language versions, Slovak, Hungarian and English.

Podunajské Museum in Komárno

- The museum in cooperation with the Jókai edification and museum association in Komárno in 2017 organized a **Ceremonial program in memory of Géza Dobi**, music composer from Komárno
- The museum organised in April 2017 - February 2018 a **commemorative exhibition of the world-famous scientist Hans Selye**, author of stress theory on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of his birth, in cooperation with the Semmelweis Medical History Museum in Budapest and the GY Klapka Museum in Komárno
- They organised reprises of exhibitions in the Slovak National Museum - Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava, in the GY Klapka Museum in Komárno and in the Homeland Museum in Galanta in 2018.
- They organized an art exhibition **“Béla Bacskai - Paintings”** in cooperation with the Novohrad Musuem and Gallery.
- in 2018, they published Árpád Szénássy's publication / in memoriam /: **Berecz Gyula - egy elfelejtett szobrászművész (Gyula Berecz - forgotten sculptor)**
- **“The days of Hungarian prose”** (2018)
- Granting the **Jókai award** in cooperation with the Balassi Institute in Bratislava.

Ponitrianske Museum in Nitra

It gives opportunity to people from Roma and Hungarian background within the regional competition and exhibition of artworks. We have been providing space for Roma children from Orechov dvor in Nitra for the fourth year at the exhibition of artworks of the association of St.Lukáš in Nitra. In 2017, 13 artists of Hungarian nationality and 12 of Roma nationality participated in 5 events. The attendance at these exhibitions reached 2,208 people. In 2018, 12 artists of Hungarian nationality and 14 of Roma nationality participated in 4 exhibitions. The attendance was 1,501 visitors. Individual exhibitions in 2017 and 2018: ART GO, Hello, Nitra, Place for flowers of Katarína Gáliková, Gabriel Szentiványi - creation, Picture and word, Painted silk, Gift of life (photo club TERRA WAG).

Ján Thain Museum in Nové Zámky

There is a permanent exposition "Gergely Czuczor - life and work" in the Ján Thain Museum in Nové Zámky, dedicated to the giant of Hungarian linguistics and literature science, a native of Nové Zámky. It serves as a memorial for generations of visitors and it is a part of the annual program Days of G.Czuczor (in cooperation with Csemadok and primary school of G. Czuczor with VJM). The exhibitions in the museum are bilingual (vernissages, texts and descriptions, worksheets to individual

exhibitions are in Hungarian as well). Furthermore, the museum organizes creative workshops, cultural and social activities for families and Days of traditional children's games.

Prešov self-governing region

Museum in Kežmarok

The museum has been co-organizing the international event "Festival of culture and reciprocity", which is focused on the celebration of folklore, culture and traditions of the Carpathian-German minorities, for already 24 years. As part of the celebrations, apart from the cultural program on the courtyard of the castle, there is an exhibition in the museum's exhibition space focusing on the cultural traditions and history of this minority on an international scale.

The museum organized in 2016 and 2017 international conferences on the topics Thóköly family and Kežmarok thanks to the cooperation with the Hungarian Consulate in Košice and the Košice civic club, which brings together Hungarian minorities.

The museum in Kežmarok as a main organizer has been organizing the event called The days of Jewish culture for several years. The last one was in 2017.

Šariš Museum in Bardejov

The museum organized in the field of support, conservation and culture of national minorities, activities and events in the Museum of Folk Architecture in Bardejov Spa, namely the exhibition Installation of carved Bethlehem in the Ruthenian peasant house from Frička in the winter months of 2017 - 2018. There was held also a festival Tours of Ruthenian and Šariš folklore in 2017 and 2018.

There was a cycle of lectures on the Jewish community in Bardejov before the Second World War, (Not)forgotten neighbours, in the premises of the Museum in Bardejov.

Ľubovňa Museum in Stará Ľubovňa

The following events were held in 2017:

- THREE-KINGS LITURGY - Open-air museum under the castle Ľubovňa: presentation of Ruthenian folklore and customs on the Theophany holiday
- Ah, fašiangy, fašiangy - open-air museum under the Ľubovňa Castle: presentation of the fašiangy customs of various ethnicities in the Stará Ľubovňa region
- Night of museums and galleries - Ľubovňa Castle: presentation of the life of the Raisz family - Hungarian noblemen from the 19th century
- Dušan Jurkovič: The birth of the wood poet: a demonstration of the interconnection of Czech and Slovak culture impersonated by Dušan Jurkovič
- Cyrillic-method festivals - open-air museum under the Ľubovňa Castle: presentation of the heritage of our ancestors, presentation of different cultures and ethnicities from the surroundings of Stará Ľubovňa

- Peaceful meeting of kings - Ľubovňa Castle: demonstration of cooperation between the Polish and Hungarian nations in the past
- Tournament in bridge - settlement under Ľubovňa Castle: cooperation of Poles and Slovaks in a joint event with a remembrance of Ján Zamojský
- MUSEUM AND GALLERIES FOR ALL: making cultural institutions accessible to all national minorities and disabled people

The following events were held in 2018:

- Ah, fašiangy, fašiangy - open-air museum under the Ľubovňa Castle: presentation of the fašiangy customs of various ethnicities in the Stará Ľubovňa region
- 2nd NIGHT OF MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES - LUBOVŇA CASTLE: presentation of the journey to the most important battle of the 17th century with Polish King John III. Sobieski. The Battle of Vienna was a showcase of interconnection of cultures.
- When the king stops from the victorious battle in the castle - castle: the battle of Vienna in 1683 was the most important military conflict and act of the 17th century. The combination of cultures presented by this battle is an example of the contribution of such a connection to history.
- Cyrillic-method festivals - open-air museum under the Ľubovňa Castle: presentation of the heritage of our ancestors, presentation of different cultures and ethnicities from the surroundings of Stará Ľubovňa
- With a backpack to the world - open-air museum under the Ľubovňa Castle: presentation of tinkering typical for the regional Ruthenian population
- Wicker braided beauty - open-air museum under the Ľubovňa Castle: presentation of basketry typical for the regional Goral population
- TRADITIONAL FOOD AND CATERING - Open-air museum under the Ľubovňa Castle: professional lectures introduced meals of different nationalities and ethnic groups.
- Publication of an educational prospectus devoted to various crafts that were typical of the municipalities of the Stará Ľubovňa region with Ruthenian or Goral nationality. What our hands can do
- Publication of methodological material for teachers of history and regional history The selected aspects of the history of the Stará Ľubovňa region in the first half of the 20th Century

Vihorlat Museum in Humenné

The following events were held in 2017:

- **The Carpathian Easter eggs:** 25th year of international competition-presentation exhibition of Easter eggs from the Carpathian region (Slovakia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary) - presentation of traditional Easter eggs art as part of the cultural richness of individual nations and nationalities in the Carpathian region.
- **The children's music folklore 2017:** regional competition of children's folk singers, soloists - instrumentalists, children's folk music, children's folklore groups and children's and youth choirs from the districts of Sobrance, Michalovce, Trebišov,

Stropkov and Vranov nad Topľou. The competition is a selection for a festival of children's folk singers Zemplín špiva and a festival of Ruthenian song Sings of my lineage (Spevy môjho rodu).

- **INSITA 2017:** 13th year of international artistic open-air artist's initiative focused on the preservation and development of the naive art and traditional folk art of individual nations and nationalities of the Carpathian region with an overlap with the pan-European naive space.
- **The adults' music folklore:** regional competition of original folklore music and singing for the districts of Humenné, Snina and Medzilaborce, aimed at reviving and preserving the traditional folklore of the Upper Zemplín region. Part of the event was a commemorative program dedicated to the unlived 70th birthday of Mária Čokynová from Ubl'a, a prominent Ruthenian interpreter of the original music folklore of Upper Zemplín.
- **Klenová in the open-air museum:** continuation of the museum project of the revived open-air museum history through meeting of natives of municipalities, collection items of which form part of the open-air museum area. The project is focused on getting to know and preservation of regional traditions, reviving the history of municipalities in the region and promoting local affiliation.
- **From the legacy of Adolf Ivanovič Dobriansky for the present:** an international scientific conference in the Vihorlat Museum in Humenné, commemorative celebrations in Michalovce, Rudlov, Čertižné and Medzilaborce connected with a cultural program. The event is dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the death of the prominent Ruthenian actor of Upper Zemplin Adolf Ivanovič Dobriansky.
- **Wooden architecture - sacral and secular:** an exhibition and a professional seminar on the protection of cultural heritage in Slovakia and Norway dedicated to the protection and presentation of traditional wooden sacral and residential architecture of the Carpathian population.
- **Festival of national solidarity:** an event intended for reviving and preserving traditional folklore as an important element of the cultural heritage of the region, a regional competition show of musical folklore of adults from Humenné, Snina and Medzilaborce district in the folk costumes in the Upper Zemplín area and festival presentation program for the public.
- **The day of traditional crafts at the Vihorlat Museum in Humenné:** an experiential event in an authentic open-air museum with a presentation of traditional regional crafts for schools as part of the object-oriented teaching at the museum - demonstration of crafts and practical classes of traditional production in cooperation with local craftsmen
- **The festival of apples at the Vihorlat Museum in Humenné:** an interactive event at the open-air museum for youth as part of a museum project to present and protect traditional forms of original varieties of the Carpathian gene pool with reference to The days of European cultural heritage in cooperation with Arboretum in Bolestraszyce, Poland.

- **The Carpathian biennial of graphics for children and youth 2017:** an international art competition and exhibition of young graphic artists from five European countries within the Carpathian Basin (9th year). 677 children and young artists from Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine participated in the competition this year. The exhibition collection consisted of 240 selected graphical works.
- **The Christmas in museum 2017:** a long-term museum project of the multi-genre presentation of the Christmas customs of the nations and nationalities of Upper Zemplín aimed at popularizing and preserving the intangible cultural heritage of the region - lecture block (The Christmas in noble settlements, From Lucy to Christmas ...) creative workshops and interactive educational program for schools, guided tour of the Saints and Saintess exhibition, The Christmas concert of carols and wishes.

The following events were held in 2018:

- **The Carpathian Easter Eggs:** 26th year of international competition-presentation exhibition of Easter eggs from the Carpathian region (Slovakia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary) - presentation of traditional Easter eggs art as part of the cultural richness of individual nations and nationalities in the Carpathian region.
- **Path through the Middle Ages:** an experiential event within the object-oriented teaching project Back to the roots, traditions, values in the subject history and regional history. The educational program in the thematic circles of Aristocratic settlements of Upper Zemplín and Bandits from Vlčie hory focused on the presentation of the evolutionary historical periods of the aristocratic settlements of the Middle Ages in the history of the Ruthenian outlaw movement in the activities of Fedor Hlavatý group from Ruská Volová.
- **What we have left...:** an exhibition of photos capturing original elements of preserved traditional architecture of the Humenné district within the eponymous project focused on research and documentation of original architecture in the collection area of the Vihorlat Museum.
- **Wandering through history:** an interactive experiential event for schools within the object-oriented classes project Back to the roots, traditions, values on the historical excursion into the life of children in the past
- **INSITA 2018:** 14th year of international artistic open-air artist's initiative focused on the preservation and development of the naive art and traditional folk art of individual nations and nationalities of the Carpathian region with an overlap with the pan-European naive space.
- **Insita in the work of István Kiss and Tibor Balatoni:** an exhibition of two of the most famous Hungarian naive artists from Eger, who focus in their carving work on the depiction of Hungarian history, Hungarian baroque manifestations and production of mystical masks. Búsómaszkák, mystical wooden fašiagy masks, known from the surroundings of Hungarian Mohács are included in the cultural heritage list.

- **Meeting of cultures in museum – The day of Hungarian culture:** an introductory program of a new museum project of a multicultural museum dedicated to Hungarian culture. Especially in the region of Upper Zemplín (exhibition of Hungarian art, concert of Hungarian opera arias, zither concert, tasting of traditional Hungarian cuisine).
- **Ruská Volová and Klenová in the open-air museum:** continuation of the museum project of revived open-air museum history through meeting of natives of municipalities, collection items of which form part of the open-air museum area.
- **Ruthenian festival:** 4th year of Ruthenian songs and dances festival with accompanying program (costumed parade, competition show, vernissage of an exhibition of photos from rich activities and performances of folk ensembles and groups, creative music workshop for children, ceremonial liturgy, gala concert). The regional competition show of folklore of adults from Humenné, Snina and Medzilaborce districts.
- **Tribute to Alexander Ljubimov:** a commemorative event dedicated to the 120th anniversary of the birth of a prominent Russian educator, musician and enlightenment worker who lived and worked in the region of Upper Zemplín since 1925 and contributed decisively to the development of education and artistic activity in Eastern Slovakia.
- **Literature evening:** literature evening at the Vihorlat Museum in Humenné, a meeting with contemporary Czech prose in the work of Michal Viewegh and Petra Soukupová at the Renaissance library of the art history exhibition of the Vihorlat Museum in Humenné.
- **Meeting of cultures in museum – The day of Czech culture:** continuation of the multicultural museum project dedicated to Czech culture. The project aimed at exploring and preserving the European cultural heritage and the richness of the cultures associated with the Upper Zemplin region through a multigenre program (Lidice exhibition, video projection, anthem concert, tasting of Czech cuisine)
- **The legacy of Adolf Ivanovič Dobriansky for the present:** an international scientific conference in the Vihorlat Museum in Humenné, ceremonial academy in Levoča and commemorative celebrations in Michalovce, Rudlov, Čertižné and Medzilaborce connected with a cultural program. The event is dedicated to legacy of the prominent Ruthenian activist of Upper Zemplin Adolf Ivanovič Dobriansky.
- **The Christmas in museum 2018:** a thematic all-day program in the museum's expositions focusing on the Christmas traditions of the nationally mixed region of Upper Zemplín. The Christmas-themed cycle of events in four thematic blocks presented the **revived** history of aristocratic Christmas, environmental topics, the art of agro art and traditional Christmas customs in the concert performance of Folk music Sokolej and guests.

Regional Museum in Prešov

- **Summer with Rákoczi** - We are here at home too- Roma: a Sunday event dedicated to ethnic diversity. /Rákoczi Palace, 9.7.2017 /.
- **Event Living Book** - displays of Roma crafts, Roma music and dances.
- **Summer with Rákoczi** - We are here at home too – Ruthenians: a Sunday event dedicated to ethnic diversity. /Rákoczi Palace, 23.7.2017/.
- **Lecture** dedicated to the settlement, history, culture and customs of Ruthenians in Slovakia, performance of folk ensemble from Vranov n / T.
- **Summer with Rákoczi** - We are here at home too - Germans, Hungarians, Czechs, Jews: a Sunday event dedicated to ethnic diversity. / Rákoczi Palace, 13.8.2017/, performance of musical body Nachtigall - group of members of the Carpathian-German association in Slovakia. Presentation of German songs.
- **Lecture** of PaedDr. Patrik Derfiňak, PhD., dedicated to history of Hungarians in Prešov.
- **Lecture** – History of the Jewish community in Prešov.
- **Roma people:** an exhibition of photos of a prominent collector and folklorist Jozef Kolarčík Fintický. It documents unique images from the 1920s and 1930s that give an insight into the everyday life and soul of this ethnic group. / Manor house Stropkov, 2 March 2018 /.
- **The story of Juraj Szánto:** interview about rescuers and victims. /Rákoczi Palace, 21.3.2018 /. Within the cycle of events entitled: It is written, there was a presentation of publication written by doc. PaedDr. Martin Pekár, PhD. - The story of Juraj Szánto. Interview on rescuers and victims.
- **Roma people yesterday and today:** a professional lecture on the origin, development and characteristics of the Roma ethnic group in the context of an exhibition of photos by the prominent folklorist and collector Jozef Kolarčík Fintický. / Manor house Stropkov, 21.03.2018 /.
- **Roma people yesterday and today:** a professional lecture on Roma education. Accompanying event to the exhibition Roma people. /Manor house Stropkov, 28.03.2018 /.
- **Bread and circuses:** an exhibition of photos documenting the life of the Roma people, their arts and crafts. It is executed on the occasion of International Roma Day. /Rákoczi Palace, April 12, 2018 /.
- **Living Book:** an event dedicated to Roma culture. Prepared in cooperation with the State Scientific Library – Documentation- information centre of Roma culture. The artistic blacksmith from Klenovec Igor Radič and the Roma folk ensemble performed there. (Rákoczi Palace, June 6, 2018)

Šariš Gallery in Prešov

The following events were held in 2017:

- **HUMOROTHERAPY** –Curing with humour. Project supported by FPU's public sources. It was prepared in cooperation with the Prešov agency, the Gallery of brain sneezing and The Gallery of Abilympic.
- Cartoon humour creation exhibition Fadi Abou Hassan / Syria /, Mileta Miloradović / Serbia /
- **THE GOLDEN BARREL 2017:** international cartoon humour competition about Beer, 23rd year
- **VOJTECH ERDÉLYI / PARIS IN UZHGOROD:** an exhibition of the founder of the Transcarpathian painting school from the collections of the State Gallery Prešov and East Slovak Gallery in Košice
- **ANDREJ GAJ 1932 - 2016:** an exhibition on the occasion of an unimportant unlive jubilee of the author (85)
- **IVAN ŠAFRANKO: FREEDOM OF GESTURE, STRENGTH OF COLOR:** a retrospective exhibition of the author from the collections of the State Gallery Prešov and East Slovak Gallery in Košice, private properties

The following events were held in 2018:

- **THE GOLDEN BARREL 2018:** international cartoon humour competition about Beer, 24th year
- **RELACJE/RELATIONSHIPS:** an exhibition of Polish artists from Rzeszow, Renata Szyszlak and Kamila Bednarska
- **FROM THE REALISM TO THE CONSTRUCTIVISM** (Eugen Krón and his school): exhibition of works from the State Gallery in Prešov, East Slovak Museum in Košice, Považská Gallery in Žilina, private properties
- **KOŠICE YEARS OF JOSEF POLÁK (1919 – 1938):** an exhibition, tribute to director of the East Slovak Museum in Košice, exhibition of several artists from the first half of the 20th century, from collections of the State Gallery and private properties

Tatra Gallery in Poprad

The following events were held in 2017:

- Ivan Köhler - Residence of death: an exhibition on the Jewish national minority
- 75th anniversary of the departure of the first transport from Slovakia
- Screening of the documentary Living on the path to death
- Musical performance of a Mojše band

The following events were held in 2018:

- 76th anniversary of the departure of the first transport from Slovakia
- Presentation of Ladislav Grosman's book The Bride

- Screening of the documentary Oľga Pohanková's movie Message for life from the cycle We have not forgotten
- Concert of choir EBEN EZER and klezmer band MI MARTEF entitled Al Kanfej Hašalom / On the wings of peace, introduction of Anna Ondrušková's book Israel - a small country of great gifts
- Integration through art project 2018

There were 20 events held within the project.

Žilina self-governing region

Liptov Museum in Ružomberok

The Liptov Museum in Ružomberok regularly organizes a joint cultural program in Ružomberok called **Christmas heaven**. The target group are pupils from the United school - Special primary school in Ružomberok, which is also attended by members of the Roma national minority. Furthermore, the pupils of this school participate in educational activities, **Easter customs and traditions and Christmas customs and traditions**, too. 131 children attended these events in 2017-2018,.

The Black Eagle Museum in Liptovský Mikuláš (part of the Liptov Museum in Ružomberok) has organized several creative workshops and organized tours for the special school in Liptovský Mikuláš, pupils of which are also Roma children. Besides that, pupils participated in the events **Easter customs and traditions, Walks through Liptov history and Christmas in Liptov as well**. 356 children attended these events in 2017-2018.

In 2017-2018, several creative workshops for children from the Special school in Liptovský Hrádok, children from the Pribylina primary school and the Liptovská Porúbka primary school, with a large representation of Roma minority, were prepared at the Ethnographic Museum in Liptovský Hrádok and the Museum of the Liptov Village in Pribylina. The plants and workshops were focused on traditional folk crafts, such as weaving, felting, wool processing, painting eggs and Christmas decorations production. Pupils of these schools also went through several tours and educational programs, e.g. *Fašiangy, Easter, Christmas program*. All in all, there were 9 events attended by 197 Roma children.

Považské Museum in Žilina

The Považské Museum in Žilina has been cooperating with the civic association POLONUS for a long time. In April 2017 and 2018, they prepared the **Days of Polish culture and the Fair of creativity** together, which presented the peculiarities of Polish culture - traditional customs, cultural heritage and gastronomy. In 2018, photographs from the festival of border regions CZ - PL - SK were exhibited in the museum premises and an exhibition of Vladmír Provčín **In the embrace of the sea** was installed there as well. The Považské Museum in Žilina plans also in the upcoming years to develop cooperation with the civic association POLONUS and make its activities available to all visitors, regardless of age, race, gender, religion, nationality, language or social status.

Annex no. 3: Structure of the Fund to Support Minorities Culture and schedule of calls

Programmes and sub-programmes of the supporting activity

Programme 1: Promotion of cultural and edification activities and educational activities, science and research

- 1.1 interest and leisure activities,
- 1.2 unprofessional arts,
- 1.3 educational projects,
- 1.4 support for education and training for children and youth on the rights of national Minorities,
- 1.5 promotion of education and training on the rights of national minorities,
- 1.6 analytical, expert and publishing activities on the rights of national minorities,
- 1.7 research into the culture, life, history, language and identity of persons belonging to minorities,
- 1.8 foreign and international cultural activities.

Programme 2: Promotion of for literary, publishing and edition activities

- 2.1 literary activity
 - 2.1.1 creation and translation of literature
 - 2.1.2 literary shows, festivals, competitions
 - 2.1.3 international literary mobility and presentations
 - 2.1.4 promotion of libraries
- 2.2 periodical press
- 2.3 non-periodical press
- 2.4 electronic media
 - 2.4.1 publishing of electronic books
 - 2.4.2 publishing CDs
 - 2.4.3 establishment or development of national radio / television broadcasting
 - 2.4.4 establishment or development of national cultural projects implemented via the Internet
 - 2.4.5 establishment or development of a website, an Internet database

Programme 3: Promotion of Theatre, music, dance, fine and audio-visual art

- 3.1 Theatre
 - 3.1.1 creation and presentation of stage work - Theatre
 - 3.1.2 Theatre shows, festivals and competitions
 - 3.1.3 Theatre activities
 - 3.1.4 international Theatre mobility and presentations
- 3.2 music
 - 3.2.1 production and distribution of musical works
 - 3.2.2 music festivals, competitions and concerts

- 3.2.3 musical activities
- 3.2.4 international music mobility and presentations
- 3.3 dance
 - 3.3.1 creation and presentation of the stage work - dancing
 - 3.3.2 dancing shows, festivals and competitions
 - 3.3.3 dancing activities
 - 3.3.4 international dancing mobility and presentations
- 3.4 visual art
 - 3.4.1 creation and realization of fine arts works
 - 3.4.2 exhibition and presentation activities
 - 3.4.3 international art mobility and presentations
- 3.5 audio-visual art
 - 3.5.1 creation and realization of works - audio-visual art
 - 3.5.2 shows, festivals and competitions - audio-visual art
 - 3.5.3 international mobility and presentations - audio-visual art

Programme 4: Promotion of ensuring intercultural dialogue and understanding between citizens of Slovak nationality and persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups

- 4.1 projects focused on promotion of mutual understanding and convergence between the national majority and minorities as well as between national minorities through identification and recognition of common cultural, artistic and scientific values and traditions;
- 4.2 projects focusing on uncovering and exploring family, local and regional history, traditions, personalities and monuments in ethnically mixed environments,
- 4.3 promotion of the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance towards minority languages and cultures in the system of education and training and in the mass media,
- 4.4 promotion of exchange programmes, study visits, joint training events, and knowledge and art competitions for children and youth from different ethnic and language groups.
- 4.5 promotion of mutual understanding and convergence between ethnic groups and between the majority society and minorities, as well as between the individual ethnic minorities,

Table no. 1: Schedule of calls for 2018

Call number	Start to submit the application	Deadline to submit the application	National minority / Program / Sub-program	Form of support
1.	29.12.2017	5.2.2018	Hungarian – 1.6, 1.7, 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.5.1	Grant/Scholarship
			Hungarian – 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.4.2, 3.4.3, 3.5.2., 3.5.3	Grant
			Hungarian – 3.4.1	Scholarship
			Roma – 1.6, 1.7	Grant/Scholarship

			Roma – 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.8	Grant
			Bulgarian, Czech, Croatia, Moravian, German, Polish, Ruthenian, Russian, Serbian, Ukrainian and Jewish – 1.6, 1.7, 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.5.1	Grant/Scholarship
			Bulgarian, Czech, Croatia, Moravian, German, Polish, Ruthenian, Russian, Serbian, Ukrainian and Jewish – 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.8, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4, 2.4.5, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.4.2., 3.4.3, 3.5.2, 3.5.3	Grant
			Bulgarian, Czech, Croatia, Moravian, German, Polish, Ruthenian, Russian, Serbian, Ukrainian and Jewish – 2.1.1, 3.4.1	Scholarship
2.	19.1.2018	19.2.2018	Hungarian and Roma – 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4, 2.4.5	Grant
			Hungarian and Roma – 2.1.1	Scholarship
			Bulgarian, Czech, Croatia, Moravian, German, Polish, Ruthenian, Russian, Serbian, Ukrainian and Jewish – 3.4.1	Grant
3.	26.1.2018	26.2.2018	Hungarian - 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.8	Grant
			Roma – 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.4.1, 3.5.1	Grant/Scholarship
			Roma – 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.4.2, 3.4.3, 3.5.2, 3.5.3	Grant
4.	9.2.2018	12.3.2018	Program 4 (all minorities - projects focused on two national minorities at least)	Grant/Scholarship
5.	18.5.2018	11.6.2018	Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, Russian and Serbian – 1.6, 1.7, 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.4.1, 3.5.1	Grant/Scholarship
			Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, Russian and Serbian – 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.8, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4, 2.4.5, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.4.2., 3.4.3, 3.5.2, 3.5.3	Grant
			Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, Russian and Serbian – 2.1.1	Scholarship
6.	5.6.2018	26.6.2018	Hungarian – 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.4.1, 3.5.1	Grant/Scholarship
			Hungarian – 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4, 2.4.5, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.4.2., 3.4.3, 3.5.2, 3.5.3	Grant
			Hungarian – 2.1.1	Scholarship
7.	8.6.2018	2.7.2018	Roma – 1.6, 1.7	Grant/Scholarship
			Roma – 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.8	Grant

Annex no. 4: Accredited and non-accredited educational programs of the Methodology-pedagogy centre and the Roma education centre

Table no. 1: Accredited MPC educational programs focused on relevant issues in 2017 and 2018

Serial number	AVP name	AVP type	Accreditation number MESRS SR	Number of participants in 2017	Number of participants in 2018
1.	Strengthening communication skills in the teaching of Slovak language for teachers of primary schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction	innovative	965/2012-KV	41	21
2.	Methodology of creating individual educational programs for pupils with special educational needs in primary and secondary education	updating	783/2012-KV	30	26
3.	Specific methods and forms of work with pupils from socially disadvantaged environment	updating	843/2012-KV	45	-
4.	Creativization of the teacher's personality	innovative	857/2012-KV	70	-
5.	Professional staff and education of children and pupils with health disabilities	innovative	1055/2013-KV	40	61
6.	Ruthenian language and its teaching at primary and secondary schools	updating	1434/2014-KV	27	39
7.	Work of master of the professional education with pupils from socially disadvantaged environment	innovative	1303/2013-KV	61	42
8.	Current approaches and innovations in teaching pupils from marginalized Romani communities	updating	1044/2013-KV	36	-
9.	Cooperative learning and teaching in the context of creating an inclusive school environment	innovative	1444/2014-KV	16	29
10.	Cooperation of pedagogical staff and field staff in an inclusive support system for children and pupils	updating	1684/2017-KV	137	1199
11.	From getting to know pupils from marginalized communities to creating favourable educational environment and eliminating prejudices	innovative	1150/2014-KV	-	24
12.	Possibilities of visualization and its implementation into the process of teaching pupils with special educational needs	updating	1182/2014 - KV	-	82
13.	Human rights and their implementation at primary school	updating	1389/2014 - KV	-	46
14.	With multicultural education against prejudices and racism	updating	1467/2015 - KV	-	59
15.	Development of competencies of pedagogical employee in the area	updating	1640/2016 - KV	-	23

	of prevention against manifestations of extremism				
16.	Development of vocabulary in the lessons of Slovak language and Slovak literature in schools with Hungarian as a language of instruction	updating	1746/2016 - KV	-	46
In total:				503	1697

Source: The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic

Table no. 2: New MPC educational programs focused on relevant issue accredited in 2018

Serial number	AVP name	AVP type	Accreditation number of the MESRS SR
1.	Applying the global dimension in teaching	updating	1945/2018 - KV
2.	Ruthenian language and literature in pre-primary education	updating	1956/2018 - KV
3.	Ruthenian language as an educational language in the school club of children	updating	1912/2018 - KV
4.	Development of professional competences of pedagogical staff in the field of getting to know the Ukrainian national minority	updating	1781/2018 - KV
5.	Development of professional competences of pedagogical staff in the area of getting to know the Ruthenian national minority	updating	1782/2018 - KV
6.	Elements of experiential pedagogy in the process of primary education and in ŠKD at primary schools with Hungarian as language of instruction	updating	1881/2018 - KV

Source: The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic

Table no. 3: Non-accredited MPC educational programs focused on relevant issue in 2017

Serial number	Non-accredited education – activity name	Number of participants in 2017
1.	Raising awareness of the website bezpre.mpc-edu.sk and a possibility to present good practice from the educational process	113
2.	Professional seminar on positive experiences of teachers working with pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds	50
3.	Without prejudices - professional seminar connected with the screening of the film <i>RYTMUS neighbourhood dream</i>	121
4.	Zero grade teachers' club	70
5.	Extremism and radicalization - professional seminar	30
6.	Manifestations of radicalism and spreading extremism and possibilities of their prevention	26
7.	Slovakia and extremism	152
8.	Slovakia and extremism - seminar for managers	68
9.	Crime prevention	29
10.	Móra Jókai Summer University (realized in cooperation with the Association of Hungarian teachers in Slovakia)	120
11.	We resist extremism - an international conference	80
In total:		859

Source: The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic

Table no. 4: Non-accredited MPC educational programs focused on relevant issue in 2018

Serial number	Non-accredited education – activity name	Number of participants in 2018
1.	Human rights issues in teaching at primary school	34
2.	Integration and inclusion in pedagogical practice - cooperation of pedagogical and professional employees	31
3.	Possibilities of human rights education through electronic textbook	8
4.	Application of global education topics into activities for different educational areas of ŠVP	47
5.	Man -Values - Society "Extremism vs. History"	44
6.	Prevention of extremist and hate speech in the school environment	92
7.	Inclusion	34
8.	How to face disinformation	45
9.	Democratic and human rights culture	34
10.	Olympic project for human rights	36
11.	We resist extremism - training of pilot teachers (Erasmus) - professional seminar	30
12.	Romani language day - conference	50
In total:		485

Source: The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic

Table no. 5: ROCEPO accredited educational programs focused on relevant issue in 2017 and 2018

Serial number	AVP name	AVP type	Accreditation number of the MESRS SR	Number of participants in 2017	Number of participants in 2018
1.	Methods and forms of work supporting the development of critical thinking among pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds	innovative	841/2012-KV	80	-
2.	Application of methods of active learning of children and pupils from socially disadvantaged background with an emphasis on developing psychological-motoric abilities and skills	updating	1404/2014-KV	78	168
3.	Global education and its application in the educational process	updating	917/2012-KV	42	-
4.	With multicultural education against prejudices and racism	updating	1467/2015-KV	27	59
5.	From getting to know pupils from marginalized communities to creating favourable educational environment and eliminating prejudices	innovative	1150/2014 - KV	-	13
In total:				227	240

Source: The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic