

# REPORT

ON SITUATION IN USE OF LANGUAGES OF NATIONAL MINORITIES  
ON THE TERRITORY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC FOR THE PERIOD OF  
2013 AND 2014<sup>1</sup>

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
2014

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<sup>1</sup> pursuant to the Section 7a (2) of the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on use of languages of national minorities, as amended

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## Introduction

The report on situation in use of languages of national minorities on the territory of the Slovak Republic pursuant to the Section 7a (2) of the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on use of languages of national minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the „Act on use of languages of national minorities“) is presented by the Head of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic to the Government of the Slovak Republic for the second time. In line with the quoted law the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (hereinafter referred to as the „Government Council“) forms the position to the report before it is presented. In order to get information to prepare the report the Government Office was entitled to require information and written documents regarding the use of minority language from the public administration authorities within their competence.

The submitted report was developed by the Government Office of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the „Government Office“) in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the „Office of the Plenipotentiary“).

The report maps the period between 2013 and 2014, and summarizes national legislative framework in use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic, maps the process and results of implementation on international and legal framework for protection of minority languages in the Slovak Republic, as well as present development in the field of institutional provision for use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic.

In order to provide a complex picture of the present situation in use of languages of national minorities by the territorial self-government authorities, the Office of the Plenipotentiary made a survey in which all municipalities were asked, that are mentioned in the list of municipalities set in the Annex to the Government Regulation of the Slovak Republic No. 534/2011 Coll. dated 19 December 2011, modifying and amending the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 221/1999 Coll. issuing the list of municipalities in which the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make at least 20% of population. The list includes 656 municipalities, out of which 512 municipalities are with Hungarian population, 68 with Ruthenian, 57 with Roma, 18 with Ukrainian, and 1 with German population. The report includes also results of data analysis obtained in this survey, including partial comparison with results of surveys mentioned in the previous report. As far as the use of languages of national minorities by the local state administration authorities is concerned, the report provides also the results of control in the selected district offices performed by the Section of Control and Corruption Prevention of the Government Office.

## **1. National legal framework for use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic**

The report defines basic legislative framework for use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period of 2013 and 2014, as the previous Report on situation in use of languages of national minorities on the territory of the Slovak Republic for 2012 dealt with detailed specification of legal regulations, and no significant changes occurred in this field in the monitored period.

Pursuant to the Art. 34 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic the citizens being part of national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic are guaranteed, inter alia, the right to disseminate and receive information in their native language, the right to education in their language, and right to use their language in official contacts. Legislative framework for use of languages of national minorities pursuant to the constitutional regulation is amended by the whole range of other generally binding legal regulation.<sup>1</sup>

The Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on state language of the Slovak Republic, as amended, (hereinafter referred to as the „Act on state language“), regulates the use of state language, being the Slovak language in the Slovak Republic, as a basic conversation tool, as well as the rules for use of other languages in connection to state language, including languages of national minorities. It is the basic standard, regulating use of languages on the territory of the Slovak Republic with *lex specialis* status in connection to standards regulating use of minority languages.<sup>2</sup>

The Act on use of languages of national minorities regulates use of languages of national minorities of the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to national minorities, and sets the rules for use of the minority language in official contact and in other fields in those municipalities in which the share of citizens belonging to a national minority achieved the percentage level required by the law. Pursuant to this Act, there are nine languages of national minorities: Bulgarian language, Czech language, Croatian language, Hungarian language, German language, Polish language, Roma language, Ruthenian language and Ukrainian language.

The Act on use of languages of national minorities regulates, first of all, use of languages of national minorities in official contact, designations in language of national minorities, local referendum on change in municipality designation in minority languages, information provision in languages of national minorities, competence of the Government Office in the field of use of languages of national minorities, and administrative delicts in the field of use of languages of national minorities. In some other provisions the Act on use of languages of national minorities refers to other existing legal regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> See „Report on situation in use of languages of national minorities on the territory of the Slovak Republic for 2012 pursuant to the Section 7a (2) of the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on use of languages of national minorities as amended“ <http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/8423/jazyky-narodnostnych-mensin/>

<sup>2</sup> Art. 6 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic

The amendment to the Act on use of languages of national minorities in 2011 meant complex review of national legal regulations in the field of use of languages of national minorities, while some recommendations of the Venice Commission were partially taken into account.

The Act on use of languages of national minorities has territorially restricted competence, as most of its provisions relate only to the territory of the municipalities specified in the Government regulation. Use of language of national minority in oral communication with an employee of public administration authority (provided that the employee of the public administration authority and the persons participating in the proceedings agree to do so) and use of designations for geographical objects in publications and in other places where the languages of national minorities are used, are exempted.

The Government Regulation of the Slovak Republic No. 535/2011 dated 19 December 2011 is the implementation regulation to the Act on use of languages of national minorities. It implements some provisions of the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on use of languages of national minorities, as amended, regulating the details in connection to information provision about possibility of using the languages of national minorities in official contact and in connection to form of bilingual official documents.

The Government Regulation of Slovak Republic No. 534/2011 Coll. dated 19 December 2011 modifying and amending the Government Regulation of the Slovak Republic No. 221/1999 Coll. publishing the list of municipalities in which the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make at least 20% of population, institutes a new official list of designations for municipalities in languages of national minorities.

## **2. International and legal framework for use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic**

Detailed specification of international and legal framework for use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic is contained in the previous report.<sup>3</sup> International obligations of the Slovak Republic in the field of position and rights of members of national minorities are processed in the Reports on position and rights of members of national minorities for 2012 and 2013.<sup>4</sup> Presented report provides information about current development in implementation of such obligations and situation in their implementation within monitoring processes for the monitored period.

### **2.1 European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages**

Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (hereinafter referred to as the „Committee of Ministers“) has adopted recommendation to application of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as the „language charter“) in the Slovak Republic which closed the third round of monitoring in connection to the Slovak Republic.

Monitoring cycle takes three years. It consists of submitting of implementation report by the contracting party and visit of the Committee of experts in the monitored country. They form the basis for development of assessment report to charter application in the given state. Based thereon the Committee of Ministers will adopt recommendations addressed to the affected state, and the monitoring process is closed.

In the third monitoring round of the level of implementation of the language charter in Slovakia the Committee of Ministers addressed six recommendations:

1. to review the requirement under which the persons speaking minority languages should represent at least 20% of population in the municipality in order to apply the obligations in the field of public administration;
2. to continue the effort of providing teaching of all minority languages on all levels, and to inform the parents about availability of teaching the languages;
3. to improve education of teachers, and to create a body responsible for monitoring of adopted measures and of achieved progress in education in minority language;
4. if possible, to assist and support improvement of public television and radio broadcasting in all minority languages;

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<sup>3</sup> See „Report on situation in use of languages of national minorities on the territory of the Slovak Republic pursuant to the Section 7a (2) of the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on use of languages of national minorities as amended“ <http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/8423/jazyky-narodnostnych-mensin/>

<sup>4</sup> See „Report on position and rights of members of national minorities for 2012“; „Report on position and rights of members of national minorities for 2013“ <http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/spravy/>

5. to continue in adoption of measures to eliminate unjustified inclusion of Roma children in separated schools or classes, and to start introduction of education in Roma language for Roma children in higher extent;
6. to increase awareness and to support tolerance in Slovak society in connection to regional or minority languages and the culture they represent.

In line with the Statute of the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups the Report on progress and results of the third monitoring round of the level of implementation of language charter in the Slovak Republic was discussed on 22 May 2013 by the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (hereinafter referred to as the „committee“), and then on 29 May 2013 in the Government Council too. The Report on progress and results of the third round of monitoring was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in the Resolution No. 446/2013 dated 21 August 2013.

In the Resolution No. 446/2013 the Government of the Slovak Republic imposed the task of acquainting with the results of the third monitoring round of the level of implementation of the language charter in the Slovak Republic and recommendations of the Committee of Ministers, the task of assessing the possibility of implementation, and informing the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs about adopted measures within the preparation of another implementation report on the materially competent ministers, government plenipotentiaries, and the managing director of the Radio and Television.<sup>5</sup> The next implementation report should be submitted by the Slovak Republic to the Council of Europe in 2015.

On the initiative of the Secretary of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe the Implementation round table to the Report on progress and results of the third monitoring round of the level of implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic was held in Bratislava on 29-30 April 2014. The event was ensured by the Council of Europe and the Office of Plenipotentiary from the organizational point of view. The members of the Committee of Experts of language charter participated in the event, prof. Jarmo Lainio and prof. Alexander Brörtl, Mária Jedličková, acting on behalf of Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities, representatives of relevant departments, committee, as well as representatives of particular national minorities living in the Slovak Republic. For the first time the round table was held with the participation of representatives of state administration, as well as representatives of national minorities. The purpose of the round table was open discussion about situation and progress achieved in the present process of language charter implementation. The members of Committee of experts appreciated constructive dialogue with state administration representatives, and especially with representatives of national minorities: Hungarian, Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Roma, German, Croatian, Polish and Bulgarian who participated in the round table.

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<sup>5</sup> Within the on-going dialogue with the Committee of experts it is usual to prepare so called round table to language charter implementation on national level once the monitoring is formally closed.

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

The Slovak Republic, as a party to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the „framework convention“), is obliged to present report on legislative and other measures adopted to meet the obligations set within the framework convention in regular five-years intervals. This obligation is based on the Art. 25 of the framework convention. Within the fourth round of monitoring the Slovak Republic was supposed to present such report to the General Secretary of the Council of Europe till the beginning of February 2014.

In 2013 the Slovak Republic started preparation for the fourth monitoring round of implementation of framework convention by developing and presenting the Fourth report on framework convention implementation (hereinafter referred to as the „implementation report“). The implementation report was prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic based on the data of particular state administration authorities pursuant to the resolution of the Committee of Ministers and pursuant to the guideline for national reports. In order to support a participative nature of preparation of implementation report, support of dialogue with citizen society and in line with the Statute of the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, the implementation report was discussed in its 11th session on 12 November 2013 and then on 20 November 2013 in the 11th session of the Government Council. Implementation report approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic by the Resolution No. 718/2013 dated 18 December 2013 was forwarded to the General Secretary of the Council of Europe by the set deadline.

The implementation report included information about development in the field of protection of national minorities on national level from 2009 with stress put on implementation of recommendations from the previous monitoring round. The report was structured in line with the guideline of the Committee of Ministers for preparation of implementation reports in the fourth monitoring round. Implementation report included general information about development of legislation and social practice in the past period, and it reacted to main recommendations of the Committee of Ministers from the previous monitoring round in the main part, and informed about measures for implementation of obligations pursuant to the particular articles of the framework convention in the final part. The implementation report included also annexes as an additional source of information to data given in the report.

Delegation of the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities made a monitoring visit to Slovakia on 22-26 September 2014, as a part of the monitoring process. The delegations´ agenda included visit to regions with higher concentration of national minorities (East and South Slovakia), meetings with independent institutions, representatives of national minorities, and non-government sector. Delegation of the Advisory Committee discussed the measures adopted for improvement of implementation of the framework convention on national level with state



administration representatives and the person acting on behalf of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Based on all available information the Advisory Committee will prepare assessment report for the Committee of Ministers, and the Slovak Republic will be able to prepare its opinion to the report. Monitoring will be formally closed by resolution adopted by the Committee of Ministers which shall include recommendations for improvement of framework convention. After formal closing of monitoring it is usual to make so called follow-up seminar on the national level as a form of continued dialogue with the Advisory Committee.

### **3. Institutional provision for use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic and its development in 2013-2014**

From the point of institutional provision of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic and its present development in the monitored period it is necessary to give information about activity and course of action of particular entities active in the given field.

#### **3.1 Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic – provision of professional and methodic assistance**

Pursuant to the Section 7a (1) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities, the Government office shall provide professional and methodic assistance in implementation of this Act to the public administration authorities, as well as to organizational units of the security and rescue forces. For this purpose the Government Office established an Expert Commission for application of the Act on use of languages of national minorities. Expert Commission is the permanent advisory body of the Head of the Service Office of the Government Office. The Commission members are the representatives of the Government Office, Committee, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Transport, Construction, Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic, and the Association of Cities and Municipalities of Slovakia.

Pursuant to the Statute of the Commission the purpose of the Commission is to provide professional and methodic assistance to the public administration authorities and organizational units of security and rescue forces in implementation of the Act on use of languages of national minorities and in preparation of opinions to suggestions filed under the Act on use of languages of national minorities.

Pursuant to the Act on use of languages of national minorities, the Government Office provided methodic assistance to the District Office Dunajská Streda related to names of organizational units of district offices in Hungarian language that replaced the former sub-district offices as of 1 October 2013 pursuant to the Act No. 180/2013 Coll. on organization of local state administration, and on modification and amendment of certain acts, as amended. The Government Office also provided methodic assistance to the Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic regarding use of languages of national minorities in official contact, and provided assistance to the legal entity - ZZPO Klaster of border castles in the issue of use of castle names in minority language.

Administrative delicts in section of use of languages of national minorities are discussed by the Government Office. The Head of the Service Office of the Government Office acts in this field on behalf of the Government Office in the first order, and the Head of

the Government Office in the second order. Expert Commission prepares also recommendations for the Head of the Service Office of the Government Office to applications in the matter of suspicion of violated Act on use of languages of national minorities. In 2013 37 applications were delivered to the Government Office pursuant to the Act on use of languages of national minorities. In 2014 no applications were delivered to the Government Office.

*List of applications pursuant to the Act on use of languages of national minorities*

<b>List of applications pursuant to the Act on use of languages of national minorities</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Reason of application</b>	<b>Result of examination</b>	<b>Identified defect</b>
2013	1.	Copy of the decision in the minority language not issued, communication in oral and written contact in Hungarian language not allowed, information about possibility of communication in oral and written contact in Hungarian language not provided, and important information not disclosed	In case of copy of decision not issued in minority language, the violation of the Section 2 (4) of the Act was identified, notice of violated law and application for elimination of identified defects (in other cases the objections were assessed unjustified)	eliminated
	2.	Violation of the Section 4 (6) on railway station in Želiezovce	Violation of the Section 4 (6) of the Act identified	eliminated
	3.	Violation of the Section 4 (6) on railway station in Orechová Potôň	No violation of the Act identified	
	4. to 37.	Violation of the Section 4 (6) on various gas stations (34 applications of the civic association ProCivis)	Violation of the Section 4 (6) of the Act identified	eliminated

The prevailing part of applications related to violation of the Section 4 (6), first sentence of the Act on use of languages of national minorities, saying that information related to threat to life, health, safety, or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in a municipality pursuant to the Section 2 (1) of the Act on information is provided on places accessible to the general public both in state language and in minority language. Identified defects were eliminated.

With regard to the application of the Act on use of languages of national minorities the citizen – member of a national minority can address the institutions providing assistance in the field of human rights, i.e. the Office of Public Defender of Rights, or the Slovak National Center for Human Rights, if he/she supposes that the action of the public administration authority violated the citizen's right to use the minority language. Upon request, the Office of the Plenipotentiary provides information to the citizens in connection to application of the Act on use of languages of national minorities.

### **3.2 Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities**

The Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities or person acting on behalf of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the „plenipotentiary“) fulfills tasks in the field of preservation, development and support of rights of members of national minorities pursuant to the Statute, and implements system measures to improve position of members of national minorities. The plenipotentiary, within his/her competence, cares for increasing the quality of education of members of national minorities.

Pursuant to the Section 7a (1) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities, the Government Office via the Office of the Plenipotentiary provides care for professional terminology in languages of national minorities, especially by preparing professional terminological dictionaries in languages of national minorities.

Professional terminological dictionaries should serve for making use of minority languages in official contact more simple, easy and effective. They are intended for employees of public administration authorities who use languages of national minorities in every-day communication, for interpreters and translators working with professional texts in the field of public administration, and for citizens who need to use professional terminological terms in minority languages in arranging their issues.

In order to prepare the terminological dictionaries, terminological framework in state language was created, discussed by all affected branches. It is the database of the most frequently used terms and phrases from the selected fields of state administration and self-government of the Slovak Republic.

The following dictionaries have been already published in web site of the Office of the Plenipotentiary: Slovak-Hungarian terminological dictionary, Slovak-Roma terminological dictionary, and Slovak-Ruthenian terminological dictionary. The dictionaries were prepared

by the professionals in the field of professional terminology in languages of national minorities for activities of the public administration authorities.

The Office of the Plenipotentiary is currently preparing update of selected words (terms) and their language proofreading, as well as development of dictionary mutation in Ukrainian language.

### **3.3 Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups**

The committee is the permanent professional body of the Government Council for issues related to national minorities and ethnic groups and their members, for the field of language charter implementation, and framework convention. The committee also fulfills the function of consulting body in the issues of participation of members of national minorities and ethnic groups in resolving of issues related to national minorities and ethnic groups pursuant to the Art. 34 (2) (c) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. The Committee consists of representatives of 13 national minorities (Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian, Czech, Ukrainian, German, Polish, Moravian, Russian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Jewish, and Serbian). The Committee chairman is the plenipotentiary due to his/her position.

The committee, in the field of its competence, provides suggestions to the Government Council to increase the level of support, protection and compliance with rights of members of national minorities; it participates in preparing of reports for control mechanisms of international treaties on human rights and rights of members of national minorities, and prepares assessment reports to support of culture of national minorities, to situation in national education system, and to use of languages of national minorities, and submits them to the Government Council for approval.

The Committee was dealing with several topics in connection to use of languages of national minorities. On 12 November 2013 in the 11th session of the Committee the members of the Hungarian national minority presented in the item Miscellaneous „Opinion of the Committee members for Hungarian national minority to the Government Resolution No. 612/2013“. In the above opinion they suggested to the Committee to express concerns about Government Resolution No. 612/2013, as many municipalities in Slovakia have a name in other language than in Slovak, or name of unclear origin, and in spite of that such names are included in codified form of state language. Therefore they consider the decision of the Government of the Slovak Republic discriminating. The Committee has not discussed the opinion in question with regard to absence of the persons who submitted it. The Government Council discussed the topic in its 11th session on 20 November 2013. However, the document was withdrawn by the person, who presented it.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic has received the application of the Tešedíkovo municipality for change of the municipality name to „Pered“ in the second half-year 2012. The municipality asked for change of municipality name based on valid local referendum announced by the local board in order to return to the original municipality name.

### **3.4 Use of languages of national minorities and local state administration authorities**

In connection to use of languages of national minorities on the level of local state administration authorities it is required to change the ongoing process of creating new structure of local state administration authorities. Its basis is to integrate authorities of specialized local state administration into one office in line with the Act No. 345/2012 Coll. on certain measures in local state administration, and on modification and amendment of certain acts, as amended, that cancelled the specialized local state administration authorities on regional level. The Act No. 180/2013 Coll. on local state administration organization, and on amendment and modification of certain acts, as amended, cancelled the sub-district environment offices, sub-district offices for road transport and roads, sub-district forest offices, sub-district land offices and cadastre administrations, and their competences were transferred to district offices. In line with the territorial and administrative arrangement of the Slovak Republic district offices with seats in 72 districts were established. The above changes were reflected in the list of local state administration bodies, coordinated by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, using both state language and minority language in official contact, while the list is a part of the Annex No. 1.

#### **3.4.1 Information about result of control of fulfillment of state administration tasks in section of use of languages of national minorities**

Based on the item A.10 Focus of control activities of the Government Office for 2014 approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 732 dated 18 December 2013, the employees of the Government Office, Section of Control and Corruption

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The „Permanent nomenclature sub-commission of the terminological commission of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic“ (hereinafter referred to as the sub-commission) has significant reservations to change of the name of the Tešedíkovo municipality to „Pered“. It expressed disagreement with change of the name, and its opinion was approved by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. The sub-commission presented the fact that the change of municipality name would violate the Section 1a (1) of the Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on municipal system and the Section 3a of the Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on state language, stating that the municipality name is given in state language, and pursuant to the Section 3a of the Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on state language, state language is used for names of municipalities and municipality parts. Official names of municipalities located on the territory of the Slovak Republic are given in state language only, while standard form of Slovak language needs to be respected. Pursuant to the Art. 6 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic Slovak language is the state language on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

With regard to the above mentioned facts the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic recommended to the Government of the Slovak Republic to express disapproval with the proposal of the municipality Tešedíkovo to change the municipality name to „Pered“. Afterwards the Government of the Slovak Republic expressed disapproval to change of the name of the municipality Tešedíkovo to „Pered“ in its Resolution No. 612/2013 dated 16 October 2013.

However, the name „Pered“ remains to be the name of the municipality in Hungarian language in the Annex to the Government Regulation of the Slovak Republic No. 221/1999 Coll. publishing the list of municipalities in which the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to any national minority make at least 20% of the population, as amended. Municipality name in Hungarian language preserves the legal possibility to identify the municipality in the minority language in line with the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on use of languages of national minorities, as amended.

Prevention performed control of fulfillment of state administration tasks in selected district offices, in the section of use of languages of national minorities.

The purpose of this control was to identify the situation in compliance with the Act on use of languages of national minorities with focus on fulfillment of tasks resulting from selected provisions of the Section 2 and Section 4 of the quoted Act and the related regulations. If any defects are identified efficient measures should be adopted to eliminate them.

The control in question was made for the period from 1 January 2014 until the end of the control in the following district offices:

1. District Office Medzilaborce (control finished on 23. 9. 2014)
2. District Office Rožňava (26. 9. 2014)
3. District Office Rimavská Sobota (3. 11. 2014)
4. District Office Galanta (27. 10. 2014)
5. District Office Senec (31. 10. 2014)
6. District Office Nové Zámky (31. 10. 2014)
7. District Office Šaľa (27. 10. 2014)
8. District Office Komárno (27. 10. 2014)
9. District Office Dunajská Streda (3. 11. 2014)

In line with the subject-matter of the control, the control was focused especially on:

1. compliance with obligations resulting from the provision of the last sentence, Section 2 (3) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities and the Section 1 (2) of the Government Regulation of the Slovak Republic No. 535/2011 Coll. regulating information provision on possibilities of use of language of national minority (hereinafter referred to as the „minority language“);
2. compliance with obligations resulting from the provisions of the Section 2 (3) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities (answering applications written in minority language also in minority language);
3. compliance with obligations resulting from the provision of the Section 2 (4) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities (issue of decisions also in minority language if the administrative proceeding started by application in minority language or upon request);
4. compliance with obligations resulting from the provision of the Section 2 (7) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities (issue of bilingual official forms upon request);

5. compliance with obligations resulting from the provisions of the Section 2 (6) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities (designation of the public administration authorities on buildings in minority language);
6. compliance with obligations resulting from the provision of the Section 4 (8) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities (provision of information about generally binding legal regulations in minority language upon request).

The following facts were identified by the performed controls:

1. There was only one protocol on control result prepared (District Office Medzilaborce) out of the total number of nine controlled entities, as the control identified violation of the Act on use of languages of national minorities. The identified violations of the quoted Act are:
  - The District Office Medzilaborce has not provided information about possible use of language of national minority in the seat of the public administration authority, address Mierová 4, Medzilaborce on a visible place, which means violation of the provision, the last sentence of the Section 2 (3) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities by the District Office Medzilaborce.
  - The District Office Medzilaborce has not provided designation of the public administration authority on the building of the seat of the cadastre department of the District Office Medzilaborce, Dobrianskeho 89, Medzilaborce in language of national minority, which means violation of the provision, Section 2 (6) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities by the District Office Medzilaborce.

The identified defects were eliminated by the controlled entity during the control.

2. In other eight controlled entities the records of control were prepared, as there were no violations of generally binding legal regulations related to the control subject-matter identified.
3. In the controlled period the persons belonging to a national minority exercised their right resulting from the provision of the Section 2 (3) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities in one district office only, i.e. the right to communicate in writing with the public administration authority in minority language. The District Office Dunajská Streda received four applications of the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority written in Hungarian language. In those cases the above mentioned District Office proceeded in line with the provision of the Section 2 (3) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities, i.e. it provided written answer to the citizens both in state language and in minority language.
4. In none of the controlled district offices any decision in administrative proceedings was issued in minority language pursuant to the Section 2 (4) of the Act on use of languages



of national minorities, as the administrative proceedings were not started in minority language in any of the cases, or no citizen asked for issue of decision in minority language either. Official forms were not provided in bilingual form pursuant to the Section 2 (7) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities, as the citizens belonging to a national minority did not ask for issue of bilingual forms in the controlled period. The control also identified that no citizen asked the district office for provision of information about generally binding legal regulations in minority language (Section 4 (8) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities).

### **3.5 Situation in use of languages of national minorities on the level of territorial self-government authorities – results of survey**

Pursuant to the Section 7a (2) of the Act on use of languages of national minorities the Government Office is entitled to request information and written documents about use of minority language from the public administration authorities in the area of their competence, required by the Government Office to prepare the report on situation in use of language of national minority on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

In this regard the Government Office, via the Office of the Plenipotentiary, in order to provide more complex picture of the present situation in use of languages of national minorities made a survey in form of a questionnaire to collect data as of 1 September 2014 related to relevant areas in use of languages of national minorities in competence of territorial self-government authorities as set by the Act on use of languages of national minorities.

In this survey all municipalities were addressed that are specified in the list of municipalities forming the Annex to the Government Regulation of the Slovak Republic No. 534/2011 Coll. dated 19 December 2011, modifying and amending the Government Regulation of the Slovak Republic No. 221/1999 Coll. publishing the list of municipalities in which the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make at least 20% of population. It includes 656 municipalities in total, including 512 municipalities with population belonging to Hungarian national minority, 68 municipalities with population belonging to Ruthenian national minority, 57 to Roma, 18 to Ukrainian, and 1 municipality with population belonging to German national minority. In addition, it is worth mentioning that there are 17 municipalities with population of the specified concentration belonging to two national minorities (10 municipalities belonging to Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minority, 5 municipalities with population belonging to Hungarian and Roma national minority, 1 municipality with population belonging to Ukrainian and Roma national minority, and 1 municipality with population belonging to Ruthenian and Roma national minority).

The questionnaire was constructed so as to include use of languages of national minorities in competence of territorial self-government authorities as complex as possible. Therefore particular questions were specified more deeply and amended by other possible alternatives compared to questions in surveys made for preparation of the previous report. At the same time, it was taken into account that the obtained data should be compared to data

obtained in survey to the previous report. The wording of the questionnaire forms the Annex No. 2.

### 3.5.1 Return of questionnaire

The Office of the Plenipotentiary addressed all relevant cities and municipalities in a letter dated 20 August 2014 with request for cooperation in mapping of situation in use of languages of national minorities in competence of territorial self-government authorities as of 1 September 2014. Collection of data with regard to the set deadline for sending of questionnaires – 20 September 2014 – was made in September and October 2014. Approximately half of the municipalities delivered the completed questionnaire in time. In order to reach the highest possible return of questionnaires the municipalities that did not send the questionnaire were invited twice by e-mail to meet their statutory obligation<sup>8</sup>. 560 completed questionnaires were finally delivered to the Government Office out of the total number of 656 addressed municipalities, which means almost 90% of the total number. More detailed data on return of questionnaires in absolute numbers and in percentage expression, classified pursuant to the national minorities is given in the Table No. 1. This data includes also data from 17 municipalities with population belonging to two national minorities. All of those 17 municipalities sent the completed questionnaire, except one – municipality Palota with Ruthenian and Roma national minorities.

*Table No. 1 Return of questionnaires*

<b>Return</b>			
<b>Municipalities using language of national minority pursuant to the Act No. 184/1999 Coll.:</b>	<b>Total number of municipalities</b>	<b>Number of municipalities that sent completed questionnaire</b>	<b>Proportion of municipalities that sent completed questionnaire</b>
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Roma</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>85%</b>

<sup>8</sup> Pursuant to the Section 7b (1) (h) of the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on use of languages of national minorities, as amended, if the public administration authority does not provide information and written documents to the Government Office for purpose of preparing the report on situation in use of minority languages on territory of the Slovak Republic, it commits administrative delict. Such administrative delict is discussed by the Government Office.

### 3.5.2 Basic findings of questionnaire survey

17 thematic fields regarding use of languages of national minorities were questioned in the questionnaire in competence of territorial self-government authorities so, as they result from the Act on use of languages of national minorities. Those fields were processed depending on data obtained from the respondents (it means those who sent the completed questionnaires), categorized by national minorities with specification of data for municipalities having population belonging to two national minorities<sup>9</sup>.

In the first question, the respondents should have given the name of the municipality in state language and in language of the relevant national minority. The results showed that 498 respondents out of the total number of 544 respondents (92%) have not given the name in line with the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

In case of designation of municipality in language of relevant national minority along with the municipality name in state language on a road sign at the beginning and end of the municipality, the results of examination showed that 94% respondents, it means municipalities with population belonging to Hungarian national minority, has got such designation. As shown in the Table No. 2, the proportion of municipalities having got such designation of municipalities with population belonging to Ruthenian national minority, is 64%, and 60% in case of Ukrainian national minority. Almost all municipalities with population belonging to Ruthenian and Ukrainian, as well as to Hungarian and Roma national minority stated, that they had got such designation. More than 87% of respondents answered „yes“ in total.

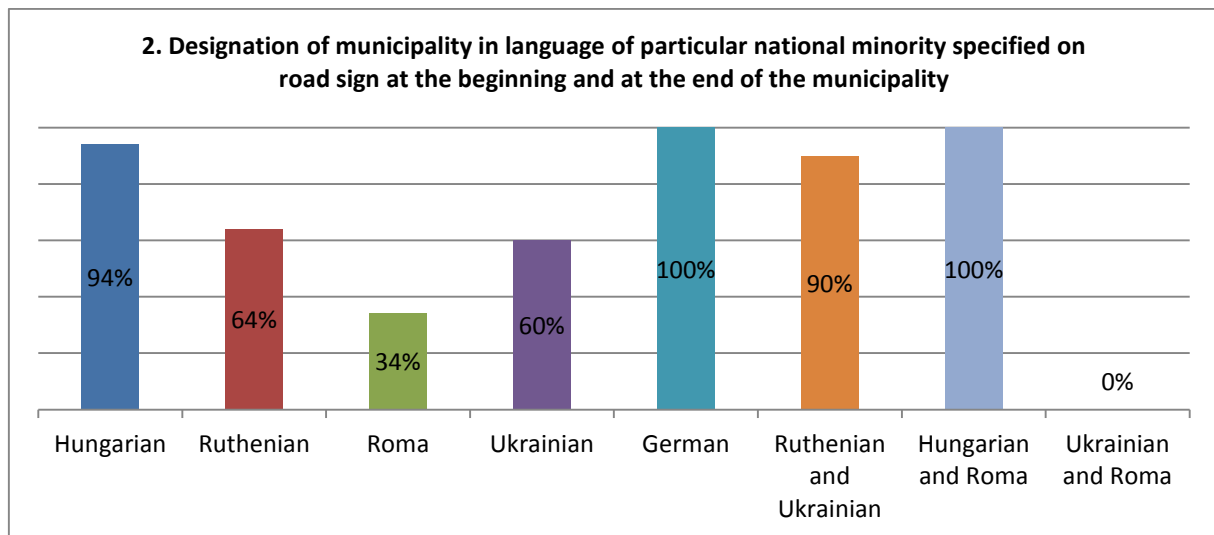
*Table No. 2 Designation of municipalities in language of particular national minority specified on road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality<sup>10</sup>*

2. Specify, whether there is municipality designation in language of particular national minority given on road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality							
	Yes	Proportion in %	No	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	418	94%	25	6%	2	0%	445
Ruthenian	25	64%	14	36%	0	0%	39
Roma	13	34%	25	66%	0	0%	38
Ukrainian	3	60%	2	40%	0	0%	5
German	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	9	90%	1	10%	0	0%	10

<sup>9</sup> In section Return, there are figures classified according to particular national minorities, while the municipalities with population belonging to two national minorities are included twice in this case. Data obtained in questionnaire are classified according to national minorities with specification of data for municipalities with population belonging to two national minorities. It relates to the fact that such municipalities have received one questionnaire, and the provided information relates to languages of both national minorities at the same time.

<sup>10</sup> Designation of municipality in Roma language is the same as the municipality name in state language pursuant to the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 534/2011 Coll.

Hungarian and Roma	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%	5
Ukrainian and Roma	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Total	474	87%	68	13%	2	0%	544

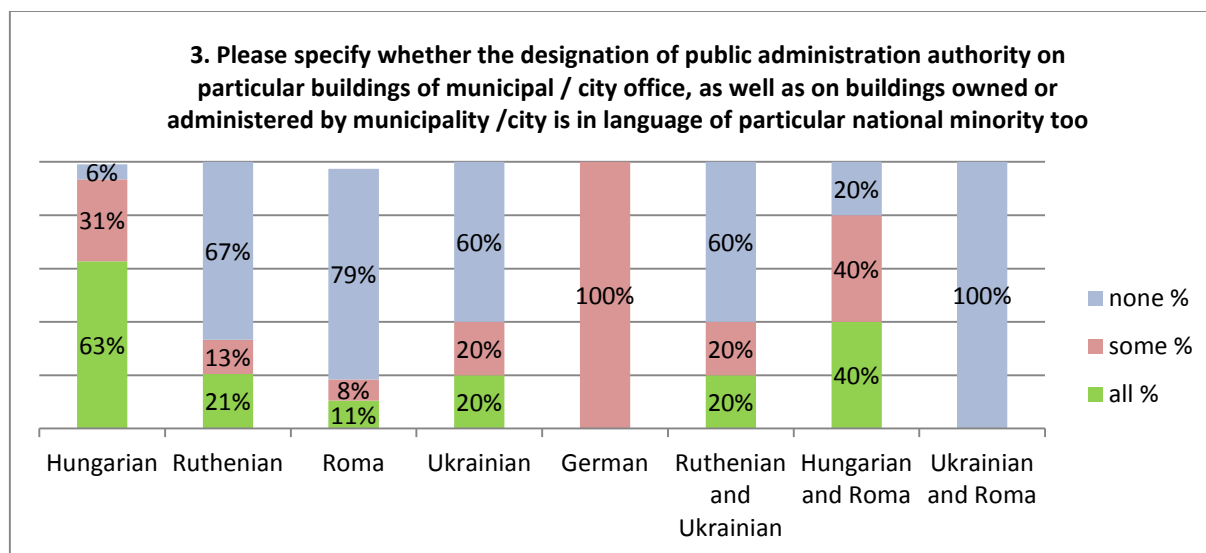


In connection to specification of designation of public administration authorities in language of national minority along with the name in state language on buildings, the results showed that 55% of respondents, it means municipalities, have designation in language of relevant national minority on all buildings, 28% have on some buildings, 17% of municipalities have no designation on buildings. For comparison – previous report gives results of survey made in November 2012 under which approximately 21% of local state administration authorities stated that they do not have designation in language of national minorities. Detailed data with percentage proportion within particular national minorities is given in the Table No. 3.

*Table No. 3 Designation of public administration authorities in language of particular national minority placed on buildings*

3. Please specify whether the designation of public administration authority on particular buildings of municipal / city office, as well as on buildings owned or administered by municipality /city is in language of particular national minority too									
	All	Proportion in %	Some	Proportion in %	None	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	279	63%	137	31%	25	6%	4	1%	445
Ruthenian	8	21%	5	13%	26	67%	0	0%	39
Roma	4	11%	3	8%	30	79%	1	3%	38
Ukrainian	1	20%	1	20%	3	60%	0	0%	5
German	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and	2	20%	2	20%	6	60%	0	0%	10

Ukrainian									
Hungarian and Roma	2	40%	2	40%	1	20%	0	0%	5
Ukrainian and Roma	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Total	296	54%	151	28%	92	17%	5	1%	544



Respondents in case of undesignated buildings in municipalities should have stated the reasons of such situation too. The most often reasons are that the citizens did not place such request, as well as the lack of funds of the municipality.

Designation of streets also in language of particular national minority was another examined field. In this connection it is important to state that in 392 municipalities, which makes almost three quarters of municipalities (respondents) the street names do not exist. The municipalities in which the street names are specified, but they do not have any designation in language of national minority, the most frequently specified reasons of such situation are the lack of funds, or no request placed by the citizens, and in some cases the fact that the municipalities did not consider it necessary. Detailed information is in the Table No. 4. It is necessary to state that the municipalities may decide whether they use designation in Slovak language along with designation of streets in language of national minority, or not.

*Table No. 4 Designation of streets in language of particular national minority*

4. Specify whether the streets in your municipality / city are designated also in language of particular national minority								
	All	Proportion in %	Some	Proportion in %	None	Proportion in %	No response	Total
Hungarian	92	21%	11	2%	335	75%	7	445
Ruthenian	0	0%	0	0%	39	100%	0	39
Roma	0	0%	0	0%	37	97%	1	38
Ukrainian	0	0%	0	0%	5	100%	0	5

German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	0	0%	0	0%	10	100%	0	10
Hungarian and Roma	0	0%	0	0%	5	100%	0	5
Ukrainian and Roma	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	1
Total	92	17%	11	2%	433	80%	8	544

In questionnaires the number of employees of a municipal or city office mastering the language of the particular national minority, either spoken, or both spoken and written, was asked. 3880 municipality employees (respondents) out of the total number of 4856, it means 80%, speak the minority language, and 3443, it means 71% can both speak and write the minority language. With regard to the fact that the question related to this field was specified in more detail in the present questionnaire, the obtained data can be compared with data from 2011 given in the previous report just in general. It results from the comparison that no significant changes occurred in this field<sup>11</sup>. Pursuant to the Act on use of languages of national minorities the employees of public administration authorities are not obliged to master the language of national minority.

*Table No. 5 Number of employees of municipal or city office mastering the language of particular national minority*

5. Specify the total number of employees of municipal / city office, ... mastering spoken language of particular national minority, .... mastering spoken and written language of particular national minority						
	Total number of employees	Number of employees mastering spoken language	Proportion in %	Number of employees mastering spoken and written language	Proportion in %	No response
Hungarian	4246	3628	85%	3251	77%	4
Ruthenian	92	79	86%	49	53%	0
Roma	411	76	18%	55	13%	1
Ukrainian	12	11	92%	10	83%	0
German	2	1	50%	0	0%	0
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	32	25	78%	20	63%	1
Hungarian and Roma	57	56	98%	54	95%	0
Ukrainian and Roma	4	4	100%	4	100%	0
Total	4856	3880	80%	3443	71%	6

Fulfillment of obligations of municipalities in the field of use of languages in official contact, with several sub-fields, was another important field of examination. It includes, first

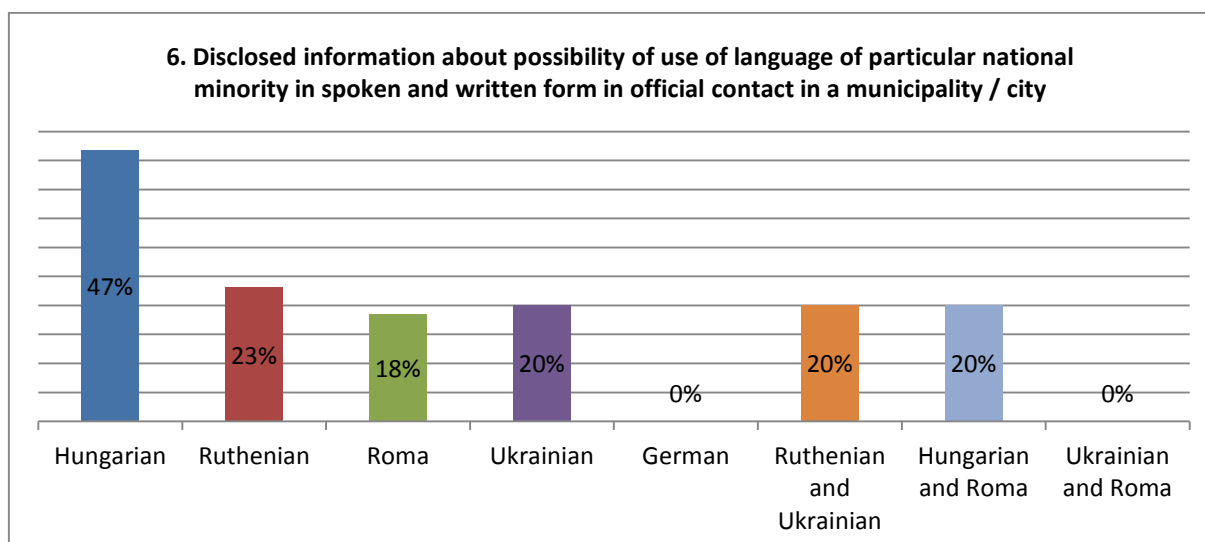
<sup>11</sup> In the Annex No. 1 of the Report on situation in use of languages of national minorities on the territory of the Slovak Republic, pursuant to the Section 7a (2) of the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on use of languages of national minorities, as amended, it is stated that „88,2 % of employees in municipalities with Hungarian national minority speak Hungarian, in case of Ruthenian municipalities it is even 96 %, 26,3 % of employees master Roma language, and 80 % of employees master Ukrainian language. In case of German minority the Kunešov municipality has got only one employee who can master German language“.  
Available on: <http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/8423/jazyky-narodnostnych-mensin/>.

of all, the duty of municipalities to ensure disclosure of information about possibility of using the language of particular national minority both in oral and written form in official contact on a visible place. In total, the obligation is being fulfilled by 42% of municipalities (respondents). There is significantly positive development in this field compared to the data from previous report. Since there were 31% of municipalities with Hungarian national minority who complied with this obligation in 2011, there are more than 47% of such municipalities today. The same in case of municipalities with Ruthenian national minority, the situation improved from 4,4% to 23%, in case of municipalities with Roma national minority from 1,7% to 18%, and in case of Ukrainian national minority from 1,1% to 20%.<sup>12</sup>. Situation has not changed in case of municipalities with German national minority and in case of municipalities with population belonging to two national minorities – in both cases the proportion of municipalities meeting this obligation is low. Municipalities disclosing the above information use, first of all, the space of information and official boards for this purpose, as well as web sites of their offices.

*Table No. 6 Disclosure of information about possibility of use of language of particular national minority in spoken and written form in official contact*

6. Specify, whether your municipality / city has disclosed information about possibility of use of language of particular national minority in official contact – both in oral and written form – on a visible place							
	Yes	Proportion in %	No	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	208	47%	231	52%	6	1%	445
Ruthenian	9	23%	30	77%	0	0%	39
Roma	7	18%	31	82%	0	0%	38
Ukrainian	1	20%	3	60%	1	20%	5
German	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	2	20%	8	80%	0	0%	10
Hungarian and Roma	1	20%	4	80%	0	0%	5
Ukrainian and Roma	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Total	228	42%	309	57%	7	1%	544

<sup>12</sup> See: Annex No. 1 to the Report. Available on: <http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/8423/jazyky-narodnostnych-mensin/>.



The possibility of using the language of particular national minority in official contact is another aspect of the monitored field. The results of survey showed that the citizens in 91% of municipalities (respondents) can use the language of national minority in official contact, while 96% of municipalities have such option in case of municipalities with Hungarian national minority, 85% with Ruthenian national minority, 60% with Ukrainian national minority, 42% with Roma national minority, and the municipality with German national minority provides such option too. Almost all municipalities with population belonging to two national minorities, as it is obvious from the Table No. 7, provide such option.<sup>13</sup>

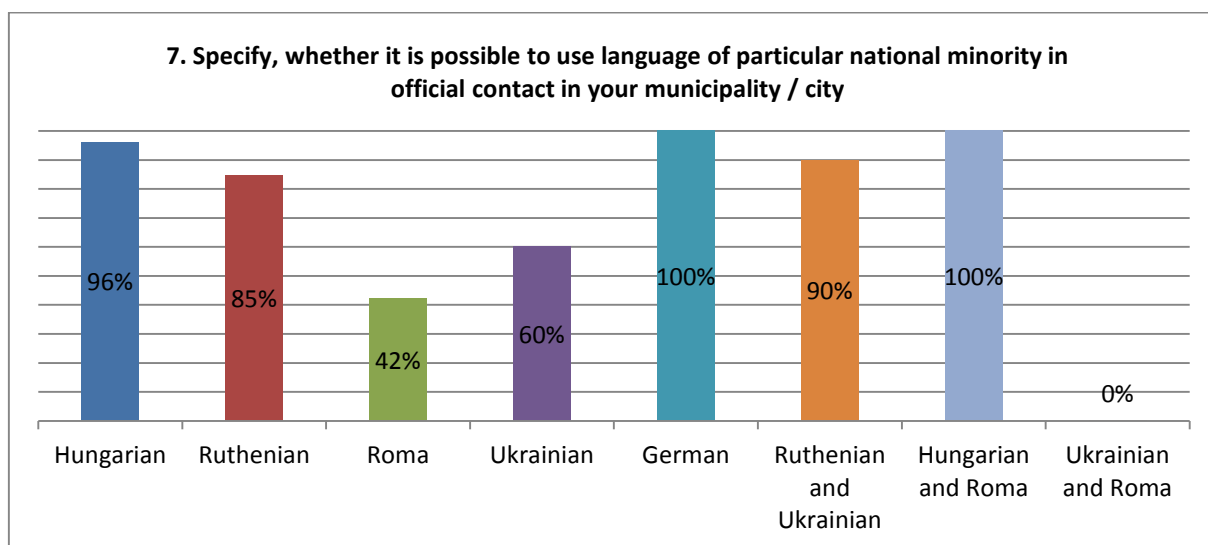
*Table No. 7 Use of language of particular national minority in official contact*

7. Specify, whether it is possible to use language of particular national minority in official contact in your municipality / city							
	Yes	Proportion in %	No	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	428	96%	14	3%	3	1%	445
Ruthenian	33	85%	5	13%	1	3%	39
Roma	16	42%	22	58%	0	0%	38
Ukrainian	3	60%	2	40%	0	0%	5
German	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	9	90%	1	10%	0	0%	10
Hungarian and Roma	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%	5

<sup>13</sup> For comparison – in quoted report, in the Annex No. 1, there are results of survey related to possibility of using the language of national minority „in official agenda“ of municipalities, while 8% of municipalities with Hungarian national minority used Hungarian language in entire official agenda, and 19,7% partially, in case of other languages Ruthenian and Roma languages were partially used – in case of one municipality each. Available on: <http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/8423/jazyky-narodnostnych-mensin/>.



Ukrainian and Roma	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1
Total	496	91%	44	8%	4	1%	544



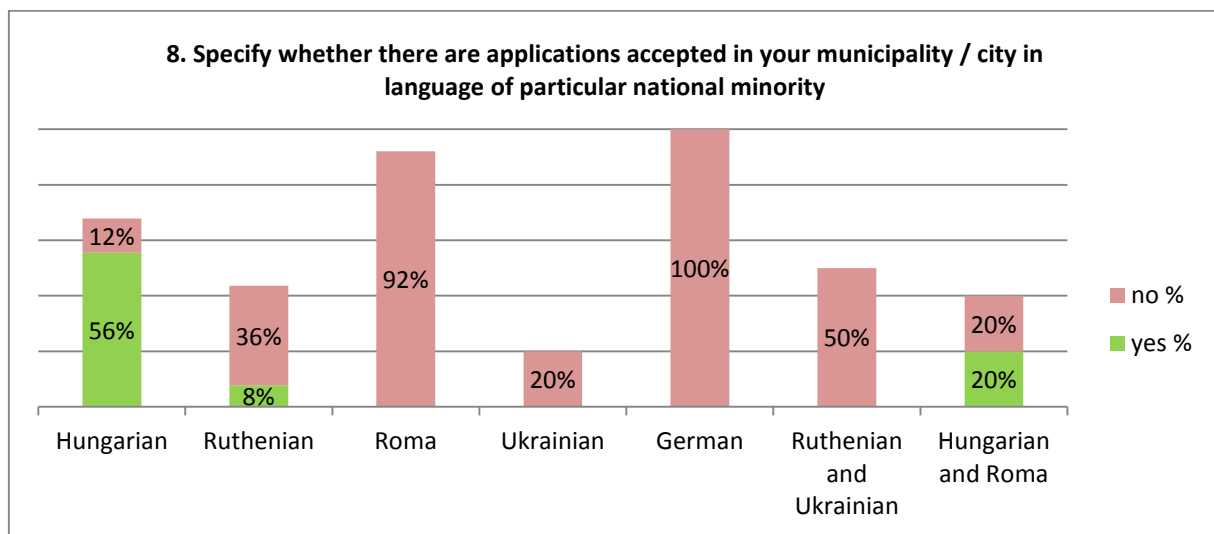
Integral part of the possibility of using the language of national minority in official contact is accepting of applications in language of national minority. In total, the applications in language of particular national minority are accepted in 46% of all municipalities (respondents). As you can see from the Table No. 8, the citizens lodge applications in language of national minority in 56% of municipalities with Hungarian national minority, however, in municipalities with other national minorities such option is limited.

By virtue of the law, the public administration authorities provide response to application written in language of national minority both in state language and in minority language. The results of survey showed that in 56% of municipalities (respondents) the written applications received in language of particular national minority are responded also in language of particular national minority, and such service is provided mostly by employees of the authorities, and less by external employees (see Table No. 9). Almost all municipalities that stated that they do not provide responses to applications in language of national minority, justified the fact by not receiving such request from the citizens.

*Table No. 8 Receipt of applications in language of particular national minority*

8. Specify whether there are applications accepted in your municipality / city in language of particular national minority									
	All – in oral contact	Proportion in %	Yes- in oral and written contact	Proportion in %	No	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	139	31%	247	56%	55	12%	4	1%	445

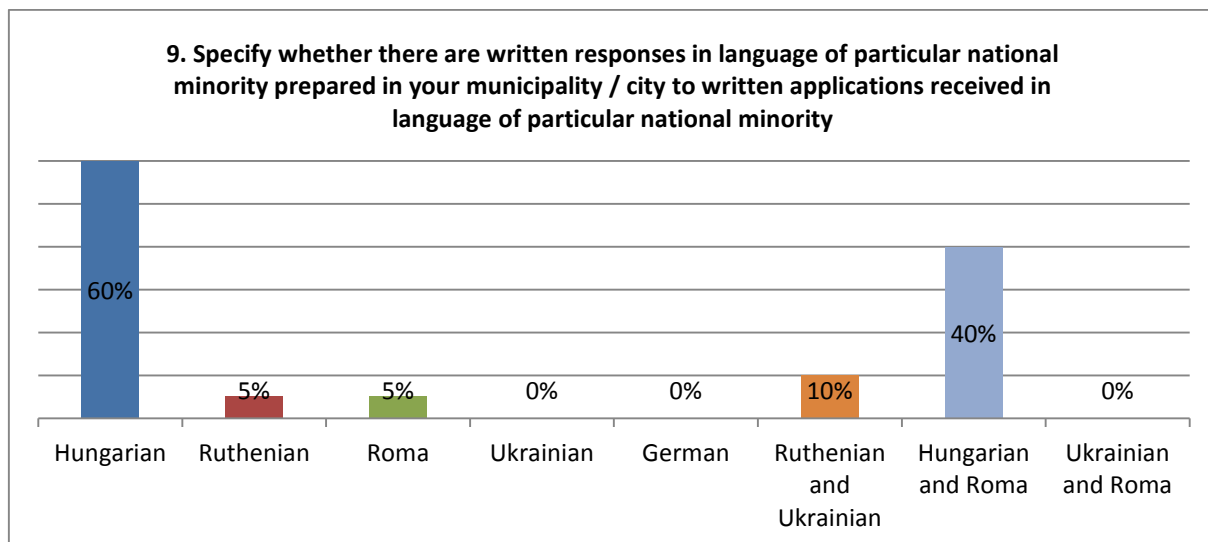
Ruthenian	21	54%	3	8%	14	36%	1	3%	39
Roma	3	8%	0	0%	35	92%	0	0%	38
Ukrainian	4	80%	0	0%	1	20%	0	0%	5
German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	5	50%	0	0%	5	50%	0	0%	10
Hungarian and Roma	3	60%	1	20%	1	20%	0	0%	5
Ukrainian and Roma	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1
Total	176	32%	251	46%	112	21%	5	1%	544



*Table No. 9 Provision of written responses to written applications in language of particular national minority*

9. Specify whether there are written responses in language of particular national minority prepared in your municipality / city to written applications received in language of particular national minority

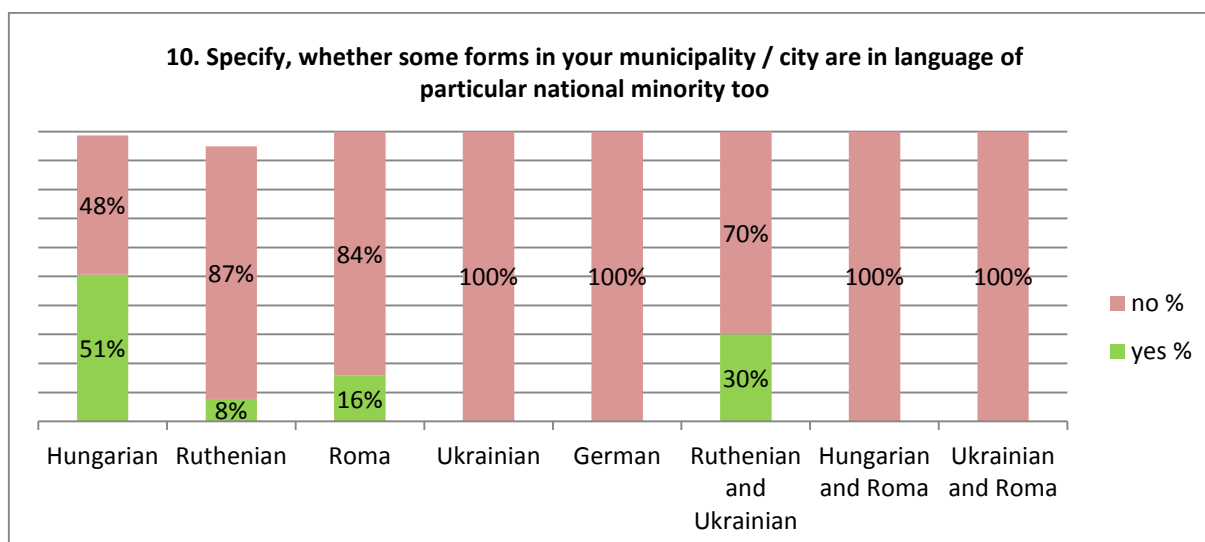
	Provided by employees	Proportion in %	Provided externally	Proportion in %	No	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	267	60%	11	2%	155	35%	12	3%	445
Ruthenian	2	5%	3	8%	32	82%	2	5%	39
Roma	2	5%	2	5%	34	89%	0	0%	38
Ukrainian	0	0%	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	5
German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	1	10%	0	0%	9	90%	0	0%	10
Hungarian and Roma	2	40%	0	0%	3	60%	0	0%	5
Ukrainian and Roma	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Total	274	50%	16	3%	240	44%	14	3%	544



Pursuant to the results of survey, similar situation is in the field of provision of official forms in language of particular national minority. As shown in the Table No. 10 such forms are provided by 44% of municipalities (respondents). These forms include mostly forms for population registration, vital statistics forms and election forms, forms related to the field of civil engineering, education system, or taxes, as well as various powers of attorney, applications, confirmations, notices, etc.

*Table No. 10 Provision of official forms in language of particular national minority*

10. Specify, whether some forms in your municipality / city are in language of particular national minority too							
	Yes	Proportion in %	No	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	225	51%	214	48%	6	1%	445
Ruthenian	3	8%	34	87%	2	5%	39
Roma	6	16%	32	84%	0	0%	38
Ukrainian	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	5
German	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	3	30%	7	70%	0	0%	10
Hungarian and Roma	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	5
Ukrainian and Roma	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Total	237	44%	299	55%	8	1%	544



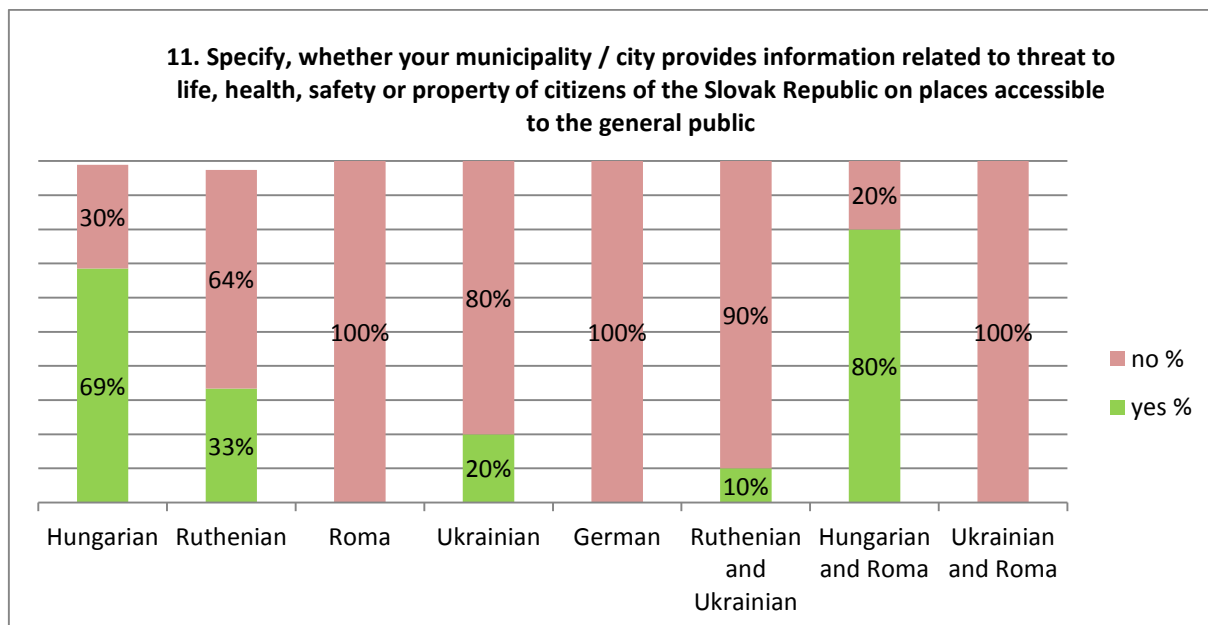
From the point of view of citizens, the field of disclosure of information related to threat to life, health, safety or property of citizens is especially important. Information awareness of citizens in this field in language of particular national minorities is provided by 60% of municipalities (respondents), while such information in minority language is mostly available in municipalities with Hungarian national minority. In municipalities with Roma minority such information is not available in Roma language at all<sup>14</sup>.

*Table No. 11 Disclosure of information related to threat to life, health, safety or property of citizens*

11. Specify, whether your municipality / city provides information related to threat to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic on places accessible to the general public both in state language and language of particular national minority too

	Yes	Proportion in %	No	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	305	69%	135	30%	5	1%	445
Ruthenian	13	33%	25	64%	1	3%	39
Roma	0	0%	38	100%	0	0%	38
Ukrainian	1	20%	4	80%	0	0%	5
German	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	1	10%	9	90%	0	0%	10
Hungarian and Roma	4	80%	1	20%	0	0%	5
Ukrainian and Roma	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Total	324	60%	214	39%	6	1%	544

<sup>14</sup> Pursuant to the results of survey of local self-government authorities from November 2012 bilingual forms are not provided by 90% of the authorities - more details available in the Annex No. 2 of the quoted report. Available on: <http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/8423/jazyky-narodnostnych-mensin/>.



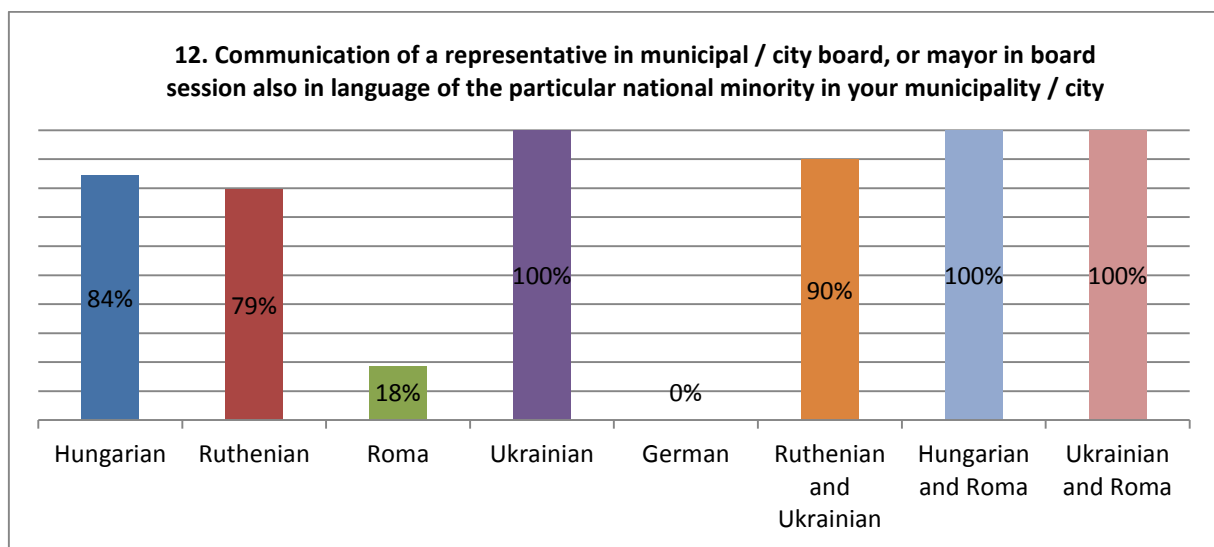
The possibility to use language of national minority in official contact includes also possibility to communicate in that language during sessions of municipal or city board. It happens so in 80% of such municipalities (respondents). In general, comparing the data from 2011 it is obvious that the overall situation has improved, however, in case of Roma minority the proportion of such municipalities remains low<sup>15</sup>.

*Table No. 12 Language of Board communication*

12. Specify, whether there is communication between the representative in municipal / city board, or mayor in board session also in language of the particular national minority in your municipality / city							
	Yes	Proportion in %	No	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	376	84%	66	15%	3	1%	445
Ruthenian	31	79%	7	18%	1	3%	39
Roma	7	18%	31	82%	0	0%	38
Ukrainian	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%	5
German	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	9	90%	1	10%	0	0%	10

<sup>15</sup> In previous report it was stated that the „Session of municipal boards may be held in language of particular national minority, in state language or combined, in language of particular national minority and state language. In 32,4% of municipalities with Hungarian minority the board discusses in Hungarian language, 28,5% municipalities use Slovak language for board sessions, and both languages are used in 32,8 % of municipalities. In case of Ruthenian municipalities 42,6% boards use Ruthenian, 17,6 % state language, and 17,7 % use both languages. There is no data available regarding use of Roma language in any of the municipalities in Slovakia for language of the case, 70% of municipal boards keep the discussion in Slovak language, and only one municipality uses Roma language along with the Slovak language. 38,9% of municipalities with Ukrainian minority use Ukrainian language in municipal board sessions, Slovak language is used in 22,2%, and both languages in 1%. German language is not used as a municipal language of the case“. Available on: <http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/8423/jazyky-narodnostnych-mensin/>.

Hungarian and Roma	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%	5
Ukrainian and Roma	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1
Total	324	80%	106	19%	4	1%	544



With regard to possibility to issue or make records and generally binding regulations also in language of particular national minority, as shown in the Table No. 13, such possibility is provided by a low percentage of municipalities (respondents) only.

*Table No. 13 Making of records and generally binding legal regulations also in language of particular national minority*

13. Specify, whether official records and generally binding regulations in your municipality / city are provided both in state language and language of particular national minority							
	Yes	Proportion in %	No	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	21	5%	422	95%	2	0%	445
Ruthenian	1	3%	38	97%	0	0%	39
Roma	0	0%	38	100%	0	0%	38
Ukrainian	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	5
German	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	0	0%	10	100%	0	0%	10
Hungarian and Roma	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	5
Ukrainian and Roma	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Total	22	4%	520	96%	2	0%	544

For data on issue of bilingual birth, marriage, and death certificate it is necessary to regard that 220 municipalities (respondents) do not have any offices for vital statistics. Most of the 198 municipalities not issuing such documents stated that no request was raised. The municipalities also justified the fact that they do not issue decision in administrative

proceedings, as the proceedings started by application in minority language, or upon request both in state language and minority language (Table No. 15).

*Table No. 14 Issue of bilingual birth, marriage, and death certificates*

14. Specify, whether birth, marriage, and death certificates are issued in your municipality / city in bilingual form upon request, namely in state language and language of particular national minority							
	Yes	If yes, give number of issued birth certificates	If yes, give number of issued marriage certificates	If yes, give number of issued death certificates	No	No response	Total
Hungarian	126	727	367	274	314	5	445
Ruthenian	0	0	0	0	39	0	39
Roma	0	0	0	0	38	0	38
Ukrainian	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
German	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	0	0	0	0	10	0	10
Hungarian and Roma	1	0	1	0	4	0	5
Ukrainian and Roma	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	22	727	368	274	412	5	544

*Table No. 15 Issue of decisions on administrative proceedings also in language of particular national minority*

15. Specify, whether decisions in administrative proceedings are issued in your municipality / city for reason that the proceedings started with application in minority language or upon request both in state language and in minority language							
	Yes	Proportion in %	No	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	7	2%	431	97%	7	2%	445
Ruthenian	0	0%	39	100%	0	0%	39
Roma	0	0%	38	100%	0	0%	38
Ukrainian	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	5
German	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	0	0%	10	100%	0	0%	10
Hungarian and Roma	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	5
Ukrainian and Roma	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Total	7	1%	530	97%	7	1%	544

As it is obvious from the Table No. 16, municipalities (respondents) do not register any suggestions from the citizens for the reason of violation of the Act on minority language

*Table No. 16 Suggestions to violation of the Act on use of languages of national minorities*

16. Specify, whether any suggestions were received in your municipality / city for the reason of violation of the Act on minority language
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	Yes	Proportion in %	No	Proportion in %	No response	Proportion in %	Total
Hungarian	0	0%	441	99%	4	1%	445
Ruthenian	0	0%	39	100%	0	0%	39
Roma	0	0%	38	100%	0	0%	38
Ukrainian	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	5
German	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Ruthenian and Ukrainian	0	0%	10	100%	0	0%	10
Hungarian and Roma	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	5
Ukrainian and Roma	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
Total	0	0%	540	99%	4	1%	544



## **4. Conclusion**

The presented report defines basic legislative framework for use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period of 2013 and 2014, it provides information on procedure and results of implementation of international and legal framework for protection of minority languages in the Slovak Republic, as well as the present development in the field of institutional provision for use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic. Based on the content of particular report chapters it can be stated that the Government of the Slovak Republic actively cooperates and keeps continuous dialogue with international organizations and representatives of national minorities in the field of protection and improvement of language rights that pertain to the citizens belonging to national minorities based on the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

The Government Office, as the gestor of the Act on use of languages of national minorities, provides continuous professional and methodic assistance to the public administration authorities, as well as to organizational units of security and rescue forces in application of the quoted Act, and discusses administrative delicts. By virtue of the law, the Government Office also monitors and evaluates the situation in use of languages of national minorities on regular basis and submits the result to the Government of the Slovak Republic in form of a report.

The results of analysis of data obtained from survey in this report, including partial comparison with results of surveys specified in the previous report, document the fact that some positive changes occurred in some fields of use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic by the public administration authorities. At the same time, this analysis shows that it is still necessary to work actively in the area of provision of methodic and information assistance to the self-government authorities and local state administration authorities. In order to improve the situation in this field it is necessary to continue implementation of information campaigns and trainings for the general public, as well as for the materially competent entities.

## **5. Annexes**

**Annex No. 1:** List of local state administration authorities under the gestion of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic using both the state language and the minority language in official contact

**Annex No. 2:** Questionnaire

**Annex No. 1**

List of local state administration authorities under the gestion of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic using both the state language and the minority language in official contact

<b>Name of local state administration authority</b>	<b>Minority language used along with state language</b>
District Office Senec	Hungarian
District Office Dunajská Streda	Hungarian
District Office Galanta	Hungarian
District Office Komárno	Hungarian
District Office Levice, workplace Šahy	Hungarian
District Office Levice, workplace Želiezovce	Hungarian
District Office Michalovce, workplace Veľké Kapušany	Hungarian
District Office Nové Zámky	Hungarian
District Office Nové Zámky, workplace Štúrovo	Hungarian
District Office Šaľa	Hungarian
District Office Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian
District Office Rožňava	Hungarian
District Office Medzilaborce	Ruthenian
District Office Humenné, workplace Medzilaborce	Ruthenian
District Office Trebišov, workplace Kráľovský Chlmec	Hungarian
District Office Košice – surroundings, workplace Moldava nad Bodovou	Hungarian

<b>Name of local state administration authority</b>	<b>Minority language used along with state language</b>
State archive in Banská Bystrica, Rimavská Sobota branch	Hungarian
State archive in Bratislava, Šaľa branch	Hungarian
State archive in Košice, Rožňava branch	Hungarian
State archive in Nitra, Komárno branch	Hungarian
State archive in Nitra, Nové Zámky branch	Hungarian

<b>Name of local state administration authority</b>	<b>Minority language used along with state language</b>
District Directorate of Fire and Rescue Force Dunajská Streda	Hungarian
District Directorate of Fire and Rescue Force Galanta	Hungarian
District Directorate of Fire and Rescue Force Komárno	Hungarian
District Directorate of Fire and Rescue Force Komárno	Hungarian
District Directorate of Fire and Rescue Force Nové Zámky	Hungarian
District Directorate of Fire and Rescue Force Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian
District Directorate of Fire and Rescue Force Rožňava	Hungarian

Source: Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

**GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

**for territorial self-government authorities, about use of languages of national minorities based on the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on use of languages of national minorities, as amended, and the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 534/2011 Coll. dated 19 December 2011, modifying and amending the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 221/1999 Coll. issuing the list of municipalities in which the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make at least 20% of population**

Dear Mr. / Ms. respondent, let us ask you for cooperation in examination of situation in use of languages of national minorities as of 1 September 2014 in competence of territorial self-government authorities. Please, read the questionnaire carefully, circle the correct responses and amend the missing information. Thank you for cooperation in advance.

**1. Specify the name of municipality / city in state language ..... and designation of municipality / city in language of particular national minority / minorities: .....**

**2. Specify, whether there is municipality designation in language of particular national minority given on road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality / city:**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**3. Please specify whether the designation of public administration authority on particular buildings of municipal / city office, as well as on buildings owned or administered by municipality /city is in language of particular national minority too:**

- a) All buildings are designated
- b) Some buildings are designated
- c) If not designated, give the reasons:

.....  
.....  
.....

**4. Specify whether the streets in your municipality / city are designated also in language of particular national minority:**

- a) All

- b) Some
- c) If not designated, give the reasons:

.....

.....

.....

**5. Specify the total number of employees of municipal / city office, ... and those mastering spoken language of particular national minority, .... mastering spoken and written language of particular national minority..... .**

**6. Specify, whether your municipality / city has disclosed information about possibility of use of language of particular national minority in official contact – both in oral and written form – on a visible place:**

- a) If yes, where such information is disclosed: .....
- b) No

**7. Specify, whether it is possible to use language of particular national minority in official contact in your municipality / city:**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**8. Specify whether there are applications accepted in your municipality / city in language of particular national minority**

- a) Yes, in oral contact
- b) Yes, in direct contact
- c) Yes, both in oral and written contact
- d) No

**9. Specify whether there are written responses in language of particular national minority prepared in your municipality / city to written applications received in language of particular national minority:**

- a) Yes, provided by the municipality / city employees
- b) Yes, provided externally
- c) No, give the reason .....

**10. Specify, whether some forms in your municipality / city are in language of particular national minority too:**

a) Yes, it includes mostly the following forms:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

b) No

**11. Specify, whether your municipality / city provides information related to threat to life, health, safety, or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic on places accessible to the general public both in state language and language of particular national minority too:**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**12. Specify, whether there is communication between the representative in municipal / city board, or mayor in board session also in language of the particular national minority in your municipality / city:**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**13. Specify, whether official records and generally binding regulations in your municipality / city are provided both in state language and language of particular national minority:**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**14. Specify, whether birth, marriage, and death certificates are issued in your municipality / city in bilingual form upon request, namely in state language and language of particular national minority:**

- a) If yes, give number of issued documents for 2013 and 2014:
  - birth certificate: .....
  - marriage certificate: .....
  - death certificate: .....
- b) If no, give the reason .....

**15. Specify, whether decisions in administrative proceedings are issued in your municipality / city for reason that the proceedings started with application in minority language or upon request both in state language and in minority language:**

- a) If yes, give number for 2013 and 2014, and in which matter the decision was issued:
- b) If no, give the reason: .....

**16. Specify, whether any suggestions for the reason of violation of the Act on minority language were received in your municipality / city:**

- a) If yes, give number for 2013 and 2014, and what was the subject-matter of suggestions:  
.....  
.....  
.....

b) No

In \_\_\_\_\_ on:

Prepared by:

Approved by: