

Monitoring the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

For more information see individual country profiles:

Chapter 4.2.1 “Provisions for Cultural Minorities”

Chapter 4.2.3 “Language Issues and Policies”

Legend: * National language may have been or is under threat or has recently been re-established as the national official language.

Country	Signatory of European Charter		Official Language(s)	Legally Recognised Languages of National Minorities	Examples of Government Measures to Support Languages of National Minorities (which reflect provisions outlined in the ECRML)			Special Government Support given to the Development and Protection of the National Language *
	Signing	Entry into Force			Mother-Tongue Teaching (Article 8)	Cultural Activities and Facilities (Article 12)	Mass Media (TV, Radio, Press) (Article 11)	
Austria	1992	2001	German	Croatian, Hungarian and Slovene.	“Minority Education Right” for Slovenes living in Carinthia. For other linguistic minorities, language of instruction in a school depends on the number of students.	No	<i>2001 Broadcasting Act</i> obliges ORF to broadcast programmes in languages of minority groups; small (non-commercial) free radio stations primarily aimed at minorities and immigrants are supported by the government (2007)	-
Azerbaijan	2001	Expected	Azerbaijani	Russian, Georgian, etc.	The language of instruction for more than 6.7% pupils is Russian and 0.1% is Georgian, in the 2004-2005 school year.	The Ministry of Culture and Tourism carries out a concrete programme of activities connected with safeguarding and development of cultural values of national minorities and ethnic groups.	There are no official language quotas in the mass media.	YES

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Belgium	Not signed		Flemish, French and German.	NO	NO	In 2000, Flemish Minister instructed new Literature Fund to fund works by immigrants.	NO	YES
Bulgaria	Not signed		Bulgarian	Turkish and Romani.	Educational Bill stating that mother tongue learning is a "compulsory optional subject"; state obliged to pay for students who want to study their mother tongue.	Government provides funding to cultural projects such as theatre productions and festivals for minority cultural groups.	Support for periodicals, media events and live performances of various cultural groups given by NGOs such as Open Society Institute.	-
Canada	Not signed		English and French are national official languages. Quebec has one official language (French). New Brunswick has two official languages (English and French)	In context of Official Languages, Anglophones in Quebec and Francophone outside Quebec are regarded as official language minorities Seven Aboriginal languages in the Territories	Section 23 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms includes Aboriginal languages Enhancement of Official Languages Program: 2nd Language Learning	Aboriginal Friendship Centres Multicultural Support Programs	Aboriginal radio and television stations/networks Cultural minorities are served by 4 licensed conventional TV stations, and 21 analog and digital specialty TV services which broadcast in "third languages" 15 third language radio stations	YES: See Action Plan for Official Languages (2003) at http://www.pch.gc.ca/offlangoff
Croatia	1997	1998	Croatian	Italian, Hungarian, German, Slovenian,	Supplementary minority language	NO	Croatian Radio and Television have special	YES

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				Ukrainian, Czech and Serbian.	classes in schools. Optional programmes for mother tongue learning at various summer schools.		and regular news programmes in several minority languages. Local radio stations also have special programmes in minority languages.	
Estonia	Not signed		Estonian	NO	Primary and secondary education are available in both Estonian and Russian. Universities have special language support schemes for students from Russian secondary schools.	Russian Drama Theatre located in Tallinn. Community centres in municipalities host activities of minority cultural organizations.	Public radio channel in Russian. Private radio channels and private press operate in minority languages (mainly Russian).	YES
Finland	1992	1998	Finnish and Swedish	Sami, Roma and Sign Language.	YES	YES	YES	-
Hungary	1992	1998	Hungarian	Armenian, Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Greek, Polish, Romanian, Romani, Ruthenian, Serbian, Slovakian, Slovenian and Ukrainian.	<i>1993 Act on National and Ethnic Minorities.</i> Official efforts to encourage minorities to retain their linguistic identity. Support is given for mother tongue teaching.	<i>1997 Act</i> to support museums, libraries and art institutions for minority groups. <i>2000 National and Ethnic Minorities Foundation</i> established to allocate funds for cultural activities and projects of minority groups.	Public Foundation for Minorities subsidises 17 periodicals, gives grants to local television stations for programmes in minority languages and funds publication of books in minority languages. Regular TV and radio broadcasts in minority languages.	YES
Ireland	Not signed		Irish and English	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

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Italy	2000	Expected	Italian	German, Ladin, French and Slovenian.	-	Slovenian Theatre in Trieste created by the autonomous region Friuli Venezia Giulia and subsidised by the Italian State.	-	-
Latvia	Not signed		Latvian	NO	Primary and secondary education available in Latvian and there are also about 200 minority schools in Latvia; public support is available for education programmes in Russian, Byelorussian, Polish, Ukrainian, Jewish, Estonian, Lithuanian and Roma languages.	More than 200 cultural NGOs of minorities registered in Latvia and supported by public financing both on regular and on project competition basis; Russian Drama Theatre located in Riga; Municipalities are implementing their own integration programmes.	Public radio channel in Russian; Commercial radio and TV channels and private press – mostly in Russian but available also in other languages (e.g. Polish, Ukrainian).	YES
Lithuania	Not signed		Lithuanian	Russian, Polish, Jewish, Tatars, Ukrainian and Belorussian.	<i>Law of Education</i> (2003) guarantees the right of national minorities to have access to pre-and post-grade schools funded by the state, including lessons in their own language.	<i>Law on National Minorities</i> (1991) guarantees the right of national minorities to receive state support to foster their national culture and to support cultural organisations (e.g. the state provides	<i>Law on National Minorities</i> (1991) guarantees the right of national minorities to have access to information and press in their native language. Lithuanian state TV and radio broadcast programmes in minority	-

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						financial support for institutions such as the Russian Drama Theatre of Lithuania).	languages. Books and newspapers are available in the languages of national minorities.	
Macedonia	1992	1992	Macedonian	Albanian, Serbian, Turkish, Romani and Vlach.	YES	Government provides funding to cultural projects such as book publishing, theatre productions, exhibitions, festivals etc., for minority cultural groups.	National TV and radio provide special programmes in languages of national minorities.	YES
Moldova	2002	Expected	Romanian	Russian (special status)	N/A	Local level organisations created to protect and develop cultural traditions of minority communities including mother tongue language.	Sub-system of cultural institutions for ethnic minorities based in the state library, museum and theater network. "Teleradio-Moldova", Department "Comunitate" to broadcast in the languages spoken by ethnic minorities.	-
Netherlands	2005	2005	Dutch	Frisian	2005 <i>Covenant on the Frisian Language and Culture</i> includes articles on education in the Frisian language.	2005 <i>Covenant on the Frisian Language and Culture</i> includes articles on the promotion of Frisian language in cultural activities and	2005 <i>Covenant on the Frisian Language and Culture</i> includes articles on the promotion of Frisian language in the media.	YES

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						amenities.		
Poland	2003	Expected	Polish	German, Ukrainian, Belarussian, Lithuanian, Russian Latvian, Slovak, Romani, Hebrew / Yiddish) and Czech.	-	Several festivals and competitions are also organised by the state and local authorities for minority groups.	Government support for periodicals and radio broadcasts of minority groups.	-
Russia	2001	Expected	Russian for the Russian Federation, title languages for national Republics.	All languages including those of 180 minority groups.	Article 26 of the <i>Constitution of the Russian Federation</i> (1993) establishes the right to use mother tongue languages and the freedom to choose the language of communication, education, learning and creativity.	The legal instrument for cultural self-organisations is the law on <i>National Cultural Autonomy</i> introduced in 1996. It produced 662 bodies (01.01. 2007). <i>Law on the Rights Guaranteed for Indigenous Peoples</i> (1999); the <i>Law on General Principles of Organising Communes among the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and of the Far East of the RF</i> (2000)	Governmental bodies fund related broadcasting programmes. State support for publishing in minority languages is not sufficient to create a viable industry.	YES The "Russian Language" Federal Target Programme (2006-2010) is aimed at establishing Russian as the state language.
Serbia	2005	2006	Serbian	Croatian, Bosnian, Albanian, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovakian, Ruthen	Teaching in mother tongue at primary school level for all recognized minorities and at secondary	Support to amateur cultural associations (choirs, folklore groups and amateur theaters) of all	Obligation to broadcast in all languages of minority group including Romani. Support for political /	-

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				(Rusin), Ukrainian, Bulgarian	school level in mother tongue for hungarians, slovakians, romanians and albanians.	national minority groups, cultural centers and institutions (houses of culture)	information periodicals and special support for cultural periodicals.	
Slovakia	2001	2002	Slovak	9 languages of national minorities – according to ECRML divided into 3 groups: 1 - Hungarian, 2 - Ruthenian and Ukrainian, 3 – others (Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Polish, Roma)	Teaching in mother tongue at primary school level and at secondary school level for Hungarians, Ukrainians, Ruthenians, Germans. Special education programmes for Roma minority. University with Slovak and Hungarian teaching language (Janos Selye University in Komarno).	Support for cultural activities of national minorities (special grant programme as a part of Grant System, Ministry of Culture).	Public TV and Radio - obligation to broadcast in languages of national minorities.	YES
Slovenia	1997	2001	Slovenian Hungarian, Italian	Romani	Pre-school, primary and secondary education for officially recognised minorities and study of their languages as university subjects.	Cultural centres and special programmes of local cultural institutions for officially recognised minorities, public funding of cultural projects of other ethnic groups.	TV and radio broadcasting for officially recognised minorities Print media for both, officially recognized minorities and other ethnic groups.	YES
Spain	1992	2001	Castillian, Basque, Catalan, Galician,	Basque, Catalan, Galician and Valencian. It might be also considered	<i>Law of Education</i> (2006) guarantees the use of minority languages in all	National and regional governments provide funding to	According to the 2006 <i>State Radio and Television Act</i> , the Corporation of State	YES-

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			Valencian.	regional or minority languages those protected by the regional laws in the territories where they are spoken.	educative levels in bilingual communities.	cultural projects (museums, archives, libraries, theatres cinema, festivals, popular culture, publishing, etc.) in regional or minority languages.	Radio and Television (RTVE) must promote territorial cohesion and Spain's linguistic and cultural diversity; broadcast international radio and TV channels that disseminate the languages and cultures of Spain in other countries and promote the production of audiovisual contents in the languages of minority groups. National broadcasting coexists with regional and local state-funded radio and TV broadcasting in territories with own languages. Regions also support the publishing of periodicals in minority languages.	
Sweden	2000	2000	Swedish	Sami (all forms), Finnish, Meänkieli (Tornedal Finnish), Romani Chib (all forms) and Yiddish.	-	Municipalities provide support to associations, theatre, music and festivals.	State project funding available for publication of literature and periodicals. Radio and TV programmes in languages of ethnic minorities are supported by the government.	YES
Switzerland	Not signed		German,	-	-	-	New Law on radio and	New Law on radio

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			French, Italian, Retromansh				television to preserve minorities with official languages.	and television. It guarantees the independence and autonomy of radio and television as well as consideration for Switzerland's cultural communities
UK	2000	Ratified 2001	English	Welsh (Wales), Scots and Gaelic (Scotland), Ulster Scots and Irish (Northern Ireland) Manx Gaelic (Isle of Man - Crown Dependency), Cornish, British Sign Language, Irish Sign Language, ethnic minority languages.	National Gaelic Language Plan – incl. national education strategy, Gaelic Secondary ICT Implementation Group, Guidance on Gaelic Education, Gaelic-medium Education Short-life Action Group; Cornish Language Strategy; Irish Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, Ulster-Scots Academy; Isle of Man Government Plan - extend Manx language teaching in schools; Welsh Assembly - Iaith Pawb (Everyone's	<i>Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005</i> - establishment of the Gaelic development agency, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and Gaelic Arts Agency, Book Council and festivals; <i>Lá</i> - Arts Council NI Irish language magazine; Welsh Mercator - Literature Abroad project.	Irish : Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement - fund for Irish film and TV (GBP12m '05-09), increase TG4 reception; Isle of Man Government Plan - support the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee, <i>Communications Act 2003</i> - Gaelic Media Service (GBP8.7m funding '05-06); Welsh radio stations and TV channel (S4C), Sgrin - Media Agency for Wales.	-

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					Language) National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales.			
Ukraine	1996	2003	Ukrainian	Russian, Crimean Tatar, German, Greek, Bulgarian, Armenian, Hungarian, Romanian, other ethnic minority languages	The <i>Law on Education</i> grants families the right to choose their native language for schools and studies.	About 30% of periodicals aimed at national minorities are published in their mother tongue.	National TV and radio provide special programmes in languages of national minorities. Language TV quotas.	Government Programme “Securing Development and Use of the Ukrainian Language”.

Source: Council of Europe/ERICarts, Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe, 9th edition, 2008.