

## Monitoring the Implementation of the 1992 European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)

For more information see individual Compendium country profiles, in particular:  
 Chapter 4.2.4 "Cultural diversity and inclusion policies";  
 Chapter 4.2.5 "Language Issues and Policies";  
 Chapter 5.1.9 "Language Laws" and the [original text](#) of the Charter.

Legend: \* Not part of ECMRL: Concerns national languages that have been or are under threat or have recently been re-established as the official language.

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	<b>Signing</b>	<b>Entry into Force</b>			<b>Mother-Tongue Teaching (Article 8)</b>	<b>Cultural Activities and Facilities (Article 12)</b>	<b>Mass Media (TV, Radio, Press) (Article 11)</b>	
<i>Albania</i>	Not signed		Albanian	Tosk, Gheg (both dialects)	NO	NO	NO	-
<i>Armenia</i>	2001	2002	Armenian	Russian, Yazidi and Assyrian	Special guidelines fulfilled by the Russian, Yazidi and Assyrian ethnic communities gives them the opportunity to receive financial support from the state budget to realise their educational programmes.	Special guidelines fulfilled by the Russian, Yazidi and Assyrian ethnic communities gives them the opportunity to receive financial support from the state budget to realise their identity programmes.	-	-
<i>Austria</i>	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)	-

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<i>Azerbaijan</i>	2001	Expected	Azerbaijani	All languages including those of minorities (more than 15)	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 programme of activities to safeguard and develop cultural values of national minorities and ethnic groups.	There are no official language quotas in the mass media.	YES
<i>Belgium</i>	Not signed		Flemish, French and German.	NO	NO	In 2000, Flemish Minister instructed new Literature Fund to fund works by immigrants.	NO	YES
<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	2005	2011	Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bulgaria</i>	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.	-
<i>Canada</i>	Not applicable		English and French are official national languages. Quebec has one official language (F).	In context of Official Languages, Anglophones in Quebec and Francophone outside Quebec are regarded as official language minorities	Section 23 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms includes Aboriginal languages  Enhancement of Official Languages Program in	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	YES: See Action Plan for Official Languages (2003) at <a href="http://www.pch.gc.ca/offlangoff">http://www.pch.gc.ca/offlangoff</a>

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			New Brunswick has two official languages (E and F). All other provinces unilingual English	Seven Aboriginal languages in the Territories	Department of Canadian Heritage: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Language Learning		and digital specialty TV services which broadcast in “third languages”  15 third language radio stations	
<i>Croatia</i>	1997	1998	Croatian	Czech, German, Hungarian, Italian, Serbian, Slovenian and Ukrainian.	Supplementary minority language classes in schools. Optional programmes for mother tongue learning at various summer schools.	YES	Croatian Radio and Television have special and regular news programmes in several minority languages. Local radio stations also have special programmes in minority languages.	YES
<i>Cyprus</i>	1992	2002	Greek and Turkish	Armenian, Cypriot Maronite Arabic and Romani	-	-	-	-
<i>Czech Republic</i>	2000	2007	Czech	Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian	Support of educational activities	Programme of support for cultural activities of national minorities (artistic, cultural and, research and analysis of national culture and folk traditions etc.)	Programme of support for periodical press, radio and television broadcasting in languages of national minorities	-
<i>Denmark</i>	1992	2001	Danish	German + Greenlandish and Faeroese with own language policy since they achieved home rule in 1948 and 1979.	German minority language classes in schools.	Diverse activities, including in theatres	DR to provide news coverage in the most spoken foreign languages in Denmark	YES

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<i>Estonia</i>	Not signed		Estonian	NO	Primary and secondary educations 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
<i>Finland</i>	1992	1998	Finnish and Swedish	Sami languages, Roma and Sign Language	YES Sami language is provided as teaching language in Sami homeland municipalities for basic education. Sami, Sign and Roma language can be taught as mother tongue instead of Finnish/Swedish or foreign languages; they are also legitimate teaching languages	YES	The Finnish Broadcasting Company is obliged to "...serve Finnish and Swedish speaking populations on equal terms and provide services in Sami, Roma and Sign languages". This obligation is fulfilled by the Sami Radio, Romano Mirits radio programme and television news and documentaries in Sami and Sign languages.	YES, in terms of language research and development support by the <i>Research Institute for the Languages in Finland</i> . In addition to Finnish and Swedish, these activities cover also Sami, Roma and Sign languages
<i>France</i>	1999	-	French	France accompany its signature with a Declaration stating its interpretation of the Charter. The reference in the Charter to "groups" of language-speakers did not appear to be compatible with the preamble to the French Constitution, which "guarantees the equality of all citizens before the law and recognises one French nation composed of all its citizens regardless of their origin, race or religion." The Declaration also stipulated the obligatory use of the French language by all government departments, public services and users, that the teaching of regional and minority languages be optional, and that all official versions of legislative texts be published in French. Language is an extremely sensitive matter and has led to different interpretations of such concepts as "state", "Europe" and "region".				

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<b><i>Georgia</i></b>	Not signed		Georgian and Abkhazian	<i>Law on Secondary Education(2005)</i> The state support: languages of minorities in the educational system. In Georgia, there are public primary and secondary schools for minorities (Azeri, Armenian, Russian). The publication of textbooks for minorities is provided by state procurement.	<i>Law on Culture (1997)</i> The state support: maintenance of minority cultures and development of their creative activities		Under the <i>Law on Broadcasting (2004; Article 16, para. l)</i> , public broadcasting shall "place programmes in the languages of minorities, about minorities and prepared by minorities in accordance with their share in the total population". Georgian radio and TV broadcast news programmes in Abkhaz, Azeri, Armenian, Russian and Ossetian. In addition, there is special public broadcasting in Abkhaz and Ossetian languages, which covers a part of Abkhazia and the total region of "South Ossetia".	-
<b><i>Germany</i></b>	1992	1999	German	Danish, North Frisian, Sater Frisian, Sorbian and Romany	Guaranteed in regions with larger shares of minority population	Special agreements and funds for Danish and Sorbian minorities	Languages of official minorities represented in the media, in addition to some programmes for migrants	YES (especially in official international contexts)
<b><i>Greece</i></b>	Not signed		Greek	NO	-	-	-	-
<b><i>Holy See</i></b>	Not signed		Latin (with Italian as working	NO	-	350 languages have been approved for worldwide liturgical	-	YES (Since 1976, the <i>Latinitas Foundation</i>

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			language and French in diplomacy)			use by the <i>Congregation for Divine Worship</i> .		promotes the study and use of Latin)
<b>Hungary</b>	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 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
<b>Iceland</b>	1999		Icelandic (though not in constitution)	-	-	-	-	YES (The Icelandic Language Fund supports the promotion of Icelandic)
<b>Ireland</b>	Not signed		Irish & English	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
<b>Italy</b>	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.	-	-
<b>Latvia</b>	Not signed		Latvian	Livonian language	Primary and secondary education available in Latvian and there are also about 200 minority / bilingual schools in Latvia; public support	More than 200 cultural NGOs of minorities registered in Latvia and supported by public financing both on	Public radio channel in Russian; Commercial radio and TV channels and private press – mostly in Russian but available also in other	YES

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					is available for education programmes in Russian, Byelorussian, Polish, Ukrainian, Jewish, Estonian, Lithuanian and Roma languages.	regular and project competition basis; Russian language theatres; Municipalities are implementing their own integration programmes.	languages (e.g. Polish, Ukrainian).	
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	1992	1998	German	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Lithuania</i>	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 financial support for institutions such as the Russian Drama Theatre of Lithuania).	<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 languages. Books and newspapers are available in the languages of national minorities.	-
<i>Luxembourg</i>	1992	2005	French, German, Luxembourgish	-	-	-	-	-
<i>FYR of Macedonia</i>	1996	Expected	Macedonian	Albanian, Serbian, Turkish, Romani and Vlach.	YES	Government provides funding to minority cultural projects such as book publishing, theatre productions, exhibitions, festivals	National TV and radio provide special programmes in languages of national minorities.	YES

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<i>Malta</i>	1992		Maltese, English					
<i>Moldova</i>	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.	-
<i>Monaco</i>	Not signed		French	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Montenegro</i>	2005	2006	Montenegrin	Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian, Croatian	-	-	-	-
<i>Netherlands</i>	1992	1998	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 amenities.	2005 <i>Covenant on the Frisian Language and Culture</i> includes articles on the promotion of Frisian language in the media.	YES
<i>Norway</i>	1992	1998	Norwegian with two forms, Bokmål and Nynorsk	Sàmi, Kvensk, Romanes and Romani	A funding scheme earmarked specifically for Sami child-care facilities. Several study programmes in Sami language, literature and culture.	administration of the Ministry's various grant schemes for Sami cultural is delegated to the Sámediggi	The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) has to safeguard and develop Sami language, culture and civic society. The licensing terms of the commercial Norwegian public service broadcasters	YES



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							also includes such an obligation.	
<i>Poland</i>	2003	2009	Polish	National minorities' languages: German, Ukrainian, Armenian, Belarussian, Lithuanian, Slovak, Czech, Russian, Hebrew/Yiddish; Ethnic minorities' languages: Karaitic, Lemkos, Romani, Tatarian and one regional language: Kashubian	Public schools are obliged to enable ethnic and national minorities to sustain national, ethnic, religious and language identity and to learn mother tongue, history and culture.	Local and state authorities provide funding lines for projects sustaining and developing cultural identity of minorities.	Government support for publishing activities of minority groups and for commercial media, which emit programs on national and ethnic minorities (such as "Racja" Radio, and Kaszebe Radio).	-
<i>Portugal</i>	Not signed		Portuguese	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Romania</i>	1995	2008	Romanian	Languages of 19 minority groups	-	-	-	YES
<i>Russia</i>	2001	Expected	Russian for the Russian Federation, title languages for national Republics.	All languages including those of minority groups.	<i>Article 26 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation (1993) establishes the right to use mother tongue languages and the freedom to choose the language of communication, education, learning and creativity.</i>	The legal instrument for cultural self-organisation is the <i>Law on National Cultural Autonomy</i> introduced in 1996, leading to 662 bodies (01.01.2007). <i>Law on the Rights Guaranteed for Indigenous Peoples (1999)</i> ; the <i>Law on General Principles of Organising Communes among the</i>	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.

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						<i>Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and of the Far East of the RF (2000)</i>		
<i>San Marino</i>	Not signed		Italian	No	Cultural associations of minorities enjoy special benefits, also of an economic nature.	The State sponsors events to highlight habits, traditions, cuisine, etc, of ethnic or cultural groups	-	-
<i>Serbia</i>	2005	2006	Serbian	Croatian, Bosnian, Albanian, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovakian, Ruthen (Rusin), Ukrainian, Bulgarian	Teaching in mother tongue at primary school level for all recognized minorities and at secondary school level in mother tongue for hungarians, slovakians, romanians and albanians.	Support to amateur cultural associations (choirs, folklore groups and amateur theaters) of all national minority groups, cultural centers and institutions (houses of culture)	Obligation to broadcast in all languages of minority group including Romani. Support for political / information periodicals and special support for cultural periodicals.	-
<i>Slovakia</i>	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 U.).	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

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<i>Slovenia</i>	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
<i>Spain</i>	1992	2001	Castillian, Basque, Catalan, Galician, Occitan (called Aranés in the Aran Valley), Valencian.	Basque, Catalan, Galician, Occitan and Valencian. It might be also considered regional or minority languages those protected by the regional laws in the territories where they are spoken (Catalan and Aragonese in Aragon and Bable in Asturias).	<i>Law of Education</i> (2006) guarantees the use of minority languages in all educative levels in bilingual communities.	National and regional governments provide funding to cultural projects (museums, archives, libraries, theatres, cinema, festivals, popular culture, publishing, etc.) in regional or minority languages.	According to the 2006 <i>State Radio and Television Act</i> , the Corporation of State Radio and Television (RTVE) must promote territorial cohesion and Spain's linguistic and cultural diversity (also on international radio and TV channels) and promote the production of AV contents in the languages of minority groups. National broadcasting coexists with regional and local state-funded radio and TV in territories with own languages. Regions also support periodicals in minority languages.	YES
<i>Sweden</i>	2000	2000	Swedish	Sami (all forms), Finnish, Meänkieli (Tornedal Finnish),	-	Municipalities provide support to associations, theatre,	State project funding available for publication of literature and periodi-	YES

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				Romani Chib (all forms) and Yiddish.		music and festivals.	calls. Radio and TV programmes in languages of ethnic minorities are supported by the government.	
<i>Switzerland</i>	1993	1998	German, French, Italian, Retromansh	-	-	-	New <i>Law on radio and television</i> to preserve minorities with official languages.	New <i>Law on Radio and Television</i> . It guarantees the independence and autonomy of radio and television as well as consideration for Switzerland's cultural communities
<i>Turkey</i>	Not signed		Turkish	-	-	-	Regional broadcasts in Arabic, Bosnian, Circassian and Kurdish	-
<i>Ukraine</i>	1996	2006	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".
<i>UK</i>	2000	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,	National <i>Gaelic Language Plan</i> – incl. national education strategy, Gaelic Secondary ICT Implementation Group, Guidance on Gaelic Education, Gaelic-medium Education Short-life Action Group; <i>Cornish</i>	<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	<i>Irish</i> : Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement - fund for Irish film and TV (GBP12m '05-09), increase TG4 reception; Isle of Man Government Plan - support the <i>Gaelic Broadcasting Committee, Communications Act</i>	-

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				ethnic minority languages.	Language Strategy; <i>Irish</i> : Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, <i>Ulster-Scots</i> Academy; Isle of Man Government Plan - extend <i>Manx</i> language teaching in schools; <i>Welsh</i> Assembly - Iaith Pawb (Everyone's Language) National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales.	<i>Irish</i> language magazine; <i>Welsh</i> Mercator - Literature Abroad project.	2003 - Gaelic Media Service (GBP8.7m funding '05-06); <i>Welsh</i> radio stations and TV channel (S4C), Sgrin - Media Agency for Wales.	

Source: Council of Europe/ERICarts, Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe, 12<sup>th</sup> edition, 2011.