

**REPORT ON THE USE OF NATIONAL
MINORITY LANGUAGES
IN THE TERRITORY OF THE SLOVAK
REPUBLIC FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2016¹**

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK
REPUBLIC
2017**

¹ pursuant to § 7a(2) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended

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Introduction

This is the third Report on the Use of National Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter the ‘Report’) submitted by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter ‘Office of the Government’) to the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter the ‘Slovak Government’) in accordance with § 7a(2) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended (hereinafter ‘Act No 184/1999 Coll.’). In accordance with the Act referred to above, the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (hereinafter the ‘Government Council’) takes a position on the Report before it is submitted to the Slovak Government. In order to collect information for the preparation of the Report, the Office of the Government is authorised to request public authorities to provide it with information and written documentation concerning the use of minority languages in the areas of their competence.

The present Report was drawn up by the Office of the Government in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter the ‘Office of the Plenipotentiary’). The Report covers the 2015-2016 period and summarises the national legislative framework for the use of national minority languages in the Slovak Republic, maps out the process and results of the implementation of the international legal framework for the protection of minority languages in the Slovak Republic, recent developments in the area of the institutional framework for the use of national minority languages in the Slovak Republic and compliance with the obligations and exercise of the rights arising from Act No 184/1999 Coll.

Act No 184/1999 Coll. lays down the obligations in the area of the use of national minority languages for local state administration authorities, local self-government authorities and legal persons established by local self-government authorities (hereinafter also ‘public authorities’) in the municipalities defined by Act No 184/1999 Coll. Within the meaning of § 7a(3) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., the Office of the Government is authorised to request public authorities to provide information and written documentation concerning the use of minority languages in the areas of their competence needed for the preparation of this Report.

In order to provide a comprehensive and, at the same time, detailed picture of the current situation regarding the use of national minority languages by all of the above entities, the Office of the Government has conducted an extensive questionnaire survey through the Office of the Plenipotentiary. The purpose of the survey was to collect data relating to the relevant areas of the use of national minority languages within the meaning of Act No 184/1999 Coll. over the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July 2016). Compared to the questionnaire survey conducted in 2014 when preparing the report for the 2013-2014 period, the scope of this questionnaire survey was extended both in terms of the types of respondents and the number of areas and situations covered by the survey, in which minority languages are used under the conditions laid down by the Act. Compared to the surveys conducted when preparing the previous reports, in this survey, the questions in the different types of questionnaires for each type of respondents were more detailed and extended to include

further possible alternatives. At the same time, the possibility to compare the data obtained with the data collected through the surveys for the previous reports was taken into account. We contacted 763 respondents in total (638 municipalities, 6 self-governing regions, 85 state administration authorities, 28 district directorates of the Police Force and 6 district directorates of the Fire and Rescue Service). We received questionnaires from 714 respondents, which represents a 94 % return rate.

On 8 August 2016, the questionnaire survey was sent out to all municipalities included in the list provided in the Annex to Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No 221/1999 Coll., issuing the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority account for at least 20 % of the population, as amended (hereinafter ‘Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll.’). These comprise a total of 638 municipalities, of which 507 are municipalities with a Hungarian minority population, 56 with a Ruthenian, 50 with a Roma, 6 with a Ukrainian and 1 municipality with a German minority population, as well as 18 municipalities with a population belonging to two national minorities (11 with both a Ruthenian and a Ukrainian minority population, 5 with both a Hungarian and a Roma minority population, 1 with both a Ukrainian and a Roma population and 1 with both a Ruthenian and a Roma minority population). Data collection took place between August and October 2016. In the interest of achieving the highest possible questionnaire return rate, the municipalities were repeatedly requested to send back their completed questionnaires, thanks to which a 92 % return rate was achieved. The questionnaire focused on analysing data in 7 thematic areas relating to the use of national minority languages under the competence of local self-government authorities as defined in Act No 184/1999 Coll. The municipalities were presented with a total of 74 questions on 7 topics in the following order: signs in minority languages (questions 1-10), official contact (questions 11-29), bilingual documents (questions 30-52), sessions of local self-government authorities (questions 53-57), informing the public (questions 58-66), the area of public contact (question 67) and final questions (questions 68-74). The fact that the scope of the current questionnaire has been extended is evident from a comparison with the questionnaire sent out to the municipalities in the context of the 2014 survey, which contained 16 questions. The questionnaire for municipalities is provided in Annex 1.

The present Report is the first to analyse in detail the area of the use of national minority languages by state administration authorities, thereby providing a deeper and more comprehensive picture of the use of national minority languages. The objective was to extend the questionnaire survey to include other groups of respondents who received questionnaires specifically designed to obtain data on particular areas or segments of the use of national minority languages. The following public administration entities were approached: 13 district offices, 18 tax offices, 12 customs offices, 23 labour, social affairs and family offices, 8 regional veterinary and food administrations, 6 regional public health authorities and 5 state archives. Of the total of 85 respondents, 82 respondents provided a response, which means that the questionnaire return rate was almost 97 %.

In this context, it should be noted that at the stage of data collection, complications occurred relating to the distribution and subsequent return of the questionnaires, which required additional intensive communication with the entities approached. It was also necessary to specify in detail the legal status and competence of the competent state administration entities, therefore, the Office of the Plenipotentiary contacted to the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter the 'MI SR') with a request for an opinion, in order to obtain legal certainty in the matter of identification of local state administration authorities. In its opinion, the MI SR, among other things, stated that within the meaning of Act No 180/2013 Coll., on the organisation of local state administration authorities and on amendments to certain acts, as amended, other local state administration authorities can be taken to mean state authorities other than district offices, which have been designated to perform state administration in a certain area, with a defined local competence, on the basis of special legislation. According to the MI SR, the diverse nature of legislation on state administration performed by state administration authorities with a local competence does not make it possible to list explicitly those entities that can be considered to fall under the term other local state administration authorities based on certain characteristics. The questionnaire for state administration authorities is provided in Annex 2.

For the first time, the Report maps out the area of the use of national minority languages by legal persons established by local self-government authorities (municipalities and self-governing regions). With a view to the fact that no list of such legal persons existed, in the context of preparing the questionnaire survey, the Office of the Plenipotentiary approached all of the relevant municipalities² and 6 self-governing regions (Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov region) in whose territory these municipalities are located with a request for cooperation in the collection of data relating to these entities. In this area, data for 41 legal persons established by local self-government authorities were processed.³ The questionnaire for legal persons established by local self-government authorities is provided in Annex 3.

For the first time since the entry into force of Act No 184/1999 Coll., the Report also pays attention to the use of national minority languages by Police Force and Fire and Rescue Service officers. The Office of the Plenipotentiary identified 28 district directorates of the Police Force, in which a minority language is used in official contact along with the State language. Of the total of 28 district directorates of the Police Force, 18 sent their completed questionnaires back, which represents a 64 % return rate. District directorates of the Police Force were requested to respond to 34 questions covering the following themes: official contact, bilingual documents, informing the public and final questions. All 6 district directorates of the Fire and Rescue Service sent their completed questionnaires back, which represents a 100 % return rate. District directorates of the Fire and Rescue Service were requested to respond to a total of 12 questions covering the following themes: official contact,

² Municipalities included in the list of municipalities provided in the Annex to Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll., i.e. 638 municipalities.

³ For further details, please see: Part 3.2 Legal persons established by local self-government authorities, p. 39.

informing the public and final questions. The questionnaires for the Police Force and the Fire and Rescue Service can be found in Annex 4 and 5.

The purpose of such a broadly conceived report is not only to present comprehensive data on the situation regarding the use of national minority languages in the Slovak Republic, but also, based on an analysis of this data, to identify those areas where deficiencies exist in application practice.

1. National legislative and institutional framework for the use of national minority languages

1.1. National legislative framework for the use of national minority languages

The legislative framework for the use of national minority languages in the Slovak Republic is covered in detail in the 2012 Report on the Use of National Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic and the follow-up Report on the Use of National Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic for the 2013-2014 period. Therefore, the present Report contains only the basic legislative framework for the use of national minority languages and focuses on recent documents of a non-legislative nature with a substantial impact on the area of the use of national minority languages since no relevant changes have occurred in the legislative area in the period under review.

Under Article 34 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, citizens representing national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic are, inter alia, guaranteed the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue, the right to receive education in their language and the right to use their language in official contact. The legislative framework for the use of national minority languages is complemented by a whole range of other legislation of general application as envisaged in the Constitution.⁴

The use of the State language and the rules for the use of other languages in relation to the State language, including national minority languages, are governed by Act No 270/1995 Coll., on the State language of the Slovak Republic, as amended (hereinafter ‘Act No 270/1995 Coll.’).

The purpose of Act No 184/1999 Coll. is to lay down the rules for the use of national minority languages in official contact and in other area governed by this Act in connection with international treaties binding on the Slovak Republic and in connection with special laws. Act No 184/1999 Coll. constitutes a *lex specialis*, as long as this status is granted to the Act under Act No 270/1995 Coll. Within the meaning of the Act referred to above, national minority languages include Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian and Ukrainian. The applicability of Act No 184/1999 Coll. is territorially limited as most of its provisions apply exclusively within the territory of municipalities listed in Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll. One exception is the use of national minority languages in oral communication with civil servants, subject to consent of the civil servant and persons participating in the proceedings. Another exception is the use of customary and long-established place-names other than names of municipalities along with the standardised place-names in specialist publications, the press and other means of mass communication, and in official activities of public authorities, if these authorities use a national minority language. The legislation implementing Act No 184/1999 Coll. comprises Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No 535/2011 of 19 December 2011 implementing certain

⁴ See: 2012 Report on the Use of National Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic in accordance with § 7a(2) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended: <http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/spravy-a-koncepcne-materialy/>

provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended (hereinafter ‘Government Regulation No 535/2011 Coll.’) and Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll.

In connection with legislative changes in the relevant area, it should be noted that three new codes were adopted on 21 May 2015: the Code of Adversarial Procedure (Act No 160/2015 Coll.), the Code of Non-Adversarial Procedure (Act No 161/2015 Coll.) and the Code of Administrative Procedure (Act No 162/2015 Coll.), which entered into force on 1 July 2016. This legislation introduced changes in the financing of the costs related to translation of submissions or evidence in civil and administrative court proceedings, which are unfavourable to citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to national minorities. This change is not compatible with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter the ‘Language Charter’).

Under § 155 of Act No 160/2015 Coll., the Code of Adversarial Procedure, every person has the right to address the court in a language they understand. Where a submission or a piece of evidence is not in the State language, the court requests the person who presented it to arrange for translation thereof in accordance with special legislation within a set time limit; otherwise, it provides for the translation itself. Under the Act, the cost of interpreting is borne by the State. This does not apply to costs related to the translation of documentary evidence. Under § 54 of Act No 162/2015 Coll., the Code of Administrative Procedure, every person has the right to address administrative courts in a language they understand. Where a written submission or a piece of evidence are not in the State language, the administrative court requests the person who presented them to arrange for translation thereof in accordance with special legislation within a set time limit; otherwise, the court provides for the translation itself. Under the Act, the cost of interpreting is borne by the State. This does not apply to costs related to the translation of written submissions or evidence. The Office of the Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, will continue to pay attention to this issue.

The most important recent documents of a non-legislative nature with an impact on the area of the use of national minority languages include the Policy Statement of the Slovak Government for the 2016-2020 period, in which the Government undertook to create, on the basis of an analysis, conditions for aligning the practices in ethnically mixed areas with Act No 184/1999 Coll., as amended. In the area of linguistic rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the Slovak Government also undertook to ensure alignment of the Railways Act with Act No 184/1999 Coll. in the area of displaying the names of railway stations and stops in ethnically mixed areas.⁵

Another important document of a non-legislative nature relating to the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including linguistic rights, is the Action Plan to Protect the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for the

⁵ The present Report also examines this area in the part dedicated to analysing the results of the survey with regard to local self-government authorities.

2016-2020 period (hereinafter the ‘Action Plan’) approved by the Slovak Government at its 26 October 2016 session through Resolution No 492/2016.⁶

1.2 Institutional framework for the use of national minority languages

As regards the institutional framework for the use of national minority languages in the Slovak Republic and the developments in this area in the period under review, information about the activities and actions of the entities engaged in this area should be provided.

1.2.1 Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic – provision of expert and methodological assistance in the area of the use of national minority languages

Within the meaning of § 7a(1) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., the Office of the Government provides expert and methodological assistance to public authorities and organisational units of security forces and rescue services with regard to the implementation of this Act. To this end, the Office of the Government set up an Expert Committee for the application of Act No 184/1999 Coll., which is a permanent advisory body to the Head of the Civil Service Office of the Office of the Government.

The Office of the Government also handles administrative offences in the area of the use of national minority languages. In 2015, the secretariat of the Head of the Civil Service Office received 2 complaints from natural persons concerning suspected breaches of § 2(5) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. and 1 complaint from a legal person concerning suspected breach of § 2(6) and § 4(1) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. in 68 Ruthenian municipalities. As the competent authority in the area of the use of national minority languages within the meaning of Act No 184/1999 Coll., in a letter addressed to the municipalities in question, the Office of the Government requested that they eliminate the identified deficiencies. These municipalities responded to the request of the Office of the Government and eliminated the deficiencies, except one municipality, on which a penalty was imposed.

In 2016, the Office of the Government received a collective submission from one legal person bringing attention to a matter of 117 cases of breaches of § 4(6) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. Act No 184/1999 Coll. was allegedly breached in respect of electricity production installations in the municipalities listed in Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll. where information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic was not displayed in publicly accessible places in the minority language, along with the State language. As the competent authority, the Office of the Government, in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities, acted on the matter and forwarded to the relevant legal person a request to provide an opinion on the complaint and eliminate these deficiencies, including the submission of the relevant photographic evidence.

In respect of the application of Act No 184/1999 Coll., citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority may also contact institutions providing help in the area of

⁶ Further details on this document can be found in subchapter 1.2.2 Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities – activities aimed at promoting the use of national minority languages.

human rights, such as the Public Defender of Rights or the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, including the Office of the Plenipotentiary. In a separate report⁷, the Public Defender of Rights stated that no submissions were filed in 2015 concerning breaches of these fundamental rights of national minorities guaranteed under the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. In this document, she also proposed a legislative amendment to align the provisions of § 2(5) with § 3(4) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. so that they do not contradict each other and that official bilingual extracts from the records of registrar's offices (birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates) can be issued in minority languages without hindrance.⁸

1.2.2 Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities –cooperation in the provision of expert and methodological assistance in the area of the use of national minority languages

The Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities, or a person designated to perform the tasks of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter the 'Plenipotentiary') is, within the meaning of the statute, tasked with duties in the area of conservation, development and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, implements systemic measures to improve the status of persons belonging to national minorities and, within the scope of the Plenipotentiary's competence, sees to the improvement of education and training for persons belonging to national minorities. On 13 April 2016, László Bukovszky was appointed the Plenipotentiary by the Slovak Government.

In the area of the use of national minority languages, the Office of the Plenipotentiary provides assistance to, and cooperates with, the Office of the Government in the handling of complaints submitted under Act No 184/1999 Coll., provision of expert and methodological assistance to public authorities and organisational units of security forces and rescue services, and the drafting of the biannual reports on the use of national minority languages in the Slovak Republic.

The key activities of the Office of the Plenipotentiary include the preparation of documents of a non-legislative nature with an impact on the area of the use of national minority languages. In this regard, the Office of the Plenipotentiary, in collaboration with the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (hereinafter the 'Committee') and with involvement of representatives of national minorities, participated in the drawing up of the draft Action Plan. This Action Plan was approved by the Slovak Government on 26 October 2016 with the aim of providing an effective, transparent and reliable system of protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, including the strengthening of the relevant institutional framework. The Action Plan was drawn up in accordance with Government Resolution No 71/2015 of 18 February 2015,

⁷ Report on the Activities of the Public Defender of Rights for the calendar year of 2015: <http://www.vop.gov.sk/vyrocnne-spravy-o-cinnosti>

⁸ Report on the Activities of the Public Defender of Rights for the calendar year of 2015: <http://www.vop.gov.sk/vyrocnne-spravy-o-cinnosti>

which approved the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Slovak Republic and contained the instruction to draw up, within the applicable scope of competence, action plans for those vulnerable and marginalised groups and individuals for which no legislative and institutional frameworks, specific strategies or application frameworks existed. The Head of the Office of the Government assigned this task to the Office of the Plenipotentiary. The draft Action Plan was approved by both the Committee and the Government Council, which recommended that the Slovak Government approve the draft. The Slovak Government approved this document on 26 October 2016 through Resolution No 492/2016.

The Action Plan sets out seven operational objectives elaborated into specific measures and actions, for which time frames have been specified, as well as the responsible ministries and cooperating parties. The objectives of the Action Plan also focus on improving the practical conditions for the use of the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups. The document contains the following specific measures and activities in this area:

- more effective provision of expert and methodological assistance and provision of translations of fundamental legislation of the Slovak Republic and official forms, creation of consistent technical terminology and issuance of methodological guidelines for local state administration authorities, local self-government authorities and legal persons established by local self-government authorities for the application of legislation relating to the use of the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups;
- analysis of the cost of extending the availability of services of local state administration authorities, local self-government authorities and legal persons established by local self-government authorities to persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the area of the use of minority languages in official contact;
- extending the availability of services of local state administration authorities, local self-government authorities and legal persons established by local self-government authorities to persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups by providing training to the staff of these authorities;
- taking the needs of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups into account in public administration reform.

Within the meaning of § 7a(1) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., the Office of the Government, through the Office of the Plenipotentiary, provides expert and methodological assistance to public authorities and organisational units of security forces and rescue services with regard to the implementation of this Act. In this respect, the Office of the Government also provides for the management of terminology in minority languages, in particular by creating specialised glossaries in minority languages. The Office of the Plenipotentiary, in collaboration with recognised experts active as lawyers and linguists, developed four specialised bilingual glossaries: Slovak-Hungarian, Slovak-Roma, Slovak-Ruthenian and Slovak-Ukrainian. The Slovak parts of the specialised glossaries have been subjected to

professional linguistic review, thereby partially completing the work on the glossaries. These glossaries have been made available at the following website: <http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/odborne-terminologicke-slovniky-v-jazykoch-narodnostnych-mensin/>.

1.2.3 Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups

As a standing expert body of the Government Council for issues concerning persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, in respect of the implementation of the Language Charter and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter the ‘Framework Convention’), the Committee presents to the Government Council annual evaluation reports, which also concern the use of national minority languages.

On the basis of a proposal from the representative of the Serbian minority and the representative of the Russian minority, the Committee initiated the process of recognition of Russian and Serbian as minority languages in the Slovak Republic within the meaning of the Language Charter and, through the Office of the Plenipotentiary, the process has been successfully finalised.⁹ In this context, Government Resolution No 618/2015 tasked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic to notify the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of the recognition of the Russian and Serbian languages as minority languages in the Slovak Republic for the purposes of Part II of the Language Charter. In accordance with the above Resolution, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe was notified of the recognition of the Russian and Serbian languages as minority languages in the Slovak Republic for the purposes of Part II of the Language Charter in a letter from the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the Council of Europe dated 25 November 2015. The Slovak Republic’s declaration was registered by the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe on 27 November 2015.¹⁰

⁹ The proposal to recognise the Russian and Serbian languages as minority languages in the Slovak Republic within the meaning of Part II of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was approved by the Slovak Government on 18 November 2015 through Resolution No 618/2015.

¹⁰ See: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/search-on-treaties/-/conventions/treaty/148/declarations>

2. Institutional framework for the use of national minority languages in the Slovak Republic

The Slovak Republic's international commitments in the area of the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities have been analysed, together with a detailed description of the international legislative framework for the use of national minority languages, in reports on the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities for 2012 and for 2013-2014¹¹, as well as in the 2015 Report on the Situation and Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities¹². The present Report provides information on recent developments in the implementation of, and compliance with, these commitments in the context of the monitoring processes in the course of the period under review.

2.1 European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The Language Charter now applies to eleven minority languages in the Slovak Republic: Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Russian, Ruthenian, Serbian and Ukrainian. The Parties to the Language Charter can, within certain limitations, choose which of the provisions of the Language Charter will apply to the respective regional or minority language spoken in their territories. The Slovak Republic has chosen between 49 to 53 provisions of Part III of the Language Charter for nine minority languages: Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian and Ukrainian, which are divided into three groups depending on the provisions chosen: 1) Hungarian, 2) Ruthenian and Ukrainian, 3) other languages: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Polish and Romani. The Russian and Serbian languages have been recognised as minority languages within the meaning of Part II of the Language Charter.

The fourth cycle of monitoring of the Slovak Republic's compliance with the commitments under the Language Charter was completed with recommendations from the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (hereinafter the 'Committee of Ministers') on 27 April 2016, which were based on the report from the Language Charter Committee of Experts (hereinafter the 'Committee of Experts') and the Slovak Republic's opinion on the report.

The Committee of Ministers recommended that the Slovak Republic's authorities take into account all observations and recommendations from the Committee of Experts and that they, in particular:

- review the requirements relating to the threshold value for the undertakings in the field of administration to be operational;

¹¹ See: 2012 Report on the Use of National Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic in accordance with § 7a(2) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended, and the Report on the Use of National Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic for the 2013-2014 period: <http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/spravy-a-koncepcne-materialy>

¹² See: 2015 Report on the Situation and Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities: http://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/6532_sprava-o-postaveni-a-pravach-prislusnikov-nm-2015.pdf

- increase efforts to provide for the teaching in or of all regional or minority languages at all appropriate levels;
- adopt measure to improve teacher-training in regional and minority language education;
- increase support for television, radio and press in all regional or minority languages;
- continue to adopt measures to abolish unjustified enrolments of Roma children in separate schools or classes and start to introduce Roma-language education for Roma children on a large scale;
- raise awareness and promote tolerance in the Slovak society at large vis-a-vis the regional or minority languages and the cultures they represent.

In this area, the Public Defender of Rights recommended in a special report¹³ that compliance with the Language Charter be ensured in the activities of schools as public authorities and that conditions be created for primary schools to include Romani among teaching subjects.

2.2 Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

As a State Party to the Framework Convention, the Slovak Republic has committed itself to presenting in regular five-year intervals reports on legislative and other measures adopted to fulfil the commitments set out in the Framework Convention. As regards the implementation of the Framework Convention in the Slovak Republic, the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers of 13 April 2016 closed the fourth monitoring cycle. The report on the course and results of the fourth cycle of monitoring of the standard of implementation of the Framework Convention was approved by the Committee at its XXIst session on 13 September 2016.

The Committee of Ministers recommended the following actions for the Slovak Republic in the area of minority language:

- increase support to minority language media, particularly in the languages of numerically smaller minorities and in Romani;
- ensure that the rights contained in § 4 of Act No 184/1999 Coll. are effectively implemented in all designated municipalities and with regard to all relevant languages, including Romani;
- develop a flexible approach towards the implementation of the legislative framework on the use of minority languages, and promote pragmatic solutions to accommodate the demands of the population in line with the principles contained in the Framework Convention;
- ensure that teachers of minority language schools have adequate access to relevant training programmes for teaching in all subjects and ensure that textbooks contain adequate portrayals of all national minority communities and their history in Slovakia;

¹³ See: Report on the Activities of the Public Defender of Rights for the calendar year of 2015: <http://www.vop.gov.sk/vyrocnne-spravy-o-cinnosti>

- increase efforts to maintain high quality minority language education and to pursue a close dialogue with national minority representatives, parents and school administrations to ensure that the eventual closure of small schools does not hinder effective opportunities for persons belonging to national minorities to learn in their minority languages.

3. Situation regarding the use of national minority languages by public administration entities – results of the questionnaire survey

3.1 Local self-government (municipalities)

Questionnaire return rate

According to Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll., there are a total of 656 municipalities where at least 20 % of the population are citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority. This group of municipalities includes 18 municipalities with populations belonging to two national minorities, which are mentioned in the list twice (11 Ukrainian-Ruthenian municipalities, 5 Hungarian-Roma municipalities, 1 Ukrainian-Roma municipality and 1 Ruthenian-Roma municipality). It follows from the above that the actual number of municipalities where at least 20 % of the population are citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority is 638. This means that these 638 municipalities were supposed to send back 656 questionnaires. We received 604 questionnaires from the municipalities, which represent a 92 % return rate. Compared to the return rate of questionnaires sent to municipalities in the context of the preparation of the preceding two reports, this was the highest return rate achieved so far. The absolute numbers and percentages are shown in Table 1. The numbers are broken down to individual national minorities and municipalities with populations belonging to two national minorities are counted twice in this case.

Even though the total return rate increased in 2016, the return rate of questionnaires from municipalities with populations belonging to the Ukrainian minority and the Roma minority significantly decreased. This relates to the fact that of the 11 municipalities with Ruthenian and Ukrainian minorities, 3 municipalities also completed the questionnaire for the Ukrainian national minority, and one of the 7 municipalities with a population belonging to another minority in addition to the Roma minority included the Roma minority in the questionnaire.

The questionnaire focused on analysing data in 7 thematic areas relating to the use of national minority languages under the competence of local self-government authorities as defined in Act No 184/1999 Coll. The municipalities were presented with a total of 74 questions on 7 topics in the following order: signs in minority languages (questions 1-10), official contact (questions 11-29), bilingual documents (questions 30-52), sessions of local self-government authorities (questions 53-57), informing the public (questions 58-66), the area of public contact (question 67) and final questions (questions 68-74). The fact that the scope of the current questionnaire has been extended is evident from a comparison with the questionnaire sent out to the municipalities in the context of the 2014 survey, which contained 16 questions. The questionnaire for municipalities is provided in Annex 1.

Table 1: Comparison of the return rates of questionnaires sent to municipalities in the surveys conducted in 2012, 2014 and 2016

	2012	% share	2014	% share	2016	% share
Hungarian	470	92 %	450	88 %	486	95 %
Ruthenian	53	78 %	49	72 %	64	94 %
Roma	47	82 %	44	77 %	45	79 %
Ukrainian	14	78 %	16	89 %	8	44 %
German	1	100 %	1	100 %	1	100 %
TOTAL	585	89 %	560	85 %	604	92 %

3.1.1 Signs in minority languages (questions 1-10)

In this part, municipalities were requested to indicate the name of the municipality in the State language and in the language of the relevant national minority; 518 (84 %) municipalities indicated a name conforming to Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll., 45 (7 %) municipalities did not indicate a name conforming to Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll. and 51 (8 %) municipalities did not respond.

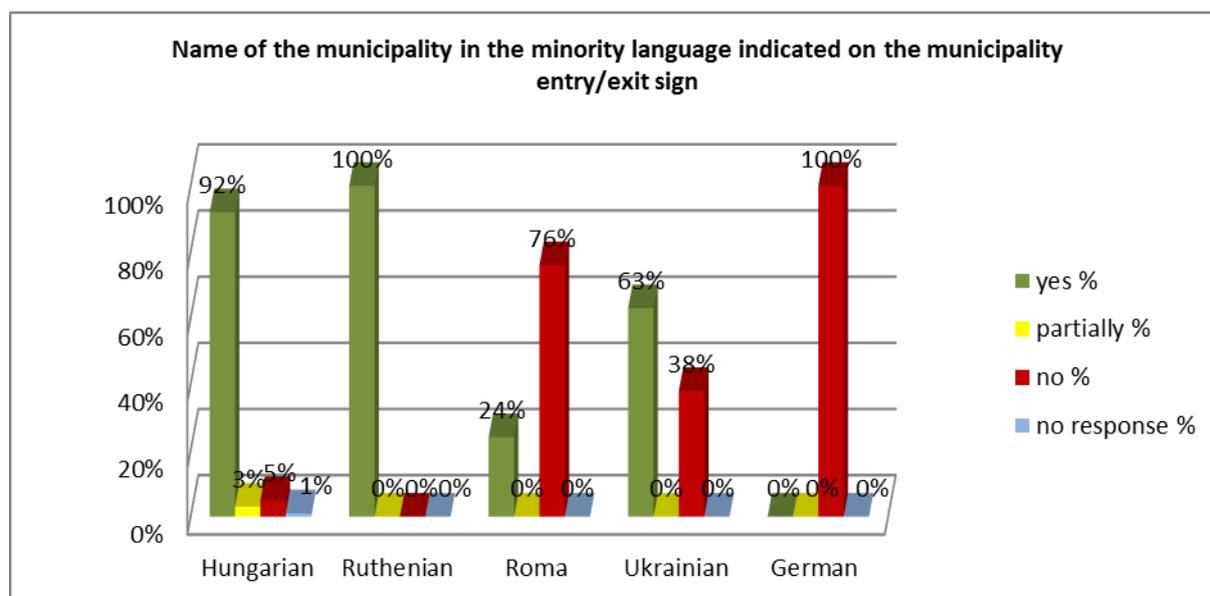
Table 2: Name of the municipality in the minority language

	the name conforms to the Government Regulation	% share	the name does not conform to the Government Regulation	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	450	93 %	16	3 %	20	4 %	486
Ruthenian	42	66 %	15	39 %	7	11 %	64
Roma	20	44 %	3	7 %	22	49 %	45
Ukrainian	5	63 %	1	13 %	2	25 %	8
German	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	518	84 %	45	7 %	51	8 %	604

The survey results also showed that a total of 527 (87 %) municipalities complied with the obligation to indicate the name of the municipality in the minority language on municipality entry/exit signs. This obligation was satisfied by all municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population. In municipalities with a Hungarian minority population, this obligation was met by 447 (92 %) municipalities. In connection with municipalities with a Roma minority population, it should be noted that according to Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll., the name of a municipality in Romani is identical with that in the State language. The only municipality with a population belonging to the German minority stated that it did not use the sign, even though two years ago, it reported that it did use the sign. A comparison of the results with those from the preceding survey shows that the total proportion of positive replies did not change (87 %).

Table 3: Name of the municipality in the minority language is indicated on the municipality entry/exit sign

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	447	92 %	13	3 %	22	5 %	4	1 %	486
Ruthenian	64	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	64
Roma	11	24 %	0	0 %	34	76 %	0	0 %	45
Ukrainian	5	63 %	0	0 %	3	38 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	527	87 %	13	2 %	60	10 %	4	1 %	604



The name of the municipality in the minority language is displayed below the name in the State language on signs at railway or bus stations¹⁴ in 65 (11 %) municipalities, 64 of which were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and one was a municipality with a Ruthenian minority population. Such signs were partially¹⁵ used in 32 (5 %) municipalities. Municipalities with a Ukrainian, Roma and German minority population did not use signs in minority languages at railway or bus stations.

¹⁴ According to § 4(3) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., “in municipalities referred to in § 2(1), the name of the municipality in the minority language may also be displayed on signs at railway stations, bus stations, airports and river ports. The name of the municipality in the minority language shall be displayed below the name in the State language using the same or smaller font size.” These signs must comply with the relevant special legislation, e.g. Act No 513/2009 Coll., on railways and amendments to certain acts, as amended.

¹⁵ Note: ‘Partially’ was one of the possible answers for some questions in the questionnaire. This answer was chosen by respondents who fulfilled a statutory obligation or used a statutory option in some cases, but not to the full extent.

Table 4: Name of the municipality in the minority language is displayed below the name in the State language on signs at the railway or bus station

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	64	13 %	32	7 %	319	66 %	71	15 %	486
Ruthenian	1	2 %	0	0 %	46	72 %	17	27 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	41	91 %	4	9 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	65	11 %	32	5 %	415	69 %	92	15 %	604

In 74 (12 %) municipalities, the names were displayed using the same font size and in 11 (2 %) municipalities the signs were displayed using a smaller font size (of these, 10 were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and one was a municipality with a Ruthenian minority population).

Table 5: Name of the municipality in the minority language is displayed below the name in the State language on signs at the railway or bus station

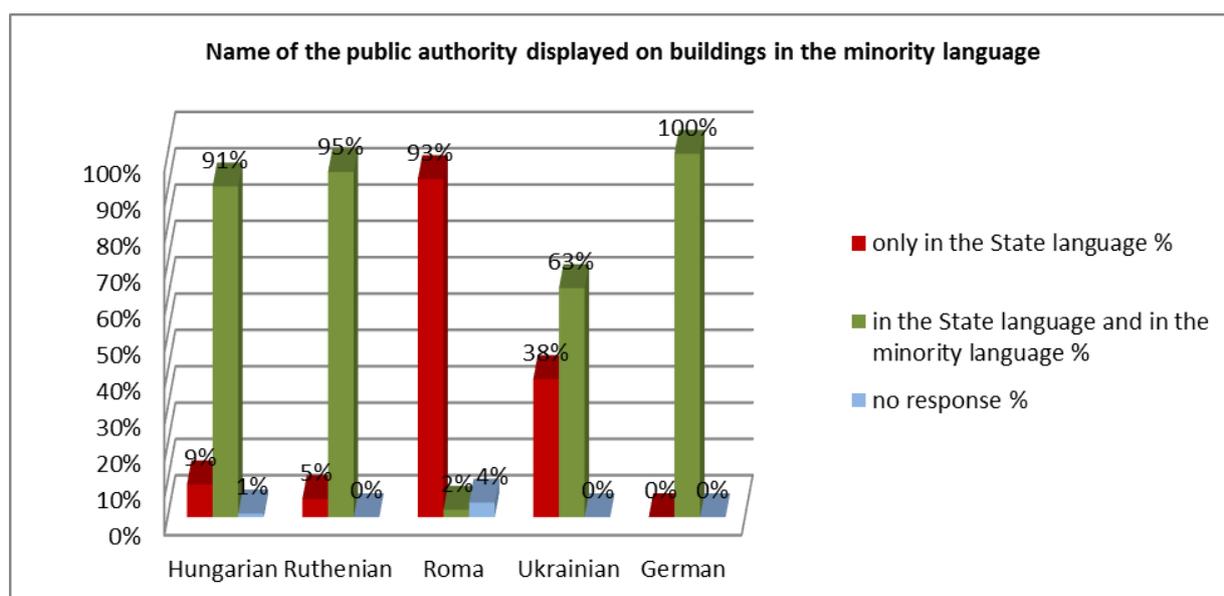
	same font size	% share	smaller font size	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	74	15 %	10	2 %	402	83 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	1	2 %	63	98 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	45	100 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
T O T A L	74	12 %	11	2 %	519	86 %	604

The obligation to display the name of the public authority¹⁶ on buildings in the State language and in the minority language was fulfilled by 508 (84 %) municipalities. Based on the result of the previous survey, it can be stated that the number of municipalities with signs complying with Act No 184/1999 Coll. has increased. The percentage of municipalities with a Hungarian, Ruthenian or German minority populations exceeded 90 %. From among the municipalities with a population belonging to the Roma minority, the signs were bilingual in only one of them.

¹⁶ Note: according to § 2(6) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., “signs displaying the name of the public authority on buildings in municipalities referred to in paragraph (1) shall also be provided in the minority language.” Nevertheless, the Act fails to define more closely which public authorities these provisions concern. Under § 10(1) of Act No 369/1990 Coll., on municipalities, as amended, municipal bodies include the municipal council and the mayor, but the Act does not define whether the municipal office is considered to be a municipal self-government body. However, given the fact that most municipal self-government bodies (mayor, municipal council, facultative bodies, etc.) generally do not have their own buildings and use the municipal office building, in practice the Act is taken to apply to municipal office buildings.

Table 6: Name of the public authority displayed on buildings in the minority language

	only in the State language	% share	in the State language and in the minority language	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	43	9 %	440	91 %	3	1 %	486
Ruthenian	3	5 %	61	95 %	0	0 %	64
Roma	42	93 %	1	2 %	2	4 %	45
Ukrainian	3	38 %	5	63 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	91	15 %	508	84 %	5	1 %	604



In 407 (67 %) municipalities, the same font size was used on the signs, and, in 95 (16 %) municipalities a smaller font size was used.

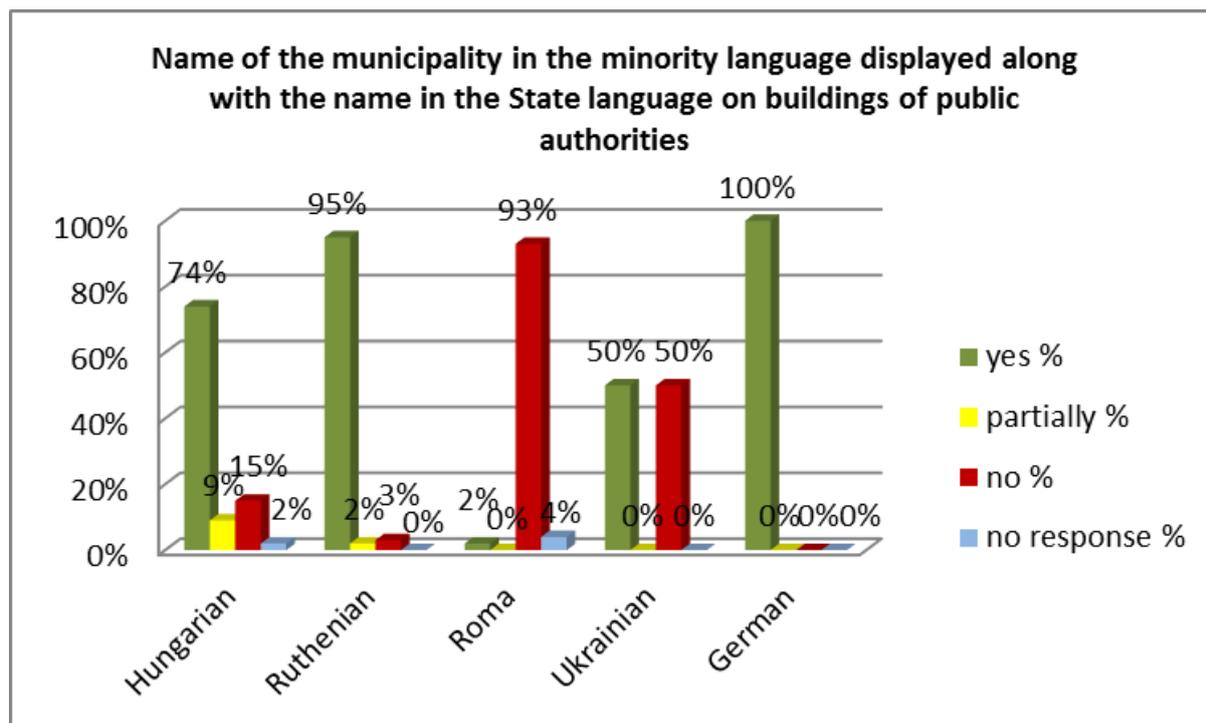
Table 7: Name of the public authority in the minority language displayed on buildings along with the equivalent in the State language

	same font size	% share	smaller font size	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	361	74 %	78	16 %	47	10 %	486
Ruthenian	40	63 %	15	23 %	19	30 %	64
Roma	2	4 %	1	2 %	42	93 %	45
Ukrainian	3	38 %	1	13 %	4	50 %	8
German	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	407	67 %	95	16 %	112	19 %	604

The name of the municipality in the minority language is displayed on the buildings of public authorities along with the name in the State language in 429 (71 %) municipalities, of which 61 were municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population, 4 were municipalities with a Ukrainian minority population and one was a municipality with a Roma minority population. 44 (7 %) municipalities partially displayed the name of the municipality in the minority language on buildings of public authorities.

Table 8: Name of the municipality in the minority language displayed along with the name in the State language on buildings of public authorities

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	362	74 %	43	9 %	71	15 %	10	2 %	486
Ruthenian	61	95 %	1	2 %	2	3 %	0	0 %	64
Roma	1	2 %	0	0 %	42	93 %	2	4 %	45
Ukrainian	4	50 %	0	0 %	4	50 %	0	0 %	8
German	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	429	71 %	44	7 %	120	20 %	12	2 %	604



According to Act No 184/1999 Coll., municipalities defined by the Act can, within their territories, use street names and other local place-names in minority languages. The survey results revealed that bilingual street-name signs were used in 100 (17 %) municipalities and bilingual local place-name signs were used in 31 (5 %) municipalities. From among the 100 municipalities using bilingual street-name signs, 98 were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population; two were municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population. Street-name signs in the State language were used in 48 (8 %) municipalities. No municipalities with a Ukrainian, Roma and German minority population used bilingual street-name signs.

In this context, it is important to note that many smaller municipalities do not use street names at all and this question could only be answered by those municipalities where it was applicable. According to the 2014 survey, all or some streets had bilingual signs in 103 municipalities with a Hungarian minority population, hence, the current number of these municipalities is slightly lower. On the contrary, when it comes to municipalities with a

Ruthenian minority population, which did not use any street signs in 2014, there are now two municipalities with such signs.

As regards local place-names, 30 municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and one municipality with a Ruthenian minority population reported that they used place-names in both the State language and the minority language. Local place-name signs in the State language were used in 41 municipalities. No municipalities with a Ukrainian, Roma and German minority population used bilingual local place-name signs.

Table 9: Street-name signs in the minority language

	only in the State language	% share	in the State language and in the minority language	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	37	8 %	98	20 %	351	72 %	486
Ruthenian	1	2 %	2	3 %	61	95 %	64
Roma	10	22 %	0	0 %	35	78 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
T O T A L	48	8 %	100	17 %	456	75 %	604

Table 10: Local place-names in the minority language

	only in the State language	% share	in the State language and in the minority language	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	28	6 %	30	6 %	351	72 %	486
Ruthenian	2	3 %	1	2 %	61	95 %	64
Roma	11	24 %	0	0 %	35	78 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
T O T A L	41	7 %	31	5 %	456	75 %	604

3.1.2 Official contact (questions 11-29)

An important area of interest of the survey was compliance with the obligations of municipalities regarding the use of national minority languages in official contact, which comprises several subareas. In this context, this year's survey again focused on identifying the number of staff of municipal offices who have a speaking and writing knowledge of the relevant minority language.

The survey results showed that a significant number of the staff municipalities had knowledge of the relevant minority language. In municipalities with a Hungarian minority population, 87 % of staff had knowledge of Hungarian (73 % could speak and write and 14 % could speak Hungarian). In the case of municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population, 92 % of the staff of these municipalities had knowledge of Ruthenian (35 % could speak and write and 57 % could speak Ruthenian). In municipalities with a Roma minority population, 10 % of staff had knowledge of Romani (7 % could speak and write and 3 % could speak Romani). In municipalities with a Ukrainian minority population, 67 % of staff had knowledge of Ukrainian (46 % could speak and write and 21 % could speak Ukrainian). In the

case of the German national minority, no member of staff of the respective municipal office had knowledge of German (in 2012 and 2014, there was one member of staff of the municipal office who spoke German).

When comparing the results with those from previous surveys, it can be stated that the overall knowledge of minority languages slightly decreased, most significantly in the case of Romani and German¹⁷:

- Hungarian in 2012: 88 %, 2016: 87 %;
- Ruthenian in 2012: 96 %, 2016: 92 %;
- Ukrainian in 2012: 80 %, 2016: 67 %;
- Romani in 2012: 26 %, 2016: 10 %;
- German in 2012: 100 %, 2016: 0 %.

Speaking and writing knowledge of minority languages decreased further:

- Hungarian in 2014: 77 %, 2016: 73 %;
- Ruthenian in 2014: 53 %, 2016: 35 %;
- Ukrainian in 2014: 83 %, 2016: 46 %;
- Romani in 2014: 13 %, 2016: 7 %.

Table 11: Number and proportion of staff who have knowledge of a minority language

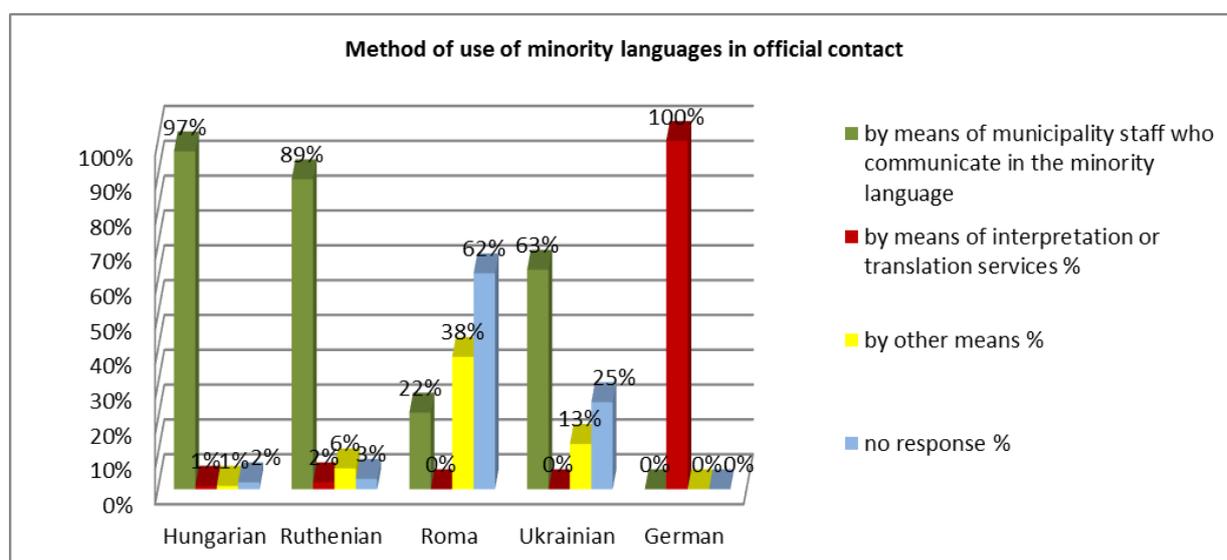
	total number	speaking and writing	% share	speaking	% share	total	% share
Hungarian	5 843	4 279	73 %	795	14 %	5 074	87 %
Ruthenian	216	75	35 %	124	57 %	199	92 %
Roma	457	31	7 %	15	3 %	46	10 %
Ukrainian	28	13	46 %	6	21 %	19	67 %
German	3	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %

Under Act No 184/1999 Coll., municipalities defined by this Act are required to create conditions for the use of minority languages. The method of providing for these conditions is left to their discretion. In 541 (90 %) municipalities, the conditions for exercising the right to communicate orally and in writing in a minority language are created by means of the municipality's own staff, 6 (1 %) municipalities make use of interpretation or translation services. In 27 municipalities, this possibility is provided for by other means: in two municipalities, by means members of the municipal council, in one municipality, by means of the mayor who had knowledge of the minority language, two municipalities stated that they provided for the exercise of this right in oral communication and 22 municipalities reported that they did not provide for such a possibility since the municipality's residents belonging to a national minority had both speaking and writing knowledge of the State language and did not have knowledge of the minority language in its standardised form or were not interested in communicating in the minority language.

¹⁷ In this respect, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family stated that according to field data available to the Ministry, in closed communities, Romani is used more broadly, therefore, based on these findings, the Ministry recommends that the entities operating in this field prepare bilingual Romani-Slovak documents so that the social, health and educational matters are comprehensible to those Roma who communicate in Romani.

Table 12: Method of use of minority languages in official contact

	municipal staff	% share	interpretation or translation services	% share	other method	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	469	97 %	4	1 %	5	1 %	8	2 %	486
Ruthenian	57	89 %	1	2 %	4	6 %	2	3 %	64
Roma	10	22 %	0	0 %	17	38 %	28	62 %	45
Ukrainian	5	63 %	0	0 %	1	13 %	2	25 %	8
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	541	90 %	6	1 %	27	4 %	40	7 %	604



Act No 184/1999 Coll. lays down that municipalities may specify a time slot for dealing with matters in minority languages. The survey results showed that 47 (8 %) municipalities had specified such a time slot. These include 37 municipalities with a Hungarian, 9 municipalities with a Ruthenian and one municipality with a Roma minority population. None of the municipalities with Ukrainian and German specified a time slot for dealing with matters in the minority languages.

Table 13: Time slot specified for dealing with matters in the minority language

	yes	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	37	8 %	441	91 %	8	2 %	486
Ruthenian	9	14 %	54	84 %	1	2 %	64
Roma	1	2 %	41	91 %	3	7 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	47	8 %	545	90 %	12	2 %	604

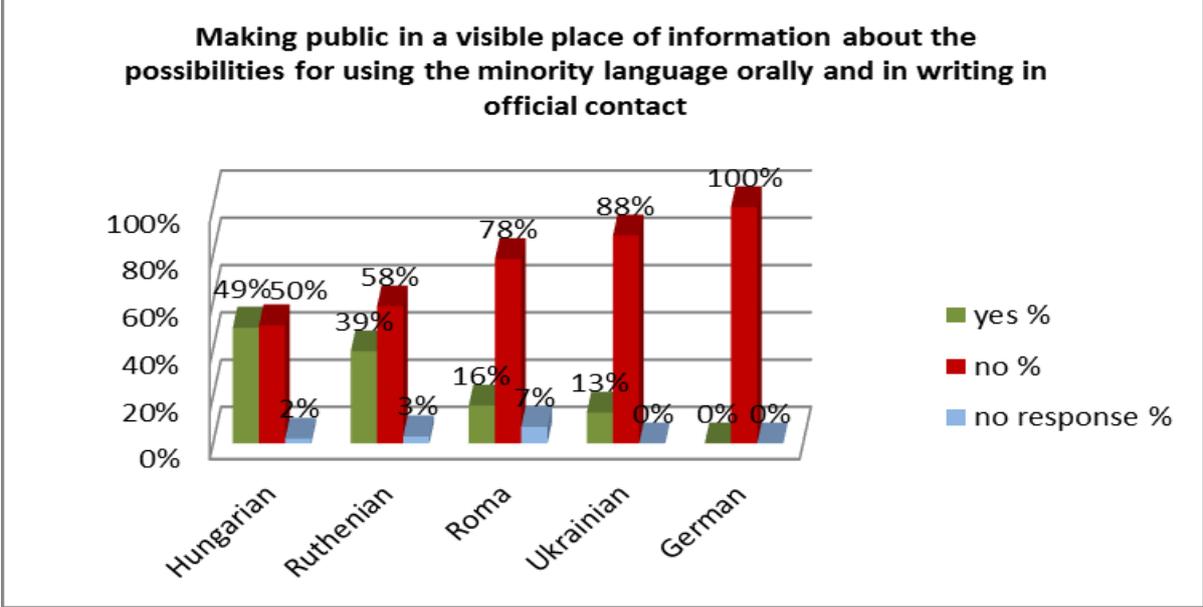
The obligations of municipalities in the area of the use of national minority languages in official contact include the obligation to make publicly available, in a visible place, information about how the language of the respective national minority can be used, orally and in writing, in official contact. While in 2012, this information was made available to

residents in this manner in 165 municipalities, in 2014, it was available in as many as 228 municipalities and, in 2016, in 269 (45 %) municipalities. The proportion of municipalities with a Hungarian minority population that have fulfilled this obligation was 49 % and it was fulfilled in 39 % of municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population, 16 % of municipalities with a Roma minority population and 13 % of municipalities with a Ukrainian minority population. This obligation was not satisfied in the only municipality with a German minority population.

Act No 184/1999 Coll. does not provide details as to where this information should be made publicly available, it only refers to a ‘visible place’. From among the municipalities that have fulfilled this obligation, 174 made this information available mainly on their public announcements boards, 104 on information boards and 19 municipalities made it available on the Internet. In 9 municipalities, this information was made available on the entrance door, 5 municipalities provided it on office door at the secretariat in the municipal office building and in one municipality it was made available in the municipal periodical. Municipal PA systems were considered to be a visible place by 3 municipalities, two municipalities used municipal television and two municipalities considered oral mediation of this information to be such a place.

Table 14: Making public in a visible place of information about the possibilities for using the minority language orally and in writing in official contact

	yes	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	236	49 %	242	50 %	8	2 %	486
Ruthenian	25	39 %	37	58 %	2	3 %	64
Roma	7	16 %	35	78 %	3	7 %	45
Ukrainian	1	13 %	7	88 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	269	45 %	322	53 %	13	2 %	604



Municipalities with a Hungarian minority population received two written submissions in the minority language in the course of the period under review. In total, 106 (18 %) municipalities received written submissions (94 in 2015 and 99 municipalities until 1 July 2016). These were mostly applications and complaints relating, in particular, to housing, subsidies, social affairs, requests for information on employment opportunities in the municipalities, but also neighbourly disputes. Municipalities with a Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Roma and German minority populations did not receive any written submissions in the course of the monitored period.

Table 15: Written submissions received from citizens in the minority language

	yes	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	106	22 %	372	77 %	8	2 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	64	100 %	0	0 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	44	98 %	1	2 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	106	18 %	489	81 %	9	1 %	604

Despite the fact that municipalities are required to respond to submissions written in a minority language in both the State language and the minority language, such responses were provided to citizens in 40 municipalities, which represents 7 %.

According to the results of the previous survey in 2013-2014, 251 (46 %) municipalities received submissions in the language of the relevant minority in both oral and written communication. Such submissions were mostly received by municipalities with a Hungarian minority population, 3 were received by municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population. In 290 (53 %) municipalities, responses were also drawn up in the respective minority language. A comparison of the above data shows that both the number of submissions in a minority language and the number of responses in that language have decreased substantially.

Table 16: Provision of written responses to written submission in the minority language

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	40	8 %	26	5 %	52	11 %	368	76 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	0	0 %	6	9 %	58	91 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	2	4 %	43	96 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
T O T A L	40	7 %	26	4 %	60	10 %	478	79 %	604

Act No 184/1999 Coll. allows for the use of minority languages in official records (in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, registries, statements, public information and records concerning churches and religious communities intended for the public, with the exception of registrar's office records). Minority languages were used along with the State language in official records in 21 (3 %) municipalities and partially used in 43 (7 %) municipalities. These were mostly municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and 3

municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population. These municipalities kept official records concerning, in particular, the population register, statistics, internal regulations and the work of the municipal council (resolutions, minutes and invitations). No municipalities with Ukrainian, Roma and German minority populations used the minority language in their official records.

Compared to the data from the survey conducted four years ago, this number is more than two times lower. At that time, minority languages were used in official records by 43 (7 %) municipalities. Minority languages were partially used, along with the State language, by 103 municipalities, 101 of which were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and two (18 %) were municipalities with Ruthenian and Roma minority populations. The use of minority languages in municipalities with Hungarian and Roma minority population declined, on the contrary, it increased in municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population.

Table 17: Use of minority languages in official records of municipal offices

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	21	4 %	40	8 %	413	85 %	8	2 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	3	5 %	61	95 %	0	0 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	44	98 %	1	2 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	21	3 %	43	7 %	527	87 %	9	1 %	604

In accordance with Act No 184/1999 Coll., municipalities may also maintain chronicles in minority languages. This possibility was mainly used by municipalities with a Hungarian minority population; chronicles were maintained in both the State language¹⁸ and in the minority language in 154 (32 %) municipalities and 39 (8 %) municipalities maintained their chronicles partially in the minority language in addition to the State language. This included municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population, one of which maintained chronicles in the State language and in Ruthenian and 5 of which maintained their chronicles in the State language and partially in Ruthenian. None of the municipalities with Ukrainian, Roma and German minority populations maintained their chronicles in the minority language.

Table 18: Municipal chronicles maintained in the minority language

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	154	32 %	39	8 %	118	24 %	175	36 %	486
Ruthenian	1	2 %	5	8 %	36	56 %	24	38 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	36	80 %	9	20 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	4	50 %	4	50 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	155	26 %	44	7 %	195	32 %	212	35 %	604

¹⁸ § 3 of Act No 270/1995 Coll., on the State language of the Slovak Republic

Municipal police may, in addition to the State language, use a minority language in duty-related contact, as long as the persons present consent to this. According to the most recent survey, in 30 (5 %) municipalities, Hungarian was used in duty-related contact along with the State language and in 9 (1 %) municipalities, a minority language was partially used along with the State language. In 23 (4 %) municipalities, the persons present gave consent to the use of a minority language in duty-related contact with the municipal police. In 38 (6 %) municipalities, municipal police officers who have knowledge of the minority language used this language when communicating with citizens belonging to a national minority; it was partially used in 6 (1 %) municipalities.

Municipal police operated in one municipality with a Roma minority population and 40 (8 %) municipalities with a Hungarian minority population. 82 % of municipal police officers had speaking knowledge of Hungarian and 53 % had both speaking and writing knowledge of Hungarian. None of the four municipal police officers in the municipality with a Roma minority communicated in Romani. Municipal police in municipalities with Ukrainian, Roma and German minority populations did not use minority languages.

Table 19: Number and proportion of municipal police officers who have knowledge of a minority language

	total number	speaking and writing	% share	speaking	% share	at least speaking	% share
Hungarian	331	176	53 %	95	29 %	271	82 %
Ruthenian	0	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %
Roma	4	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %
Ukrainian	0	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %
German	0	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %

3.1.3 Bilingual documents (questions 30-52)

Municipalities defined in the Act are required to provide their residents, at request, with bilingual official forms issued under their authority. Municipalities are able to fulfil this obligation only if such forms are available to them. The survey results indicate that 94 (16 %) municipalities provided all forms bilingually and 121 (20 %) municipalities provided some of the forms bilingually. Bilingual forms were not available in municipalities with Ukrainian, Roma and German minority populations.

Bilingual forms were made available, in particular, in respect of registrar's offices, population records, construction and in the area of municipal taxes and fees, as well as in the area of social affairs. Part of the municipalities also provided bilingual forms in the context of elections. A comparison of the results with those of the previous survey shows that the proportion of municipalities that provide some forms in bilingual format has decreased. Two years ago, 237 (44 %) municipalities reported that they provided some forms in the bilingual format.

Table 20: Availability of bilingual official forms issued under the municipality's authority

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	86	18 %	108	22 %	281	58 %	11	2 %	486
Ruthenian	3	5 %	11	17 %	46	72 %	4	6 %	64
Roma	5	11 %	2	4 %	36	80 %	2	4 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	94	16 %	121	20 %	372	62 %	17	3 %	604

Requests for the issue of bilingual public documents (permits, licences, authorisations, opinions and declarations) were received by 42 (7 %) municipalities with a Hungarian minority population. In 2015, 434 such requests were filed, of which 297 were requests for various certificates, 112 were requests for declarations, 16 were permit requests and 9 were requests for an opinion. Until 1 July 2016, 265 requests were filed, of which 141 were requests for certificates, 115 were requests for declarations, 7 were permit requests and two were requests for an opinion. No requests for the issue of bilingual permits, licences, authorisations, opinions and declarations were received by municipalities with Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Roma and German minority populations.

Table 21: Requests for the issue of bilingual public documents (permits, authorisations, certificates, opinions and declarations) received

	yes	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	42	9 %	434	89 %	10	2 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	59	92 %	5	8 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	42	93 %	3	7 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	42	7 %	544	90 %	18	3 %	604

Bilingual public documents were issued to citizens in 33 (5 %) municipalities; in 2015, 396 responses to such requests were drawn up, of which 275 were responses to requests for certificates, 112 were responses to requests for declarations, 7 were responses to permit requests and two were responses to requests for an opinion. Until 1 July 2016, 243 responses to such requests were drawn up, of which 137 were responses to requests for certificates, 105 were responses to requests for declarations and one was a response to a request for an opinion in the minority language.

Table 22: Issuing of bilingual public documents (permits, authorisations, certificates, opinions and declarations)

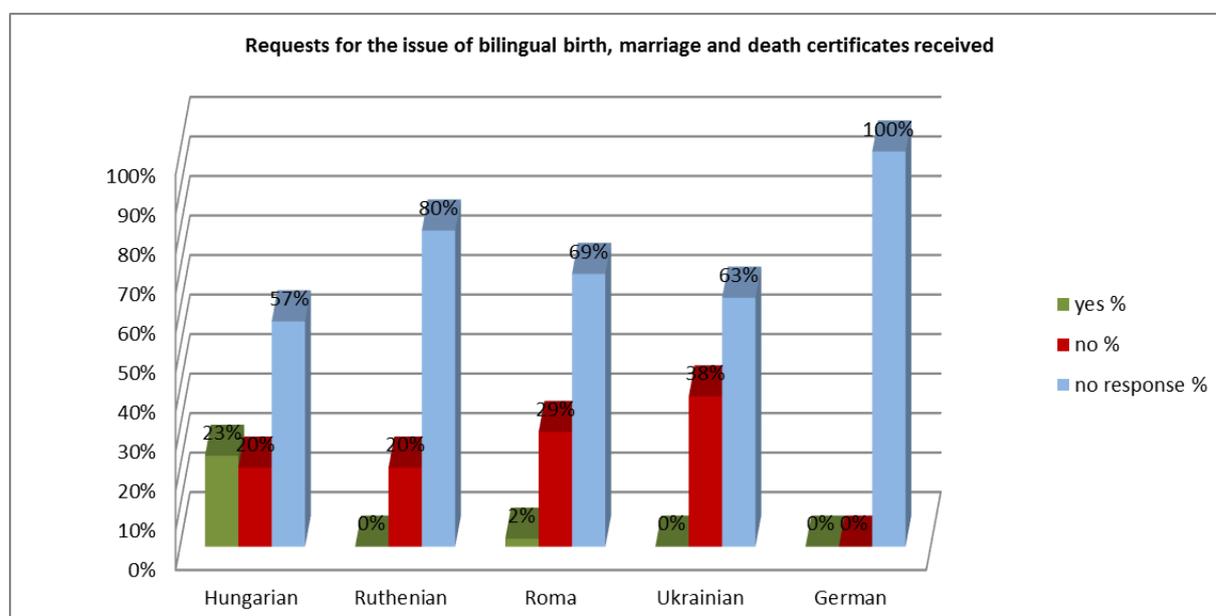
	yes	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	33	7 %	22	5 %	431	89 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	2	3 %	62	97 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	45	100 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
T O T A L	33	5 %	24	4 %	547	91 %	604

Requests for the issue of bilingual birth, marriage and death certificates were received by 113 (19 %) municipalities, 112 of which were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and one was a municipality with a Roma minority population. The bilingual certificates were issued by these municipalities (note: municipalities were to respond only if they have a registrar's office). In 2015, municipalities with a Hungarian minority population issued 826 birth, 308 marriage and 214 death certificates and, in 2016, until 1 July, they issued 511 birth, 219 marriage and 146 death certificates. Municipalities with a Roma minority population did not report on how many bilingual documents they had issued. Municipalities with Ruthenian, Ukrainian and German minority populations did not receive any requests for the issue of bilingual birth, marriage and death.

A comparison with the results of the previous survey shows that even though the number of municipalities that issued bilingual birth, marriage and death certificates decreased, the number of bilingual birth, marriage and death certificates actually increased. In the preceding review period, 127 municipalities issued 727 birth, 368 marriage and 274 death certificates.

Table 23: Requests for the issue of bilingual birth, marriage and death certificates received

	yes	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	112	23 %	99	20 %	275	57 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	13	20 %	51	80 %	64
Roma	1	2 %	13	29 %	31	69 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	3	38 %	5	63 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
TOTAL	113	19 %	128	21 %	363	60 %	604



According to Act No 184/1999 Coll., decisions of public authorities in administrative proceedings in municipalities are issued in the State language with a counterpart in the minority language if the proceedings were initiated by a submission in the minority language or at request. Such situations occurred in 7 municipalities where submissions were received

initiating administrative proceedings in the minority language. All of these were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population. In 2015, 157 such submissions were received by 3 municipalities and in 2016, until 1 July, 151 such submissions were received, equally by 3 municipalities. Municipalities with Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Roma and German minority populations did not receive any submissions in a minority language initiating administrative proceedings.

Table 24: Submissions initiating administrative proceedings in a minority language received in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July)

	yes	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	7	1 %	460	95 %	19	4 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	59	92 %	5	8 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	42	93 %	3	7 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	7	1 %	570	94 %	27	4 %	604

Requests for the issue of bilingual decisions were received by 5 municipalities. In 2015, 3 municipalities received 156 such submissions and, in 2016, until 1 July, 154 such submissions were received, equally by 3 municipalities. Municipalities with Ukrainian, Roam and German minority populations did not receive any requests for the issue of bilingual decisions.

Table 25: Requests for the issue of bilingual decisions received in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July)

	yes	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	5	1 %	470	97 %	11	2 %	486
Ruthenian	1	2 %	58	91 %	6	9 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	44	98 %	1	2 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	6	1 %	581	96 %	18	3 %	604

Decisions in administrative proceedings were issued as counterparts in both the State language and the minority language by 3 municipalities with a Hungarian minority population. A total of 5 410 decisions were issued in 2015 and a total of 5 374 were issued in 2016, until 1 July. The decisions mostly related to preschool education and taxes. According to the findings from the previous survey, in the preceding period decisions in administrative proceedings were issued as counterparts in both the State language and the minority language by 7 municipalities, hence, clearly, the number of municipalities issuing such decisions has decreased. In municipalities with Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Roma and German minority populations, decisions in administrative proceedings were not issued with counterparts in the minority language.

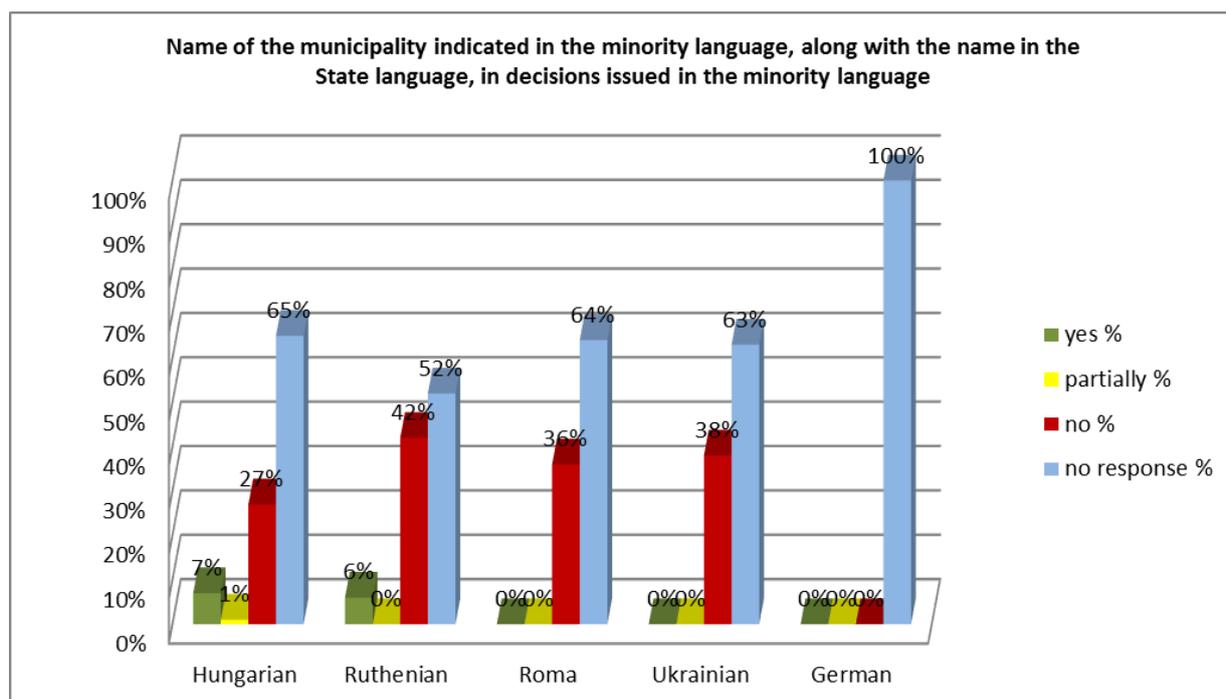
Table 26: Decisions issued in administrative proceedings with a counterpart in the minority language in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July)

	yes	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	3	1 %	435	90 %	48	10 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	56	88 %	8	13 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	39	87 %	6	13 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	7	88 %	1	13 %	8
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	3	0 %	538	89 %	63	10 %	604

According to the Act No 184/1999 Coll., the name of the municipality is indicated in the minority language, along with the name of the municipality in the State language, in decisions issued in a minority language. According to the responses, 32 municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and 4 municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population fully complied with the Act and 6 municipalities with a Hungarian minority population reported partial compliance with the Act. Most municipalities with Roma, Ukrainian and German minority populations either did not respond to the question or gave a negative response.

Table 27: Name of the municipality indicated in the minority language, along with the name in the State language, in decisions issued in the minority language

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	32	7 %	6	1 %	132	27 %	316	65 %	486
Ruthenian	4	6 %	0	0 %	27	42 %	33	52 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	16	36 %	29	64 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	3	38 %	5	63 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
T O T A L	36	6 %	6	1 %	178	29 %	384	64 %	604



3.1.4 Sessions of local self-government bodies (questions 53 – 57)

According to the Act No 184/1999 Coll., members of municipal councils have the right to use minority languages in municipal council sessions. The results of the survey showed that in 349 (58 %) municipalities, council members used a minority language at municipal council sessions and in 124 (21 %) municipalities they used in the State language and partially the minority language.

Table 28: Use of minority languages by council members at municipal council sessions

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	311	64 %	98	20 %	66	14 %	11	2 %	486
Ruthenian	34	53 %	21	33 %	6	9 %	3	5 %	64
Roma	1	2 %	2	4 %	41	91 %	1	2 %	45
Ukrainian	3	38 %	3	38 %	2	25 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	349	58 %	124	21 %	116	19 %	15	2 %	604

Mayors used minority languages at municipal council sessions in 343 (57 %) municipalities. In 115 (19 %) municipalities, mayors used the State language and partially the minority language. Of these, 91 were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population, 19 were municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population, two were municipalities with a Roma minority population and 3 were municipalities with a Ukrainian minority population. German was not used at all. According to the findings from the previous survey, minority languages were used at municipal council sessions by members of municipal councils or mayors in 434 (80 %) municipalities. This situation has not changed significantly.

Table 29: Use of minority languages by municipal council members/mayors at municipal council sessions

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	306	63 %	91	19 %	74	15 %	15	3 %	486
Ruthenian	33	52 %	19	30 %	9	14 %	3	5 %	64
Roma	1	2 %	2	4 %	41	91 %	1	2 %	45
Ukrainian	3	38 %	3	38 %	2	25 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	343	57 %	115	19 %	127	21 %	19	3 %	604

Sessions of municipal councils may also be held in a minority language, if all participants consent to this. The sessions were held in minority languages in 114 (19 %) municipalities, in 286 (47 %) municipalities, the sessions were held in both the State language and the minority language and, in 188 (31 %) municipalities, the session were held in the State language. Romani was used along with the State language in one municipality. German was not used at municipal sessions at all. Ukrainian was used in 5 municipalities and Ruthenian was used in a total of 49 municipalities. The results of the previous survey conducted in 2012 show that four years ago, municipal councils in 32 % municipalities with a Hungarian minority population held sessions in Hungarian and municipal councils in 43 % of municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population held sessions in Ruthenian. According to

the new results, the proportion of such municipalities with a Hungarian minority population declined to 20 % and the proportion of municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population also declined to 20 %.

Table 30: Language of the proceedings at municipal councils

	State language	% share	minority language	% share	State language and minority language	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	127	26 %	99	20 %	246	51 %	14	3 %	486
Ruthenian	14	22 %	13	20 %	36	56 %	1	2 %	64
Roma	43	96 %	0	0 %	1	2 %	1	2 %	45
Ukrainian	3	38 %	2	25 %	3	38 %	0	0 %	8
German	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	188	31 %	114	19 %	286	47 %	16	3 %	604

Closely related to the above area is the question of the language in which supporting documents for municipal council sessions are prepared. In 27 (4 %) municipalities, these documents were prepared in the State language and in the minority language. Of these, 26 were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and one was a municipality with a Ruthenian minority population. In 108 (18 %) municipalities, these documents were prepared in the State language and partially in the minority language. Of these, 104 were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and 4 were municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population. No supporting documents for municipal council sessions were prepared in Romani, Ukrainian or German.

Table 31: Supporting documents for municipal council sessions prepared in the minority language

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	26	5 %	104	21 %	343	71 %	13	3 %	486
Ruthenian	1	2 %	4	6 %	56	88 %	3	5 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	44	98 %	1	2 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	27	4 %	108	18 %	452	75 %	17	3 %	604

According to the Act No 184/1999 Coll., persons participating in municipal council sessions may use a minority language if all members of the municipal council present and the mayor of the municipality consent to this; interpretation is to be provided for by the municipality. According to the survey results, 27 (4 %) municipalities provided interpretation using interpretation services, 345 (57 %) municipalities used other means, in particular the staff of the municipal office (44 municipalities – 7 %), in some municipalities, the mayor or council members assisted in interpretation (29 municipalities – 5 %). 183 (30 %) municipalities reported that council members, the mayor and the participants had knowledge of the minority language and 5 municipalities provided for interpretation themselves. In 4 municipalities, sessions were held in the State language if a person who did not have

knowledge of the minority language was present at the session. In 8 municipalities, no interpretation was provided and 7 municipalities with a Ukrainian minority population reported that all participants chose to use the State language.

Table 32: Method of providing for the possibility of using minority languages at municipal council sessions

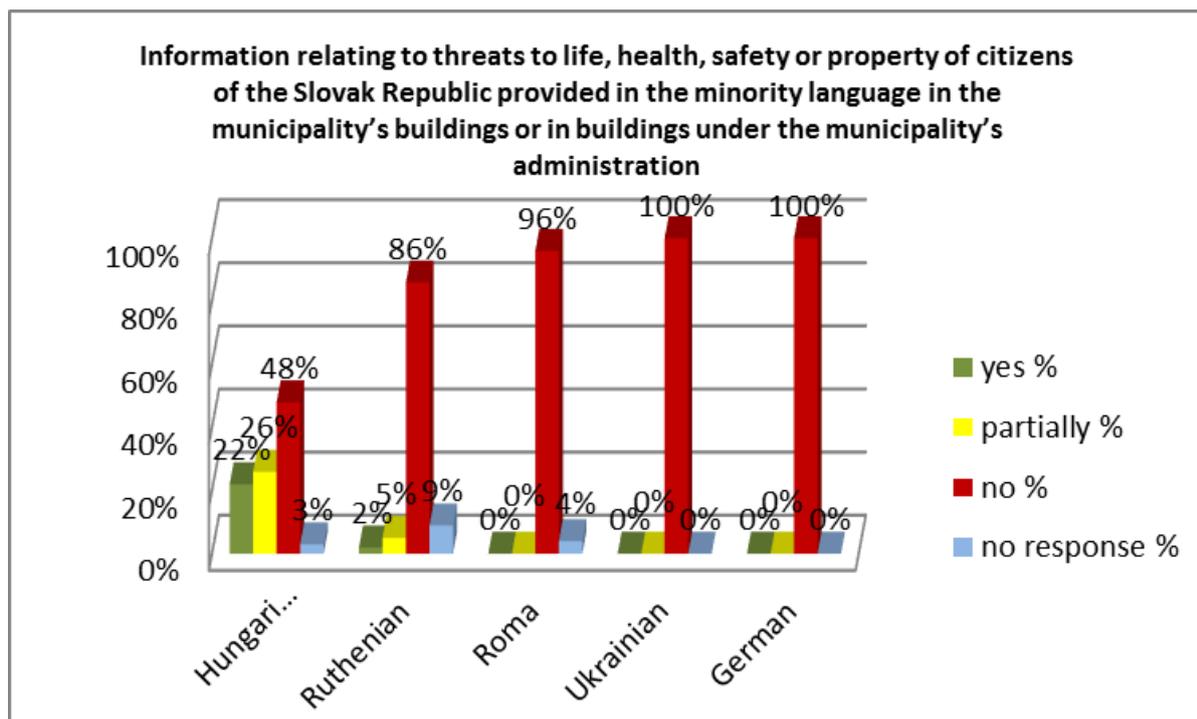
	by means of interpretation services	% share	by other means (please specify):	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	20	4 %	288	59 %	178	37 %	486
Ruthenian	4	6 %	36	56 %	24	38 %	64
Roma	2	4 %	16	36 %	27	60 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	5	63 %	3	38 %	8
German	1	100 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	27	4 %	345	57 %	232	38 %	604

3.1.5 Informing the public (questions 58-66)

Information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic was displayed in the minority language, along with the State language, in buildings serving as the seat of the mayor or the municipal council in 109 (18 %) municipalities, 108 of which were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and one was a municipality with a Ruthenian minority population. In 129 (21 %) municipalities, this information was displayed in the State language and partially in the minority language; 126 of these were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and 3 were municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population. This information was not displayed in Romani, Ukrainian or German. According to the findings of the previous survey, such information was displayed in the language of the relevant minority, along with the State language, in 324 (60 %) municipalities.

Table 33: Information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic provided in the minority language in the municipality's buildings or in buildings under the municipality's administration

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	108	22 %	126	26 %	235	48 %	17	3 %	486
Ruthenian	1	2 %	3	5 %	55	86 %	6	9 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	43	96 %	2	4 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	109	18 %	129	21 %	342	57 %	25	4 %	604



General information for citizens in buildings serving as the seat of the mayor or the municipal council was displayed in both the minority language and the State language in 117 (19 %) municipalities, 116 of which were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and one was a municipality with a Ruthenian minority population. In 172 (28 %) municipalities, such information was displayed in the State language and partially in the minority language; 169 of these were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and 3 were municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population. This information was not displayed in Romani, Ukrainian or German.

Table 34: General information for citizens displayed in the municipality's buildings or buildings under the municipality's administration in the minority language

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	116	24 %	169	35 %	184	38 %	17	3 %	486
Ruthenian	1	2 %	3	5 %	55	86 %	5	8 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	43	96 %	2	4 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	117	19 %	172	28 %	291	48 %	24	4 %	604

In 5 municipalities with a Hungarian minority population, requests for the provision of information on legislation of general application in the minority language, along with the State language, were received. In 2015, 3 municipalities received 8 such requests and in 2016, until 1 July, one municipality received 4 such requests. All 5 municipalities ensured the provision of the requested information on legislation of general application in the minority language, along with the State language. Municipalities with a Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Roma

and German minority did not receive any requests for the provision of information on legislation of general application in the minority language, along with the State language.

Table 35: Requests for the provisions of information on legislation of general application in the minority language, along with the State language, received in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July)

	yes	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	5	1 %	470	97 %	11	2 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	59	92 %	5	8 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	41	91 %	4	9 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	8	100 %	3	38 %	8
German	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
TOTAL	5	1 %	579	96 %	23	4 %	604

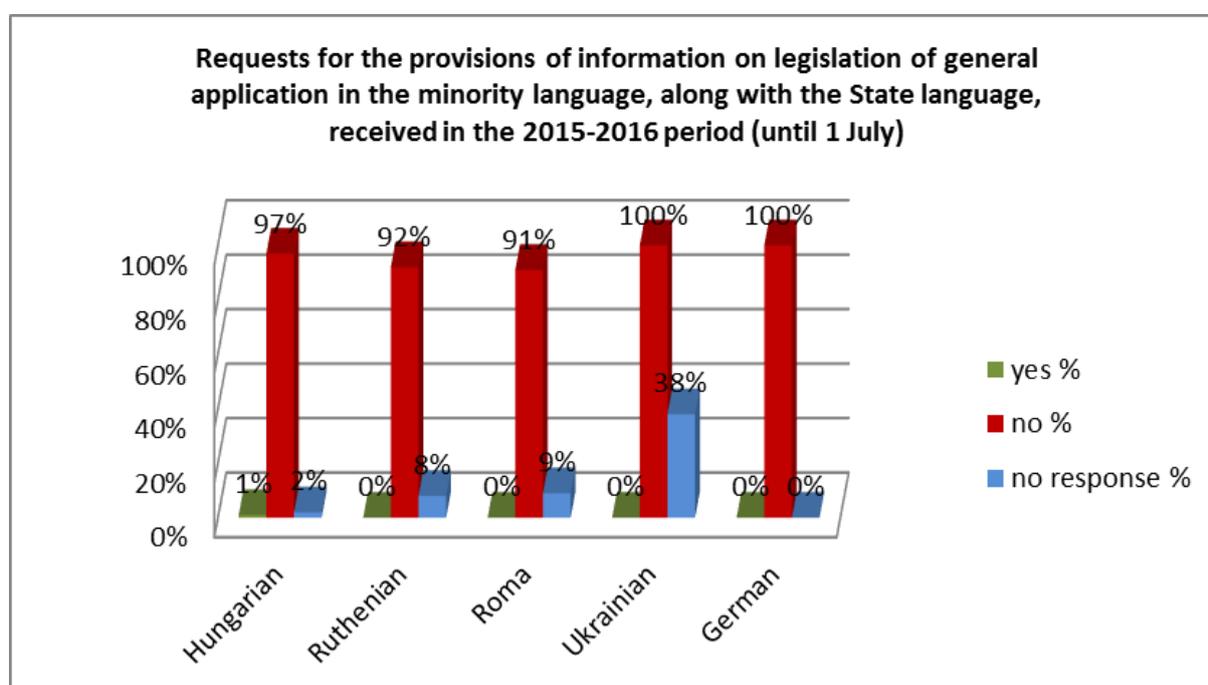


Table 36: Provision of information on legislation of general application in the minority language, along with the State language

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	5	1 %	2	0 %	12	2 %	467	96 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	0	0 %	2	3 %	62	97 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	3	7 %	42	93 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	1
TOTAL	5	1 %	2	0 %	17	3 %	580	96 %	604

In 6 (1 %) municipalities with a Hungarian minority population, the municipalities' legislation of general application was issued and published in both the State language and the minority language. In 28 (5 %) municipalities, this legislation was issued in the State language and partially in the minority language, specifically, in 26 municipalities with a

Hungarian minority population and in two municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population. No municipalities with Ukrainian, Roma and German minority populations issued or published legislation of general application in minority languages.

Table 37: Legislation of general application issued and published in minority languages

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	6	1 %	26	5 %	433	89 %	21	4 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	2	3 %	56	88 %	6	9 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	42	93 %	3	7 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	6	1 %	28	5 %	540	89 %	30	5 %	604

According to the previous survey, 22 municipalities prepared official records and legislation of general application in the minority language, along with the State language; 21 of these were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and one was a municipality with a Ruthenian minority population.

According to Act No 184/1999 Coll., municipalities are required to publish important information on their public announcements boards, websites or in periodicals in the minority language, along with the State language. This obligation was met by 150 (25 %) municipalities with a Hungarian minority population. This information was published in the State language and partially in the minority language in 182 (30 %) municipalities; 174 of these were municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and 8 were municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population. Municipalities with Ukrainian, Roma and German minority populations did not make important information available in the minority language, along with the State language, on public announcements boards, website or in periodicals.

In response to the question where announcement intended for informing the public were made available in minority languages, 445 (74 %) municipalities reported that they used the municipal PA system, 334 (55 %) municipalities reported the use of public announcements board, 221 (37 %) used the municipality's website, 89 (15 %) used periodicals, 30 (5 %) reported the use of municipal television, 8 (1 %) reported the use information boards and 7 (1 %) municipalities used social networks. 17 (3 %) municipalities reported that they informed the public in the State language.

Table 38: Provision of important information in the minority language on municipal public announcements boards, municipal websites and in periodicals

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	150	31 %	174	36 %	142	29 %	20	4 %	486
Ruthenian	0	0 %	8	13 %	51	80 %	5	8 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	0	0 %	43	96 %	2	4 %	45
Ukrainian	0	0 %	0	0 %	8	100 %	0	0 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	150	25 %	182	30 %	245	41 %	27	4 %	604

3.1.6 Areas of public contact (question 67)

Inscriptions on monuments, memorials and commemorative plaques owned by the municipality were displayed in the minority language, along with the State language, in 230 (38 %) municipalities. In 83 (14 %) municipalities, these inscriptions were displayed in the State language and partially in the minority language.

Table 39: Minority languages on monuments, memorials and commemorative plaques

	yes	% share	partially	% share	no	% share	no response	% share	total
Hungarian	218	45 %	76	16 %	45	9 %	147	30 %	486
Ruthenian	10	16 %	6	9 %	18	28 %	30	47 %	64
Roma	0	0 %	1	2 %	29	64 %	15	33 %	45
Ukrainian	2	25 %	0	0 %	5	63 %	1	13 %	8
German	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	100 %	0	0 %	1
T O T A L	230	38 %	83	14 %	98	16 %	193	32 %	604

3.1.7 Final questions (questions 68-74)

The creation of conditions for the use of minority languages in official contact was considered problem-free by 401 (66 %) municipalities, 120 (20 %) municipalities found it partially problematic and 42 (7 %) municipalities found it problematic. As regards the reasons for this situation, 81 municipalities reported a lack of funding, 66 municipalities reported a lack of expert support, 60 municipalities indicated a lack of qualified staff, 6 municipalities reported a lack of time and staff, 5 municipalities indicated a lack of knowledge of technical terminology in the minority language, one municipality reported a lack of bilingual forms and one municipality indicated the need for free interpretation services. According to 9 municipalities, conditions for the use of the minority language in official contact did not need to be created.

In 19 municipalities, complaints were received regarding breaches of Act No 184/1999 Coll., specifically by 13 municipalities with a Ruthenian minority population, 5 municipalities with a Hungarian minority population and one municipality with a Ukrainian minority population. A total of 15 complaints were filed in 2015 and two complaints were filed in 2016, until 1 July.

In municipalities with Ruthenian and Ukrainian minority populations, the subjects of the complaints included signs in the minority language on municipal office buildings and the indication of names of municipalities on traffic signs. In municipalities with a Hungarian minority population, the subjects of the complaints included the provision of a bilingual birth certificate and the conduct of a public meeting in the minority language. In all of these cases, the deficiencies were eliminated. For comparison – in the last report, no complaints regarding breaches of Act No 184/1999 Coll. were reported.

3.2 Legal persons established by local self-government

Act No 184/1999 Coll. also lays down the obligations of legal persons established by local self-government authorities in the area of the use of national minority languages. This

area of the use of national minority languages has not been mapped previously. In the context of preparing the questionnaire survey, the Office of the Plenipotentiary, with a view to the fact that no list of such legal persons existed, approached all of the municipalities concerned¹⁹ and the 6 self-governing regions (Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov region) in whose territory these municipalities are located with a request for cooperation in the collection of data relating to these entities. A total of 39 municipalities and 4 self-governing regions sent back their completed questionnaires for legal persons established by local self-government authorities on behalf of a total of 155 legal persons. In accordance with § 5 of Act No 184/1999 Coll., we processed data for 41 legal persons engaged in the area of social services, social and legal protection of children and social guardianship, recreation and sports, tourism, waste management, technical services, public utilities and municipal services and organisations active in the field of management of municipal property, and 114 legal persons engaged in pre-primary education, primary school education, secondary school education and culture.²⁰

The questionnaires examined 7 thematic areas related to the use of national minority languages under the competence of local self-government authorities based on Act No 184/1999 Coll. The respondents received a total of 58 questions in the following order: signs in minority languages (questions 1-5), official contact (questions 6-17), bilingual documents (questions 18-36), informing the public (questions 37-44), the area of public contact (question 45-47), sessions of bodies of legal persons (questions 48-51) and final questions (questions 52-58). The questionnaire is provided in Annex 2.

3.2.1 Legal persons established by a municipality

For the purposes of the Report, we received questionnaires from 19 municipalities with a Hungarian minority population containing information about 32 relevant legal persons established by a municipality. The legal persons established by a municipality comprised: 5 facilities for seniors, 5 recreational facilities, 4 organisations in the area of technical services, 4 public utilities and municipal services organisations, 4 municipal property management organisations, 3 organisations engaged in waste management, 2 tourism organisations and one sports organisation.

Signs in minority languages (questions 1-5)

The name of the legal person established by a municipality was provided by 20 (63 %) respondents and 4 (13 %) respondents indicated a name in the minority language which was

¹⁹ Note: municipalities included in the list of municipalities laid down in the Annex to Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll., i.e. 638 municipalities.

²⁰ The key objective of the report was to examine the application of Act No 184/1999 Coll. According to the Act referred to above, the use of minority languages in pre-primary education, primary schools, secondary schools and culture is governed by special laws, therefore, the Report does not address the use of national minority languages by legal persons established by local self-government authorities in this area. Even though it would be desirable to also examine these areas in the future, with a view to the fact that the types of organisations engaged in education and culture are very diverse, the implementation of such a project would be very difficult.

identical with that in the State language.²¹ In 14 (44 %) cases, the name of the legal person established by a municipality was displayed on buildings in both the State language and the minority language, and in 18 (56 %) cases only in the State language. In 12 (36 %) cases, the name of the legal person established by a municipality in the minority language was displayed using the same font size and in two (6 %) cases using a smaller font size. In 9 (28 %) cases, the name of the municipality in the minority language was displayed along with the name in the State language on the building of the legal person established by a municipality. In two (6 %) cases, the name was partially also displayed in the minority language.

Official contact (questions 6-17)

81 % of the staff of legal persons established by a municipality had at least a speaking knowledge of Hungarian, 70 % had a speaking and writing knowledge. At 21 (66 %) legal persons established by a municipality, the use of the minority language in official contact was ensured by means of the municipality's staff communicating in the minority language, at 5 (16 %) legal persons established by a municipality, this was ensured by means of the legal person's own employees, and, in one case, it was ensured by the legal person's managers.

Information about the possibilities for using the minority language was displayed in a visible place at 12 (38 %) legal persons established by a municipality. In 8 (25 %) cases, the information was displayed on the municipality's information board, in three (9 %) cases on the municipality's public announcements board, in two (6 %) cases on the website and in one case at the secretariat.

Written submissions in a minority language were received by 7 (22 %) legal persons established by a municipality. In 2015, 5 legal persons established by a municipality received 11 such submissions and in 2016, until 1 July, 4 legal persons established by a municipality received 6 submissions. These submissions included applications, complaints, commendations and opinions relating to the area of human resources, properties administered by the company and social affairs. Responses in the minority language, along with the State language, were provided by 6 (19 %) legal persons established by a municipality.

One legal person established by a municipality used a minority language, along with the State language, in its official records. Two (6 %) legal persons established by a municipality used the State language and partially the minority language, specifically in the areas of culture, sponsorship or in invitations to meetings of owners, in general information and announcements for clients.

Bilingual documents (questions 18-36)

Bilingual official forms were provided by two (6 %) legal persons established by a municipality. Two (6 %) legal persons established by a municipality used only some forms in

²¹ In some cases, the name of the legal person in the minority language was identical to that in the State language.

the bilingual format. These forms concerned notices to tenants, marketing, advertising and postal votes.

No legal persons established by a municipality received an application for the issue of bilingual public documents, nevertheless, one legal person established by a municipality issued 20 bilingual declarations in 2015 and 5 bilingual declarations in 2016, until 1 July.

No legal persons established by a municipality received a submission initiating administrative proceedings in a minority language, nor did they receive requests for the issue of bilingual decisions. Similarly, no legal person established by a municipality issued a decision in administrative proceedings with a counterpart in a minority language. One legal persons established by a municipality reported the use of the name of the municipality in the minority language, along with the name in the State language, in decisions issued in the minority language.

Informing the public (questions 37-44)

Three (9 %) legal persons established by a municipality displayed information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in buildings serving as their seat in both the State language and the minority language and four (13 %) legal persons established by a municipality displayed this information in the State language and partially in the minority language.

Ten (31 %) legal persons established by a municipality displayed general information for citizens in buildings serving as their seat in both the State language and the minority language and four (13 %) legal persons established by a municipality displayed this information in the State language and partially in the minority language.

No legal persons established by a municipality received requests for the provision of information on legislation of general application in the minority language, along with the State language. Nevertheless, one legal person established by a municipality partially provided for information on legislation of general application in the minority language, along with the State language.

Act No 211/2000 Coll., on free access to information, imposes the obligation on legal persons that have been granted the authority to decide on the rights and obligations of natural persons or legal persons in the area of public administration to make important information also publicly available in minority languages in the municipalities defined by the special law. This information was made publicly available by 9 (28 %) legal persons established by a municipality on the public announcements board and on the legal person's website. Important information was made publicly available in the State language and partially in the minority language by 7 (22 %) legal persons established by a municipality.

Fourteen (44 %) legal persons established by a municipality reported the provision of announcements intended to inform the public on their websites also in the minority language, seven legal persons established by a municipality used the public announcements board and

four legal persons established by a municipality used the information boards; the provision of this information on entrances of residential buildings, information panels, advertising boards, through the municipal office, municipal PA system, in local newspapers and in the company's canteen was reported by one municipality each. No information was provided in the minority language by 5 (16 %) legal persons established by a municipality.

Area of public contact (questions 45-47)

The possibility to use a minority language was ensured by 4 social services facilities through their own staff.

Sessions of the legal person's bodies (questions 48-51)

A national minority language, in addition to the State language, was used at the sessions of the bodies of 16 (50 %) legal persons established by a municipality and 10 (31 %) legal persons established by a municipality used the State language and partially the minority language. Sessions were held in the State language and in the minority language by 17 (53 %) legal persons established by a municipality, 10 (31 %) legal persons established by a municipality held their sessions in the State language and 5 (16 %) legal persons established by a municipality in the minority language. Support documents for the sessions of the bodies of 4 (13 %) legal persons established by a municipality were partially also prepared in the minority language. At the sessions of the bodies of 11 (34 %) legal persons established by a municipality, all participants had a knowledge of the minority language. The possibility to use the minority language was ensured through the staff of the legal person by 4 (13 %) legal persons established by a municipality, two (6 %) legal persons established by a municipality provided for this possibility by means of interpretation services. Two (6 %) legal persons established by a municipality made it possible to use the minority language in cases where all participating persons had a knowledge of the relevant minority language.

Final questions (questions 52-58)

The creation of conditions for the use of minority languages in official contact was reported to be problem-free by 22 (69 %) of legal persons established by a municipality. For 8 (25 %) legal persons established by a municipality, this was partially problematic and one legal person found it problematic. The main reasons reported by the legal persons included a lack of qualified staff, a lack of funding, a lack of expert support or the complexity of specialised translations.

Legal persons established by a municipality received no complaints concerning breaches of Act No 184/1999 Coll.

3.2.2 Legal persons established by a self-governing region

The questionnaire mapping out the 9 relevant legal persons established by a self-governing region were posted back by 4 self-governing regions (Trnava, Nitra, Košice and Prešov). All legal persons established by a self-governing region operated in the areas of

social services and social and legal protection of children and social guardianship in municipalities with a Hungarian minority population.

Signs in minority languages (questions 1-5)

The name of the legal person established by a self-governing region in the minority language was provided by 5 respondents. The names of the legal persons established by a self-governing region were displayed on buildings in the State language. In one case, the name of the municipality in the minority language was partially displayed on the buildings of the legal person established by a self-governing region, along with the name in the State language.

Official contact (questions 6-17)

84 % of employees of legal persons established by a self-governing region had a speaking knowledge and 47 % had both a speaking and writing knowledge of Hungarian. At 4 (44 %) legal persons established by a self-governing region, the use of the minority language in official contact was ensured by means of the municipality's staff communicating in the language of the national minority, at 3 (33 %) legal persons established by a self-governing region, this was ensured through their own employees. Information about the possibilities for using the minority language was displayed in a visible place at 4 (44 %) legal persons established by a self-governing region, in all cases the municipality's information board was used. Legal persons established by a self-governing region did not receive any written submissions from citizens in a minority language. None of the legal persons established by a self-governing region used a minority language in their official records.

Bilingual documents (questions 18-36)

Legal persons established by a self-governing region did not provide bilingual official forms and did not receive any requests for the issue of bilingual public documents. They did not receive any submissions initiating administrative proceedings in the minority language, nor requests for the issue of bilingual decisions. In that regard, legal persons established by a self-governing region did not issue any decisions in administrative proceedings with a counterpart in the minority language.

Informing the public (questions 37-44)

One (11 %) legal person established by a self-governing region displayed information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in buildings serving as their seat in both the State language and the minority language and three (33 %) legal person established by a self-governing region displayed this information in the State language and partially in the minority language. Two (22 %) legal persons established by self-governing regions reported the provision of general information for citizens in buildings serving as their seat in both the State language and the minority language and two (22 %) legal persons established by a self-governing region reported that this information was provided in the State language and partially in the minority language.

No legal person established by a self-governing region received a request for the provision of information on legislation of general application in the minority language, along with the State language. Three (33 %) legal persons established by a self-governing region made important information publicly available in the State language and partially in the minority language on the public announcements board and the legal person's website.

Three legal persons established by a self-governing region reported provided announcements intended to inform the public in the minority language on the information board, one legal person established by a self-governing region used the public announcements board for this purpose. One legal person established by a self-governing region reported that it did not provide information in the minority language and the remaining legal persons established by a self-governing region did not respond.

Area of public contact (questions 45-47)

The possibility to use a minority language was provided by 8 social services facilities and one facility for social and legal protection of children and social guardianship through their own personnel.

Sessions of the legal person's bodies (questions 48-51)

A national minority language, along the State language, was used at the sessions of the bodies of one legal person established by a self-governing region, two (22 %) legal persons established by a self-governing region partially used the minority language, in addition to the State language. Sessions of one legal person established by a self-governing region were held in the State language and in the minority language. The remaining legal persons established by a self-governing region (89 %) held their sessions in the State language. Supporting documents for sessions of the bodies of the legal persons were not prepared in the minority language. At 6 (66 %) legal persons established by a self-governing region, the possibility to use the minority language was ensured by means of the employees of the legal person established by a self-governing region, one legal person established by a self-governing region used informal communication, one legal person established by a self-governing region did not provide for such communication in any manner, and one legal person established by a self-governing region did not respond.

Final questions (questions 52-58)

The creation of condition for the use of minority languages in official contact was reported to be problem-free by 6 (67 %) legal persons established by a self-governing region, 2 (22 %) legal persons established by a self-governing region found it partially problematic and one legal person established by a self-governing region found it problematic. In this respect, one legal person established by a self-governing region identified a lack of expert support as the main reason for this situation. Legal persons established by a self-governing region received no complaints concerning breaches of Act No 184/1999 Coll.

3.3 State administration

3.3.1 Status and scope of competence of selected state administration authorities in relation to Act No 184/1999 Coll.

Act No 184/1999 Coll. lays down the obligations of public authorities in the area of the use of national minority languages in municipalities defined by Act No 184/1999 Coll.

In order to ensure uniform procedures in the application of Act No 184/1999 Coll., in July 2011, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights and National Minorities approached all ministers and heads of other central state administration authorities and requested their cooperation in the implementation of this Act. Based on responses from ministries and other central state administration authorities, the National Minorities Section of the Office of the Government contacted those entities for which obligations result from Act No 184/1999 Coll. and it found that there are public authorities falling under the competence of these ministries and other central state administration authorities that are required to apply Act No 184/1999 Coll. at the local level:

- Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (21 organisational units of tax offices);
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (24 labour, social affairs and family offices and their organisational units);
- Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (7 regional public health authorities);
- Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (14 local offices, 5 state archives facilities, the Police Force, the Fire and Rescue Fire and Rescue Service – district directorates²²);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (8 regional veterinary and food administrations, 4 local forestry offices, 7 local land offices);
- Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic (8 local offices for road traffic and roads);
- Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic (8 local environment offices);
- Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic (12 cadastre offices, including field offices).²³

In 2012, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic launched the ESO (efficient, reliable and open public administration) programme fundamentally reforming local state administration authorities required to apply Act No 184/1999 Coll.

In this context, it should be noted that in the first stage of the ESO programme, the vast majority of specialised local state administration authorities with regional competence

²² The Police Force and the Fire and Rescue Service hold a special position within the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.

²³ In the context of the ESO programme, local offices, local forest offices, local land offices, local offices for road traffic and roads, local environment offices and cadastre offices were abolished and their competences were transferred to district offices.

(regional school offices, regional construction offices, regional environment offices, regional land offices, regional forest offices, regional offices for road traffic and roads, cadastre offices and regional military administrations) were abolished in accordance with Act No 345/2012 Coll., on certain measures in local state administration and on amendments to certain laws, as amended.²⁴

In the second stage of the ESO programme, local environment offices, local offices for road traffic and roads, local forest offices, local land offices and cadastre administrations were abolished in accordance with Act No 180/2013 Coll., on the organisation of local state administration and on amendments to certain laws, as amended (hereinafter ‘Act No 180/2013 Coll.’) and their competences were transferred to district offices.²⁵ The sectoral principle of management and control of state administration performed by integrated local state administration authorities, the relevant ministries and other central state administration authorities was retained. In this context, it should be noted that according to § 4(5) of Act No 180/2013 Coll. district offices cooperate, within the scope of their competence, with other local state administration authorities, higher territorial units and municipalities within their territorial area. In this respect, the Act referred to above does not provide any closer definition or reference to other local state administration authorities.

According to § 2(3) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., public authorities mean local state administration authorities, local self-government authorities and legal persons established by local self-government authorities. Local state administration authorities mean state administration authorities other than central state administration authorities or state administration authorities with a national competence, which exercise state administration under a special act. Under Act No 184/1999 Coll., the right of the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority to use the minority language before local state administration authorities is not derived from the location of the seat of the authority, but from the place of communication. Where the place of communication is a municipality included in the list provided in Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll., citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority have the right, in accordance with § 2(3) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., to use the minority language in written and oral communication and the public authority, to which the communication is addressed, is also required to act in accordance with § 2(3) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. It follows from the above that if an organisational unit of a state administration authority is located in a municipality included in the list provided in Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll., it is considered to be a public authority under § 2(3) of Act No 184/1999 Coll.

Based on the above facts, the Office of the Plenipotentiary, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, and in cooperation with the Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak

²⁴ See: <http://www.minv.sk/?eso-efektivna-spolahliva-otvorena-verejna-sprava>

²⁵ Ibidem.

Republic, identified those state administration authorities and their organisational units, in which a minority language is used in official contact along with the State language. These include 13 district offices, 18 tax offices, 12 customs offices, 23 labour, social affairs and family offices, 8 regional veterinary and food administrations, 6 regional public health authorities and 5 state archives.

It used questionnaires to analyse 6 thematic areas related to the use of national minority languages under the competence of state administration authorities/local state administration based on Act No 184/1999 Coll. These thematic areas were broken down as follows: signs in minority languages, official contact, bilingual documents, sessions of state administration authorities/local state administration, informing the public and final questions. The respondents received a total of 55 questions in the following order: signs in minority languages (questions 1-5), official contact (questions 6-17), bilingual documents (questions 18-36), sessions of state administration authorities/local state administration (questions 37-40), informing the public (questions 41-48) and final questions (questions 49-55).

District offices

The status, seats, territorial area and scope of competence of district offices are laid down in Act No 180/2013 Coll., which also governs the promulgation of decrees by local state administration authorities, abolishes certain local state administration authorities and governs the relations relating to abolishing them. District offices are local state administration authorities financed from the budget of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic. Within the meaning of § 6 of Act No 180/2013 Coll., district offices may, with the Ministry's consent, establish district office units to perform certain state administration activities and determine their territorial area of competence. According to the Act referred to above, district offices cooperate, within the scope of their competence, with other local state administration authorities, higher territorial units and municipalities in their territorial area and they may also cooperate with similar public authorities from other states.

Tax offices and customs offices

As regards tax offices and customs offices, it should be noted that in 2012, the customs and tax administrations were significantly reformed through the UNITAS programme²⁶. By merging the customs and tax administrations, effective from 1 January 2012, the financial administration was formed whose organisational structure comprises the Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic, the Criminal Office of Financial Administration, the Competence Centre for Financial Operations, tax offices, the Tax Office for Selected Taxpayers, local branches of tax offices, contact points of tax offices, customs offices, local branches of customs offices and customs office stations.

The legislation on state administration authorities in the areas of taxes, fees and customs is provided in Act No 333/2011 Coll., on state administration authorities in the area of taxes, fees and customs and on amendments to certain acts, as amended. The status,

²⁶ The UNITAS programme was initiated by adopting Government Resolution No 285/2008 of 7 May 2008.

organisation, authority and scope of competence of tax offices are governed by Act No 479/2009 Coll., on state administration authorities in the areas of taxes and fees and on amendments to certain acts, as amended by Act No 331/2011 Coll. (hereinafter ‘Act No 479/2009 Coll.’). Act No 652/2004 Coll., on state administration authorities in the area of customs and on amendments to certain acts, as amended, is the equivalent for customs offices.²⁷ § 2(1)(c) of Act No 479/2009 Coll. lays down that tax offices are the state administration authorities in the area of taxes and fees. In accordance with paragraph (3) of the cited provisions, the President of the Financial Directorate may, on proposal of the head of a tax office, set up local branches and contact points of tax offices. Tax offices exercise their competence within the territory of a region, unless the Act provides otherwise. Local branches and contact points of tax offices are organisational units of tax offices. Due to the fact that they are financial administration authorities, the activities tax offices and customs offices are also governed by Act No 563/2009 Coll., on tax administration (Tax Code) and on amendments to certain acts, as amended. In § 5 of this Act, the obligation to use the State language in the administration of taxes is laid down, unless specific legislation, for example Act No 184/1999 Coll., provides otherwise. Within the meaning of this legislation, the administration of taxes, drawing up of documents by tax administrators and taxpayers’ submissions and documents are also subject to the provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.

In accordance with § 7a(1) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. and in order to ensure the correct application of Act No 184/1999 Coll. in the performance of tax administration, in February 2013, the Financial Directorate contacted the Office of the Government with a request for an opinion on the implementation of this Act. The Office of the Government, as the authority competent to provide expert and methodological assistance to public authorities and organisational units of security forces and rescue services within the meaning of § 7a(1) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., provided the Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic with the relevant opinion to clarify whether the application of Act No 184/1999 Coll. applies to the organisational units of tax offices and other related matters. For the purposes of this Report, we present the key conclusions of the opinion, in which the Office of the Government confirmed that, within the meaning of § 2(1)(c) of Act No 479/2009 Coll., tax offices are state administration authorities in matters of taxes and fees. At the same time, in its opinion, it stated that under Act No 184/1999 Coll. the right of the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority to use the minority language before local state administration authorities is not derived from the location of the seat of the authority, but from the place of communication. Where the place of communication is a municipality included in the list provided in Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll., citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority have the right, in accordance with § 2(3) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., to use the minority language in written and oral communication and the public authority, to which the communication is addressed, is also required to act in accordance with § 2(3) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. It follows from the above that if an organisational unit of a tax office is located in a municipality included in the list provided in Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll., it is considered to be a public authority under § 2(3) of Act No 184/1999

²⁷ See: <https://www.financnasprava.sk/sk/financna-sprava>

Coll and is required to accept submissions in the relevant minority language. When Act No 184/1999 Coll. was adopted, none of the obligations laid down in Act No 270/1995 Coll. was abolished. It follows from § 3(2) of Act No 270/1995 Coll. that all public authorities within the territory of the Slovak Republic are required to maintain official records in the State language and one of the examples provided in § 3(2)(c) of this Act is the keeping of registers. This means that after a complaint is received in a minority language, the public authority must provide for the translation of the complaint into the State language and include it in its official records which it is required, in accordance with the applicable legislation, to maintain and retain in the State language. This obligation of public authorities is also confirmed in the current version of Act No 184/1999 Coll., which, in § 3(4), in accordance with the Act No 270/1995 Coll., allows for maintaining official records (including registers) in the minority language, as long as these records are also maintained in the State language. The provisions of both laws (Act No 184/1999 Coll. and Act No 270/1995 Coll.) lay down the obligation to keep all official records in the State language, while, along with this obligation, they provide for the possibility to simultaneously maintain these records in a minority language in the municipalities referred to in Government Regulation No 221/1999 Coll.

Labour, social affairs and family offices

The status and scope of competence of labour, social affairs and family offices (hereinafter ‘labour offices’) are defined in Act No 453/2003 Coll., on state administration authorities in the areas of social affairs, family and employment services, and on amendments to certain laws, as amended. In § 2, the Act referred to above lays down that the state administration authorities in the areas of social affairs and employment services include the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the Labour, Social Affairs and Family Headquarters (hereinafter the ‘Headquarters’) and labour offices. Labour offices are established with competence over the territory of a single district or several districts within the territorial area of a region. According to § 6 of the Act, in order to ensure the performance of certain activities, the Headquarters may, on proposal of the head of an office, set up and abolish units of the office outside its seat, which are organisational units of the office.

Regional veterinary and food administrations

The organisation, scope of competence and powers of the authorities performing state administration in the veterinary area are governed by Act No 39/2007 Coll., on veterinary care, as amended. According to § 4 of this Act, state administration authorities in the veterinary area include the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, the State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic and regional veterinary and food administrations (hereinafter ‘RVFAs’).

Regional public health authorities

The organisation and exercise of public health powers are governed by Act No 355/2007 Coll., on the protection, promotion and development of public health and on

amendments to certain acts, as amended. According to § 3 of this Act, public health authorities include the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, regional public health authorities (hereinafter ‘RPHAs’) and other entities. The Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic provides expert and methodological management and guidance and supervises the performance of state administration in the area of public health implemented by RPHAs, which are established in each self-governing region with competence for the territory of a single district or several districts.

State archives

The organisation and scope of competence of state administration authorities in the area of archives and registries are governed by Act No 395/2002 Coll., on archives and registries and on amendments to certain acts, as amended. The Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic is the administrator of central state archives and regional state archives, as well as their specialised and other units acting as establishments without legal personality to perform state administration tasks in the area of archives and registries.

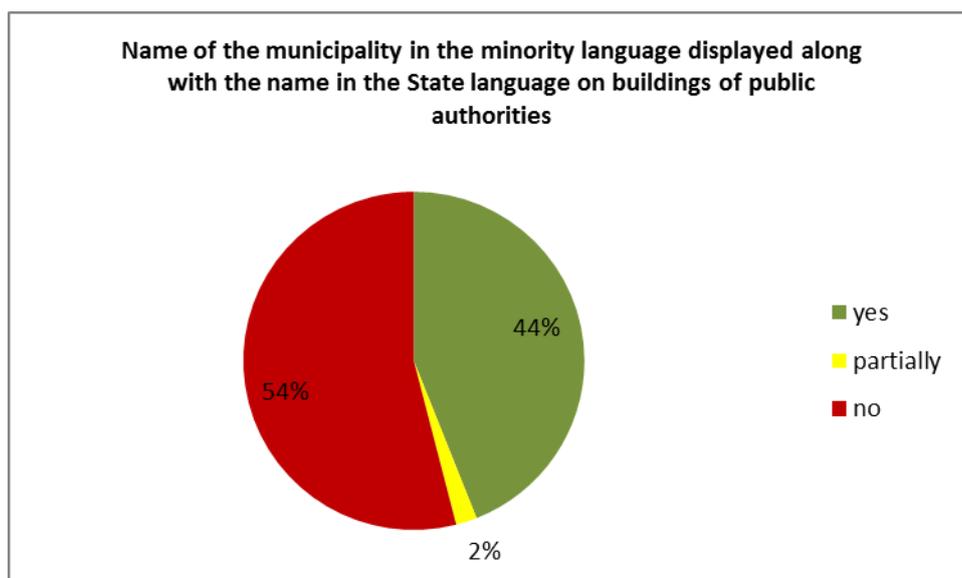
Questionnaire return rate

The state administration entities which sent their completed questionnaires back included: 13 district offices, 16 tax offices, 11 customs offices, 23 labour offices, 8 regional veterinary and food administrations, 6 regional public health authorities and 5 state archives. This means that responses were received from 82 out of the total of 85 respondents, which represents a questionnaire return rate of almost 97 %.

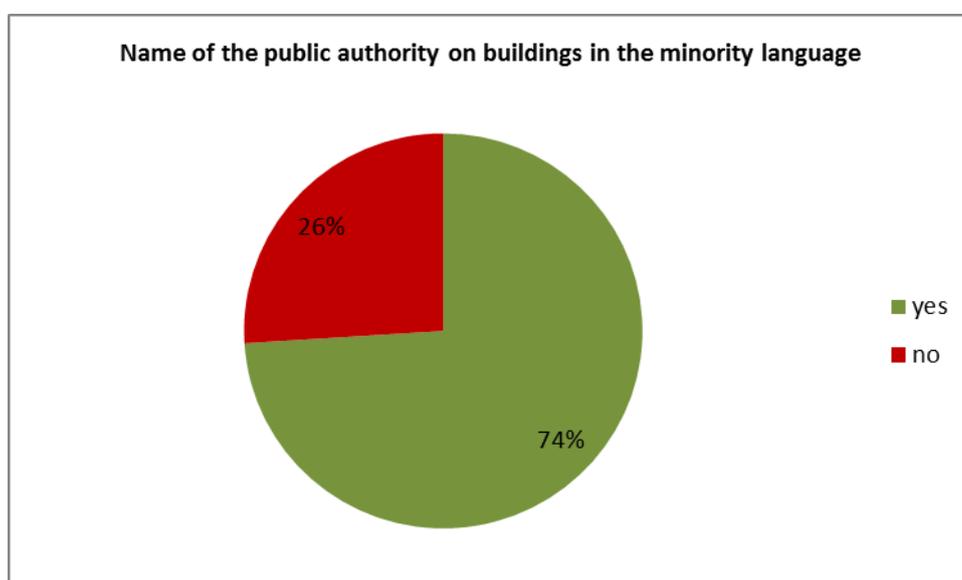
3.3.2 Signs in minority languages (questions 1-5)

The obligations in the area of signs in minority languages arise from § 4 of Act No 184/1999 Coll., which lays down the obligations related to indicating the names of municipalities in the minority language, and from § 2 of the Act, which concerns the displaying of the names of public authorities on buildings.

The name of the municipality in the minority language, along with the name in the State language, was displayed, in accordance with the Act, on the buildings of 36 (44 %) state administration authorities, of which 13 (100 %) were district offices, 1 (9 %) was a customs office, 3 (19 %) were tax offices, 9 (39 %) were labour offices, 1 (12 %) was an RVFA, 4 (67 %) were RPHAs and 5 (100 %) were state archives. Two (2 %) state administration authorities partially displayed such signs in accordance with the Act and 44 (54 %) authorities did not display them.



The obligation to display the name of the public authority on buildings in the State language and in the minority language has been laid down in Act No 184/1999 Coll. since 1999. This obligation was satisfied by 61 (74 %) state administration authorities, 21 (26 %) state administration authorities did not meet this requirement. From among the state administration authorities which satisfied this obligation, 13 (100 %) were district offices, 13 (81 %) were customs offices, 22 (96 %) were labour offices, 2 (25 %) were RVFAs, 6 (100 %) were RPHAs and 5 (100 %) were state archives.



The survey results also showed that the state administration authorities which did display these signs in both the State language and the minority language used the same font size in 28 cases (46 %) and a smaller font size in 33 cases (54 %). A comparison with the 2012 survey results reveals that there have been no significant changes in this respect. In 2012, 77 % of state administration authorities displayed their name in the minority language,

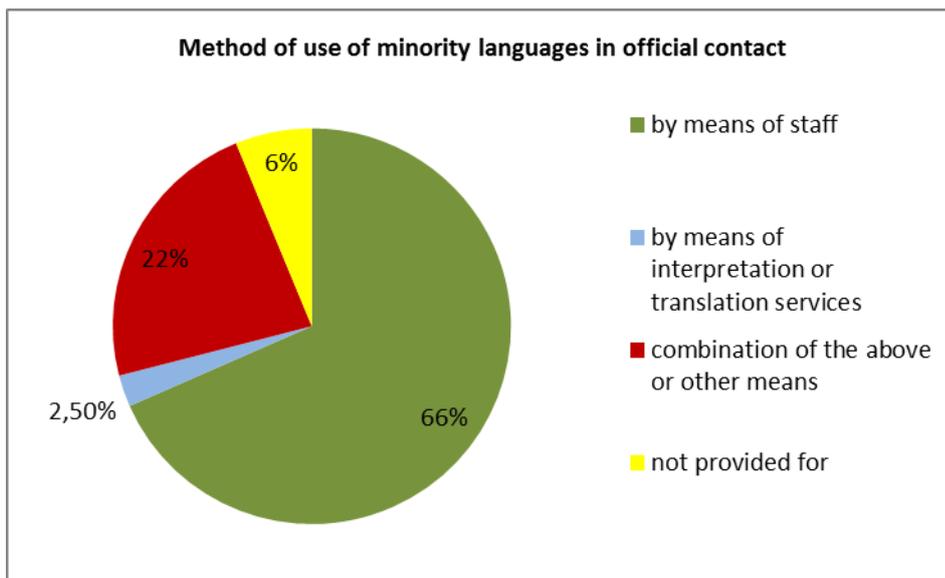
in addition to the name in the State language, while in 2016, it was 76 % of the authorities.²⁸ In 2012, around 21 % of state administration authorities did not display their names in the minority language, in 2016, this was the case of 26 % of state administration authorities.

3.3.3 Official contact (questions 6-17)

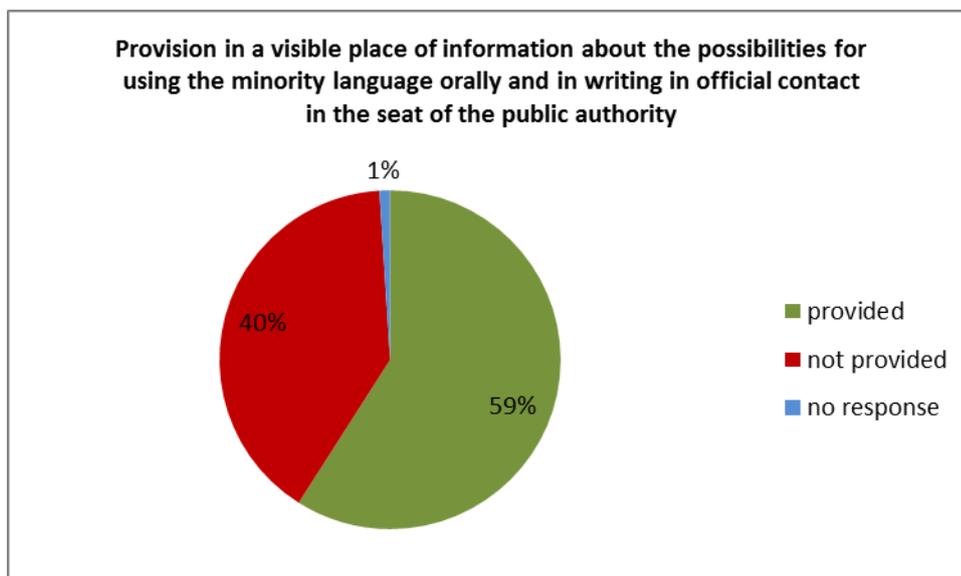
An important area of interest of the survey was compliance with the obligations of state administration authorities in the area of the use of national minority languages in official contact. In this context, the survey focused on identifying the number of staff of state administration authorities who have a speaking and writing knowledge of the relevant minority language. Act No 184/1999 Coll. lays down that public authorities and their staff are required to use the State language and, under the conditions laid down in this Act, minority languages in official contact. At the same time, according to the Act, civil servants are not obliged to have a knowledge of minority languages. This, naturally, does not exclude the possibility that they do have a knowledge of it. The survey results showed that of the 3 607 employees of state administration authorities, 936 (26 %) had a speaking and writing knowledge of the minority language and 681 (19 %) had a speaking knowledge of the minority language. We did not receive responses from 4 (5 %) state administration authorities.

In the context of the provision of information about the possibilities for using minority languages within the meaning of Government Regulation No 535/2011 Coll., public authorities specify how the possibility to use minority languages in official contact is ensured. From among the respondents, 54 (66 %) state administration authorities provided for this possibility through their own staff communicating in the minority language, two (2.5 %) state administration authorities used interpretation and translation services, 18 (22 %) state administration authorities used a combination of both methods or other methods, 6 (7 %) state administration authorities did not provide for this possibility and two (2.5 %) state administration authorities did not respond to this question. Based on the results of the previous survey, it can be concluded that the number of state administration authorities providing for this possibility through their internal staff has slightly increased (from 63 % to 66 %) and the number of state administration authorities using a combination of methods or other methods of providing for this possibility has also increased (from 15 % to 22 %). At the same time, the number of state administration authorities that did not provide for this possibility at all has decreased (from 16 % to 7 %).

²⁸ The data in this part of the Report can only be compared with the data from the 2012 Report on the Use of National Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic in accordance with § 7a(2) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended. The 2014 Report paid only partial attention to this area.



The actual information about the possibilities for using minority languages in official contact in oral and written form should, within the meaning of Act No 184/1999 Coll., be displayed at the seat of the authority in a clearly visible place. The Act does not closely specify where this information should be made publicly available. In this respect, 48 (59 %) state administration authorities reported that they satisfied this statutory obligation, 33 (40 %) state administration authorities did not satisfy this obligation and one (1 %) state administration authority did not respond. From among the 48 state administration authorities which did make this information publicly available, 44 (92 %) mostly used the public announcement and information boards for this purpose, 4 (8 %) state administration authorities used other means.



According to Act No 184/1999 Coll., public authorities in the municipalities defined by the Act accept submissions, documents and evidence from citizens in minority languages and respond to submissions in the minority language in that minority language, along with the State language. The survey revealed that 4 (5 %) state administration authorities received

submissions in a minority language and 78 (95 %) did not receive any such submissions. A total of 4 submissions were received, specifically by two state archives and by one RVFA and one RPHA. The submissions related to animal husbandry, the operation of a special primary school, the registrar's office, history and exploratory research. Two responses to these submissions were provided, one of which was in the State language and one was partially also in the minority language. A comparison with the data from the previous survey reveals that, in 2012, 6 state administration authorities responded to citizens' submissions in the minority language, along with the State language, and 4 state administration authorities responded in 2016. State administration authorities received a total of 18 submissions in 2012 and 3 submissions in 2016.

Act No 184/1999 Coll. allows for the use of minority languages in official records (in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, registries, statements, public information and records concerning churches and religious communities intended for the public, with the exception of registrar's office records). From among the relevant state administration authorities, this possibility was partially used by 4 (5 %) state administration authorities, 76 (93 %) state administration authorities did not make use of this possibility and two (2 %) state administration authorities did not respond to this question. From among those 4 state administration authorities, this possibility was partially used by one district office in oral proceedings on an offence and 3 RPHAs in information and educational materials, professional competence tests, in the exercise of state supervision and official control and when dealing with deficiencies or in the context of consultation activities.

3.3.4 Bilingual documents (questions 18-36)

Within the meaning of § 2(7) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., public authorities are required to provide citizens, at request, with official forms issued under their authority in a bilingual format, in the State language and in the minority language. Public authorities are only able to fulfil this obligation if such forms are available to them. The Office of the Government provides expert and methodological assistance in the preparation of bilingual official forms and the Expert Committee for the Application of Act No 184/1999 Coll. set up by the Office of the Government will continue to pay attention to the preparation of bilingual official forms in its activities.

The survey results show that such bilingual forms are only issued in rare cases. 75 (91 %) state administration authorities did not provide official forms issued under their authority in a bilingual format to citizens. This obligation was satisfied by 4 (5 %) state administration authorities, of which two were district offices and two were state archives. The forms related to the area of administrative records, records of registrar's offices and exploratory research. Some official forms were provided in a bilingual format by 3 (4 %) state administration authorities, two of which were RPHAs and one was a state archive, and the forms related to professional competence testing and applications. A comparison with the 2012 survey results suggests that no significant changes have occurred in this area. In 2012, all relevant official forms were also available in the bilingual format at approximately 7 % of state administration authorities; in 2016, this was true of 9 % of state administration

authorities (in 5 % fully and in 4 % partially). In 2012, 90 % of state administration authorities reported that they did not have all official forms in the bilingual format; in 2016, this was the case of 91 % of state administration authorities.

Responses, public documents and decisions are issued in the bilingual format (in the State language and in minority language) at the request of a citizen or if the proceedings were initiated in the minority language. According to data from the questionnaire survey, during the period under review, no state administration authorities received requests for the issue of bilingual public documents (permits, authorisations, certificates, opinions and declarations) or requests for the issue of bilingual decisions. No state administration authorities issued a bilingual public document. Decisions in a minority language indicating the name of the municipality in the minority language, along with the name in the State language, were issued by two (2 %) state administration authorities, both of which were RPHAs. Such decisions were not issued by 80 (98 %) state administration authorities. One of the state administration authorities (a state archive) referred to the methodology of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, according to which Slovak is to be used exclusively. If we make a comparison with the data from the 2012 questionnaire survey, it can be stated that such bilingual documents are only issued in rare cases. State administration authorities issued no bilingual public documents in 2012 or 2016. In 2012, 3 decisions were drawn up with a counterpart in the minority language; in 2016, there were 2 such decisions.

In accordance with Act No 184/1999 Coll., decisions of public authorities in administrative proceedings in the municipalities defined by the Act are issued in the State language with a counterpart in the minority language if the proceedings were initiated by a submission in the minority language or at request. In the period under review, no state administration authorities received submissions initiating administrative proceedings in a minority language. No state administration authorities issued a decision in administrative proceedings with a counterpart in a minority language in the period under review.

3.3.5 Sessions of state administration authorities (questions 37-40)

According to Act No 184/1999 Coll., sessions of public authorities in the municipalities defined by the Act may also be held in the minority language, if all participants consent to this. The survey data showed that 9 (11 %) state administration authorities also used a minority language in their sessions. The State language and partially the minority language were used by 14 (17 %) state administration authorities. The minority language was not used by 58 (71 %) state administration authorities. One (1 %) state administration authority did not respond. Sessions body were held in the State language and in the minority language by 16 (20 %) state administration authorities, of which 7 were district offices, 1 was a customs office, 2 were tax offices, 3 were labour offices and 3 were RPHAs.

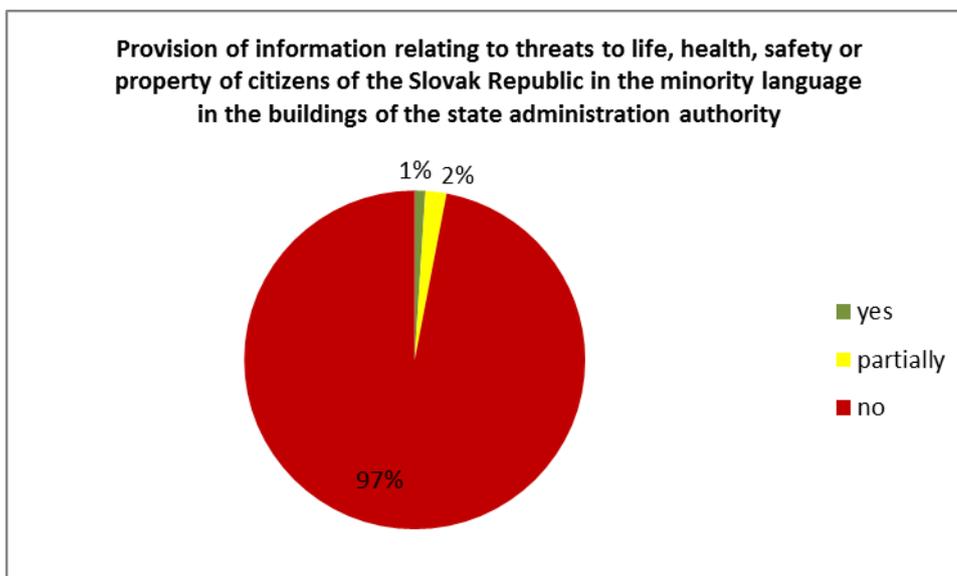
Sessions were held in the State language by 65 (79 %) state administration authorities, of which 6 were district offices, 10 were customs offices, 14 were tax offices, 20 were labour offices, 8 were RVFAs, 3 were RPHAs and 4 were state archives. One state administration authority did not respond.

According to the survey results, the use of minority languages at sessions was ensured by 43 (52 %) state administration authorities. This was not ensured by 10 (12 %) state administration authorities and 29 (35 %) state administration authorities did not respond to this question. From among the 43 state administration authorities, 30 state administration authorities provided for this possibility using their own staff who have a knowledge of the minority language, one (2 %) state administration authority used interpretation services and 12 (28 %) state administration authorities used a combination of both methods.

Also closely related to this area is the question of the language in which supporting documents for the sessions of state administration authorities are prepared. In this respect, the survey showed that 3 (4 %) state administration authorities prepared supporting documents in the State language and partially in the minority language (of which two were district offices and one was an RPHA).

3.3.6 Informing the public (questions 41-48)

The protection of life, health, safety and property of persons belonging to national minorities is governed by § 4(6) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. This obligation applies to all entities, regardless of their nature (all natural and legal persons). The results of the survey revealed that one (1 %) state administration authority also displayed information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens in the minority language in buildings serving as its seat and two (2 %) state administration authorities stated that this information was displayed in the State language and partially in the minority language. It follows from the above that 97 % of state administration authorities do not comply with this statutory obligation.



In the area of informing citizens in minority languages, the Act imposes the obligation on the municipalities defined in Act No 184/1999 Coll. to provide in the minority language, along with the State language, the types of information an exhaustive list of which is provided in the Act on their public announcements boards, municipal websites or periodicals. In this

respect, the questionnaire survey mapped whether important information is made available on public announcements board and websites of state administration authorities. The survey results showed that this information was made available by one (1 %) state administration authority. Important information was provided in the State language and partially in the minority language by 14 (17 %) state administration authorities. Important information was provided in the State language by 63 (77 %) state administration authorities. In 4 (5 %) cases, the state administration authorities did not respond. State archives, which did not make important information available, reasoned that they neither had an information board nor their own website.

Act No 184/1999 Coll. allows for the provision of all information and announcements to be made in the minority language, but does not make it compulsory. In response to the question where the state administration authorities make available announcements intended to inform the public in the minority language, 44 (54 %) state administration authorities reported various places, in particular information and public announcement boards and nameplates, but also entrance doors, information boards of the municipality, the municipal website, exhibition panels and display cabinets, invitations, posters, local television, local press and almanacs. These announcements were not provided by 19 (23 %) state administration authorities.

General information for citizens in buildings serving as the seats of state administration authorities was displayed in the minority language in 11 (13 %) state administration authorities, 6 (7 %) state administration authorities displayed this information in the State language and partially in the minority language. This information was not made available by 62 (96 %) state administration authorities and 3 (4 %) state administration authorities did not provide any information on this topic.

State administration authorities defined in Act No 184/1999 Coll. are required to provide, at request, information within the scope of their competence on legislation of general application in the minority language, along with the State language. The survey revealed that no state administration authorities received requests for the provision of this information in the period under review.

3.3.7 Final questions (questions 49-55)

The creation of conditions for the use of minority languages in official contact was considered problem-free by 45 (55 %) state administration authorities, 20 (24 %) state administration authorities found it partially problematic and 11 (13 %) state administration authorities found it problematic. No response was received from 6 (7 %) state administration authorities. The vast majority of state administration authorities reported a lack of funding, a lack of expert support and a lack of qualified staff or unavailability of bilingual official forms as the main reasons for this situation. In rare cases, a lack of interest of the relevant entities in this area was reported as the reason.

The handling of administrative offences in the area of the use of national minority languages falls under the competence of the Office of the Government. The survey inquired

into complaints filed with state administration authorities concerning breaches of Act No 184/1999 Coll. From among the respondents, no state administration authorities received such complaints.

3.4 Organisational units of armed security forces and rescue services

According to § 3(1) of Act No 270/1995 Coll., state authorities, local self-government authorities and other public authorities, legal persons established by them and legal person established by law use the State language in official contact and their staff, civil servants, municipal police officers, members of the armed forces of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter ‘armed forces’), armed security forces, other armed forces and the Fire and Rescue Service are required to have a knowledge of the State language and use it in official contact; this is without prejudice to the use of minority languages in official contact under special legislation, which is Act No 184/1999 Coll. Within the meaning of § 7(4) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., if members of armed forces, armed security forces, other armed forces and the Fire and Rescue Service or municipal police officers have a knowledge of the minority language, they can use the minority language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the national minority in municipalities defined under § 2(1). According to § 7a of the Act, the Office of the Government provides expert and methodological assistance to public authorities and organisational units of security forces and rescue services with regard to the implementation of this Act.

3.4.1 Organisational units of the Police Force

The roles, organisation and management of the Police Force are governed by Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No 171/1993 Coll., on the Police Force, as amended (hereinafter ‘Act No 171/1993 Coll.’). According to § 1(3) of Act No 171/1993 Coll., in its activities, the Police Force follows the Constitution, constitutional acts, acts and other legislation of general application, as well as international treaties binding on the Slovak Republic. According to § 2(2) of the Act, the Police Force performs state administration tasks and other tasks, where this is provided for in special legislation.

According to § 4(1) and (2) of Act No 171/1993 Coll., the Police Force is divided into the criminal police service, financial police service, riot police service, traffic police service, railway police service, property guard service, border and alien police service, special-purpose service, service for the protection of specific persons and the inspection service; the organisational structure of the Police Force includes a criminal expertise unit, which performs specialised activities and court expert activities in accordance with special legislation. The Police Force services operate within Police Force units set up and abolished by the Minister; the Minister also defines their roles and internal organisation.

The Office of the Plenipotentiary identified 28 district directorates of the Police Force (hereinafter also ‘DD PF’), in which a minority language is used in official contact along with the State language. We received completed questionnaires from 18 DD PF, which represents a 64 % return rate. The DD PF were requested to respond to 34 questions covering the

following themes: official contact, bilingual documents, informing the public and final questions.

Official contact (questions 2-12)

The survey results showed that there were 2 206 officers in the total of 18 DD PF²⁹, 387 (18 %) of which had a speaking and writing knowledge of the minority language and 350 (16 %) had a speaking knowledge of the minority language. In 13 DD PF, the possibility to use a minority language when performing state administration tasks was ensured through a combination of interpretation and translation services or through DD PF officers who had a knowledge of the minority language; in 2 DD PF this was ensured in a different manner (e.g. through community workers in municipalities) and three DD PF did not make use of this possibility. The majority of DD PF did not receive any written submissions in a minority language. In one case, a DD PF received a written submission relating to the issuance of personal documents.

One DD PF provided its response to a submission in the minority language. One DD PF used a minority language, in addition to the State language, in duty-related contact, 9 DD PF used the State language and partially the minority language and 8 DD PF did not use the minority language at all. When communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority, 3 DD PF used the minority language along with the State language, 11 DD PF used the State language and partially a minority language and 4 DD PF did not use a minority language at all.

Bilingual documents (questions 13-25)

Two DD PF provided citizens with official forms falling under their authority in a bilingual format. Some forms were provided for in the bilingual format by 7 DD PF, 9 DD PF did not provide such forms. Bilingual official forms related to instructions in criminal proceedings as to the rights of the victim or the accused, instructions when placing persons in police detention cells and instructions in the event restricting a person's personal liberty.

One DD PF received a submission initiating administrative proceedings in a minority language. No DD PF issued a decision in administrative proceedings with a counterpart in a minority language in the period under review. No DD PF received a request for the issue of a bilingual decision in the period under review. Decisions in the minority language indicating the name of the municipality in the minority language along with the name in the State language were issued by one DD PF. One DD PF issued some decisions in the State language and in the minority language. A negative response to this question was given by 14 DD PF.

Informing the public (questions 26-27)

Information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic was partially displayed in the minority language, along with the State language, in the premises of two DD PF; 16 DD PF did not provide this information in the

²⁹ Note: the total number of DD PF was 18, which represents 100 %.

minority language. General information intended for citizens was partially displayed in the minority language, along with the State language, in the premises of two DD PF; 16 DD PF did not provide this information in the minority language.

Final questions (questions 28-34)

The creation of condition for the use of the minority language in official contact was considered problem-free for the organisational unit of the Police Force by 8 DD PF, 8 DD PF found it partially problematic and two DD PF found it problematic. They identified a lack of qualified staff, lack of funding, lack of expert support and lack no knowledge of the minority language as the reasons for this situation. One DD PF stated that official contact should be in the State language. No DD PF received a complaint concerning of breaches of Act No 184/1999 Coll.

3.4.2 Organisational units of the Fire and Rescue Service

The establishment, status, roles, organisation and management of the Fire and Rescue Service are governed by Act No 315/2001 Coll., on the Fire and Rescue Brigade, as amended (hereinafter ‘Act No 315/2001 Coll.’). According to § 4(1) of Act No 315/2001 Coll., the service comprises: the presidium, regional directorates, district directorates, the Fire and Rescue Service of the Capital City of the Slovak Republic Bratislava, and facilities and units of the service. According to § 3(1) of Act No 315/2001 Coll., the service performs state administration tasks in the area of fire protection and other roles referred to in special legislation.

At the request of the Office of the Plenipotentiary, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic identified the relevant district directorates of the Fire and Rescue Service, in which a minority language is used in official contact along with the State language. Each of the total of 6 units we addressed sent back their completed questionnaires, which represents a 100 % return rate.

District directorates of the Fire and Rescue Service (hereinafter ‘DD F&RS’) were requested to respond to a total of 12 questions covering the following themes: official contact, informing the public, and final questions.

Official contact (questions 2-5)

The survey results showed that there were 349 officers in the total of 6 DD F&RS³⁰, of which 137 (39 %) had a speaking and writing knowledge of the minority language and 96 (27 %) had a speaking knowledge of the minority language.

Three DD F&RS used a minority language, in addition to the State language, in duty-related contact, two DD F&RB used the State language and partially the minority language and one DD F&RB did not use the minority language at all. Four DD F&RSB used the minority language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to

³⁰ Note: the total number of DD F&RS was 6, which represents 100 %.

that national minority. One DD F&RS used the State language and partially the minority language and one DD F&RS did not use the minority language at all.

Informing the public (questions 6-7)

The statutory obligation to display in the minority language information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in the premises of DD F&RS was satisfied by 3 DD F&RS and 3 DD F&RB did not comply with this obligation.

General information intended for citizens was displayed in the minority language, along with the State language, in the premises of the DD F&RS by two DD F&RS and 4 DD F&RS did not provide this information in the minority language.

Final questions (questions 8-12)

No DD F&RS received a complaint concerning breaches of Act No 184/1999 Coll in the period under review.

Conclusion

In its Policy Statement for the 2016-2020 term, the Slovak Government committed itself to creating conditions for the development of national minorities in the area of conservation and development of their identity, language, culture and traditions. The Slovak Government undertook to create, on the basis of an analysis, conditions for aligning the practices in ethnically mixed areas with Act No 184/1999 Coll., as amended.

The present Report is the third report mapping out the progress made in the application of Act No 184/1999 Coll. in the territory of the Slovak Republic in the 2015-2016 period with regard to the national legislative and institutional frameworks for the use of national minority languages, the international legislative framework for the use of national minority languages and the use of national minority languages by public authorities and organisational units of armed security forces and rescue services. The Report provides detailed and clear information obtained on the basis of an extensive questionnaire survey, which will serve as an important source of information about the progress made in the application of Act No 184/1999 Coll.

Based on the content of the relevant chapters of the Report, it can be concluded that the Slovak Government is actively cooperating and conducting an ongoing dialogue with international organisations and representatives of national minorities in the area of the protection and promotion of linguistic rights granted to citizens belonging to national minorities under the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

The Office of the Government, as the guarantor of Act No 184/1999 Coll., in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary, provides expert and methodological assistance to public authorities and organisational units of security forces and rescue services in the application of Act No 184/1999 Coll. and, in the event of breaches of Act No 184/1999 Coll., handles administrative offences. Within the meaning of the Act, in regular two-year intervals, the Office of the Government, in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary, also monitors and evaluates the situation regarding the use of national minority languages and presents reports on the situation to the Slovak Government.

Basic findings: For all monitored entities, the Report monitors three categories of linguistic rights arising from Act No 184/1999 Coll.:

- a) linguistic rights compliance with which is compulsory and failure to comply with which is an administrative offence (under § 7b of Act No 184/1999 Coll.);
- b) linguistic rights compliance with which is compulsory and failure to comply with which is not an administrative offence;
- c) linguistic rights the application of which is optional under Act No 184/1999 Coll.

The Report also includes separate annexes containing the lists and numbers of specific deficiencies in practical application of Act No 184/1999 Coll. identified based on the questionnaire survey.

In § 7b(1) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., linguistic rights compliance with which is compulsory and failure to comply with which is an administrative offence are defined as follows:

Public authorities will commit an offence in the area of the use of national minority languages in a municipality referred to in § 2(1) if they:

- fail to allow a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority to communicate orally and in writing in the minority language or fail to inform such a citizen of this possibility [§ 2(3)];
- fail to issue, at the request of a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority, a counterpart of a decision or birth certificate, marriage certificate or death certificate in the minority language [§ 2(4) and (5)];
- fail to display their name in the minority language on the building serving as their seat [§ 2(6)];
- fail to provide an official form issued under their authority in the minority language [§ 2(7)];
- fail to display, within their territory and competence, the name of the municipality in the minority language in cases laid down in § 4(1);
- fail to ensure the provision of information, notices and announcements within their competence in accordance with § 4(6), first sentence;
- fail to provide, at request, information about legislation of general application in the minority language [§ 4(8)];
- fail to provide the Office of the Government with information and written documentation referred to in § 7a(3).

Within the meaning of § 7b(2) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., legal persons or sole traders will commit an administrative offence in the area of the use of national minority languages if they fail to display signs or notices referred to in § 4(6) in the minority language, if these signs or notices contain information relating to threats to life, health, property or safety of citizens of the Slovak Republic.

The results of the monitoring show that breaches of Act No 184/1999 Coll. may have occurred in 1 712 cases (see Annex 6 to this Report). Against this background, the Office of the Government has already started to take action in accordance with § 7 of Act No 184/1999 Coll.

Another category of linguistic rights, compliance with which is compulsory, but failure to comply with which is not an administrative offence, comprises the following rights:

- to receive a response from public authorities in the minority language to submissions written in the minority language;
- to have issued, at request, permits, licences, authorisations and opinions in the minority language;
- to have issued decisions of public authorities in administrative proceedings in the minority language where the proceedings were initiated by a submission in the minority language;

- to have issued, at request, decisions of public authorities in administrative proceedings in the minority language;
- to be provided important information in the minority language on the municipality's public announcements board, website or periodicals published.

The results of the monitoring show that the linguistic rights in this category were not complied with in 590 cases (see Annex 7 to this Report).

Linguistic rights the application of which is optional under Act No 184/1999 Coll. comprise:

- displaying of the name of the municipality³¹ in the minority language at the railway station, bus station, airport and river port in the municipality;
- street names in the municipality displayed in the minority language;
- local place-names in the municipality displayed in the minority language;
- the maintaining of official records in the minority language, in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, registries, statements, public information and records concerning churches and religious communities intended for the public, with the exception of registrar's office records;
- maintaining of municipal chronicles in the minority language;
- the use of minority languages by municipal police officers in duty-related contact;
- the use of minority languages by municipal police officers, officers of armed security forces, other armed forces and the Fire and Rescue Service who have a knowledge of a minority language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the national minority;
- the use of the minority languages at municipal council sessions by members of the municipal council;
- sessions of public authorities also held in the minority language;
- publication of legislation of general application by public authorities in the minority language;
- the provision of announcements intended to inform the public through the municipal PA system or other technical equipment in the minority language;
- the provision of inscriptions on monuments, memorials and commemorative plaques in the minority language.

The results of the monitoring show that linguistic rights in this category were exercised in 1 736 cases and partially exercised in 698 cases. These rights were not exercised in 2 440 cases (see Annex 8 to this Report).

Compared to the previous reports, the present Report provides more comprehensive data in terms of both the scope of the monitored entities and the degree of detail to which the individual areas of the use of national minority languages laid down by law have been mapped. Also related to this is the fact that the results of the analysis of the data obtained from the questionnaire survey in this Report, including comparisons with the results of the

³¹ Note: the term municipality is used within the meaning of § 2(1) of Act No 184/1999 Coll.

surveys used in the two previous reports, revealed a number of shortcomings and opportunities for improvement. Even though positive changes have occurred in some areas of the use of national minority languages by public authorities in the Slovak Republic, in some cases, the linguistic rights of national minorities were not complied with and, in some areas, they were not exercised sufficiently. In this sense, based on the Slovak Government's Policy Statement for 2016-2020 and the Action Plan approved by the Government, the present Report provides a basis for targeted activities aimed at improving the practical conditions for the use of the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups.

List of annexes

- Annex 1: Questionnaire for local self-government authorities (municipalities) on the use of national minority languages
- Annex 2: Questionnaire for local state administration authorities on the use of national minority languages
- Annex 3: Questionnaire for legal persons established by a local self-government authority on the use of national minority languages
- Annex 4: Questionnaire for organisational units of the Police Force on the use of national minority languages
- Annex 5: Questionnaire for organisational units of rescue services on the use of national minority languages
- Annex 6: List and number of specific deficiencies in the practical application of Act No 184/1999 Coll. identified based on the questionnaire survey
- Annex 7: Linguistic rights compliance with which is compulsory, but failure to comply with which is not an administrative offence
- Annex 8: Linguistic rights, the application of which is optional under Act No 184/1999 Coll.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE
for local self-government authorities (municipalities) on the use of national minority languages

Dear respondents,

We wish to request your cooperation in our survey on the situation regarding the use of minority languages in the Slovak Republic in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July) by completing this questionnaire. The data is being collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Use of Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic to be submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. Within the meaning of § 7a(3) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended, the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is authorised to request public authorities to provide information and written documentation on the use of minority languages in the areas of their competence. Public authorities that do not provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documentation for this purpose will commit an administrative offence under § 7b(1)(h) of Act No 184/1999 Coll.

Please read the questionnaire carefully, circle the correct answers and complete the relevant information.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

SIGNS IN MINORITY LANGUAGES

1. Please provide the name of the municipality in the State language:

.....

2. Please provide the name of the municipality in the minority language:

.....

3. Please indicate whether the *name of the municipality* in the minority language is displayed on the *municipality entry/exit sign*:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

4. Please indicate whether the *name of the municipality* in the minority language is displayed below the name in the State language on the *signs at the railway station, bus station, airport and river port*:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

5. If you answer to question 4 is 'yes', please indicate whether the *name of the municipality* in the minority language is displayed below the name in the State language on the *signs at the railway station, bus station, airport and river port* using:

- a) the same font size
- b) smaller font size

6. Please indicate whether the *name of the municipality* in the minority language is displayed along with the name in the State language on *buildings of public authorities*:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

7. Please indicate how the *name of the public authority* is displayed on buildings:

- a) only in the State language
- b) in the State language and in the minority language

8. Please indicate whether the *name of the public authority* in the minority language is displayed on buildings along with the equivalent in the State language using:

- a) the same font size
- b) smaller font size

9. If *street-name signs* are used in your municipality, are these (complete only if this question applies to you):

- a) only in the State language
- b) in the State language and in the minority language?

10. If *local place-names* signs are used in your municipality, are these (complete only if this question applies to you):

- a) only in the State language
- b) in the State language and in the minority language?

OFFICIAL CONTACT

11. Please indicate the total number of staff at your municipal office:

12. Please indicate the number of staff who have a knowledge of a minority language:

- a) speaking and writing
- b) only speaking

13. Please indicate how the possibility to use minority languages in official contact is provided for in your municipality:

- a) by means of municipality staff who communicate in the minority language
- b) by means of interpretation or translation services
- c) by other means (please specify):

14. Please indicate whether a specific time slot is determined in your municipality for dealing with matters in the minority language:

- a) yes
- b) no

15. Please indicate whether your municipality displays information in a visible place about the possibilities for using minority languages in official contact – in both spoken and written form, in the seat of the public authority within the meaning of § 1 of Government Regulation No 535/2011 Coll., implementing certain provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended:

- a) yes
- b) no

16. If your answer to question 15 is ‘yes’, how is this information provided (note: multiple answers are possible):

- a) on the municipality’s public announcements board
- b) on the municipality’s information board
- c) by other means (please specify)

17. Please indicate whether your office received *written submissions* in a minority language filed by citizens in the course of 2015 and 2016 (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

18. If your answer to question 17 is ‘yes’, what was the total number of such submissions in 2015?
.....

19. If your answer to question 17 is ‘yes’, what was the total number of such submissions in 2016 (until 1 July)?.....

20. If your answer to question 17 is ‘yes’, what areas did these submissions relate to?
.....

21. If your answer to question 17 is ‘yes’, please indicate whether your office’s *responses to submissions* in a minority language were, in addition to the State language, also provided in the minority language in the course of 2015 and 2016 (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

22. Please indicate whether your municipality also uses a minority language in official records of the municipal office – e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, registries, etc.:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

23. If your answer to question 22 is ‘yes’, please indicate in what areas:

24. If your municipality maintains chronicles, are they also maintained in the minority language (note: complete only if this question applies to you):

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

25. If municipal police operates in your municipality, indicate whether, in addition to the State language, a minority language is used in duty-related contact (note: complete only if this question applies to you):

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

26. Did the persons present give their consent to the use of a minority language in duty-related contact in your municipality?

- a) yes
- b) no

27. Please indicate the total number of municipal police officers:

28. Please indicate the number of municipal police officers who have a knowledge of a minority language:
.....

- a) speaking and writing
- b) only speaking

29. Do municipal police officers who have a knowledge of the minority language use this language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority in your municipality?

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS

OFFICIAL FORMS

30. Please indicate whether your municipality provides citizens with *bilingual official forms* within the scope of its authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

31. If your answer to question 30 is (a) or (b), please indicate in what areas these are provided:
.....

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

32. Please indicate whether your municipality received *requests for the issue of bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, opinions and declarations):

- a) yes
- b) no

33. If your answer to question 32 is 'yes', please indicate their number in 2015:

- number of permit requests:
- number of authorisation requests:
- number of certificate requests:
- number of opinion requests:
- number of declaration requests:

34. If your answer to question 32 is 'yes', please indicate their number in 2016 (until 1 July):

- number of permit requests:
- number of authorisation requests:
- number of certificate requests:
- number of opinion requests:
- number of declaration requests:

35. If your answer to question 32 is ‘yes’, please indicate whether *bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, opinions and declarations) were issued:

- a) yes
- b) no

36. If your answer to question 35 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2015:

- number of permits:
- number of authorisations:
- number of certificates:
- number of opinions:
- number of declarations:

37. If your answer to question 35 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2016 (until 1 July):

- number of permits:
- number of authorisations:
- number of certificates:
- number of opinions:
- number of declarations:

38. If your municipality has a registrar’s office, please indicate whether it received *requests for the issue of bilingual birth, marriage and death certificates* (note: complete only if this question applies to you):

- a) yes
- b) no

39. If your answer to question 38 is ‘yes’, please indicate whether *bilingual birth, marriage and death certificates were issued in the 2015-2016 period* (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

40. If your answer to question 39 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2015:

- number of birth certificates:
- number of marriage certificates:
- number of death certificates:

41. If your answer to question 39 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2016 (until 1 July):

- number of birth certificates:
- number of marriage certificates:
- number of death certificates:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

42. Please indicate whether your municipality received *submissions initiating administrative proceedings in a minority language in the 2015-2016 period* (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

43. If your answer to question 42 is 'yes', please indicate the number of the submissions in 2015:

.....

44. If your answer to question 42 is 'yes', please indicate the number of the submissions in 2016 (until 1 July):

.....

45. Please indicate whether your municipality *issued decisions in administrative proceedings with a counterpart in the minority language in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):*

- a) yes
- b) no

46. If your answer to question 45 is 'yes', please indicate the total number of such decisions in 2015:

.....

47. If your answer to question 45 is 'yes', please indicate the total number of such decisions in 2016 (until 1 July):

48. If your answer to question 45 is 'yes', please specify what areas these decisions concerned:

.....

DECISIONS

49. Please indicate whether your municipality received *requests for the issue of bilingual decisions in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):*

- a) yes
- b) no

50. If your answer to question 49 is 'yes', please indicate the number of the requests in 2015:

.....

51. If your answer to question 49 is 'yes', please indicate the number of the requests in 2016 (until 1 July):

.....

52. If your municipality issues decisions in a minority language, please indicate whether the *name of the municipality* in the minority language is provided along with the name in the State language in *decisions* issued in the minority language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

SESSIONS OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES

53. Please indicate whether the members of the municipal council in your municipality use a minority language in the sessions of the municipal council:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

54. Please indicate whether the mayor of your municipality also uses a minority language in the sessions of the municipal council:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

55. Please indicate the language in which the sessions of the municipal council in your municipality are held:

- a) in the State language
- b) in the minority language
- b) in the State language and in the minority language

56. Please indicate whether supporting documents for sessions of the municipal council are also prepared in a minority language in your municipality:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

57. Please indicate how the possibility to use minority languages at municipal council sessions is provided for in your municipality:

- a) by means of interpretation services
- b) by other means (please specify):

INFORMING THE PUBLIC

58. Please indicate whether information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property is also provided to citizens in the minority language in the buildings owned or administered by the municipality:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

59. Please indicate whether general information for citizens is also provided in the minority language in the buildings owned or administered by the municipality:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

60. Please indicate whether your municipality received *requests for the issue of information on legislation of general application* in the minority language, along with the State language, in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

61. If your answer to question 60 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the requests in 2015:

.....

62. If your answer to question 60 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the requests in 2016 (until 1 July):

.....

63. If your answer to question 60 is 'yes', please indicate whether your municipality has *provided for information on legislation of general application* in the minority language, along with the State language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

64. Please indicate whether your municipality also issues and publishes its *legislation of general application* in the minority language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

65. Please indicate whether important information on the municipality's public announcements board, website, or in the periodicals published is also provided in minority language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

66. Please indicate where your municipality provides announcements intended to inform the public in the minority language (note: multiple answers are possible):

- a) on the municipality's website
- b) through the municipal PA system
- c) on municipal television
- d) in the municipality's periodicals
- e) on the municipality's public announcements board
- f) other (please specify):

67. If your municipality owns monuments, memorials and commemorative plaques, are the inscriptions on them provided in the minority language, along with the State language? (note: complete only if this question applies to you)

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

FINAL QUESTIONS

68. Please indicate whether, for your municipality, the creation of condition for the use of minority languages in official contact is:

- a) problem-free
- b) partially problematic
- c) problematic

69. If your answer to question 68 is (b) or (c), please provide the reason:

- a) lack of qualified staff
- b) lack of funding
- c) lack of technical support
- d) other factors (please specify)

70. Please indicate whether your municipality received *complaints concerning breaches of the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages* in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

71. If your answer to question 70 is 'yes', please provide the total number of such complaints in 2015:
.....

72. If your answer to question 70 is 'yes', please provide the total number of such complaints in 2016 (until 1 July):

73. If your answer to question 70 is 'yes', please provide the subject matters of these complaints:
.....

74. If your answer to question 70 is 'yes', please specify how these complaints were handled:
.....

Date:

Questionnaire completed by (name, surname, position and signature):

Questionnaire approved by (name, surname, position and signature of the mayor of the municipality):

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE
for local state administration authorities¹ on the use of national minority languages

Dear respondents,

We wish to request your cooperation in our survey on the situation regarding the use of minority languages in the Slovak Republic in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July) by completing this questionnaire. The data is being collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Use of Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic to be submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. Within the meaning of § 7a(3) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended, the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is authorised to request public authorities to provide information and written documentation on the use of minority languages in the areas of their competence. Public authorities that do not provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documentation for this purpose will commit an administrative offence under § 7b(1)(h) of Act No 184/1999 Coll.

Please read the questionnaire carefully, circle the correct answers and complete the relevant information.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

SIGNS IN MINORITY LANGUAGES

1. Please provide the name of the local state administration authority in the State language:

.....

2. Please provide the name of the local state administration authority in the minority language:

.....

3. Please indicate whether the *name of the municipality* in the minority language is displayed along with the name in the State language *on the buildings of local state administration authorities*:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

4. Please indicate how the *name of the local state administration authority* is displayed on its buildings:

- a) only in the State language
- b) in the State language and in the minority language

5. Please indicate whether the *name of the local state administration authority* in the minority language is displayed *on buildings* along with the equivalent in the State language using:

- a) the same font size
- b) smaller font size

¹ Note: In the case of organisational units of tax offices, customs offices, labour, social affairs and family offices, regional veterinary and food administrations, regional public health authorities and state archives, the name of the authority, with the exception of district offices, was used throughout the questionnaire.

OFFICIAL CONTACT

6. Please indicate the total number of staff of the local state administration authority:

7. Please indicate the number of staff who have a knowledge of a minority language:

- a) speaking and writing
- b) only speaking

8. Please indicate how the possibility to use minority languages in official contact is provided for by the local state administration authority:

- a) by means of municipality staff who communicate in the minority language
- b) by means of interpretation or translation services
- c) by other means (please specify):

9. Please indicate whether the local state administration authority displays information in a visible place about the possibilities for using minority languages in official contact – in both spoken and written form, in the seat of the public authority within the meaning of § 1 of Government Regulation No 535/2011 Coll., implementing certain provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended:

- a) yes
- b) no

10. If your answer to question 9 is ‘yes’, how is this information provided (note: multiple answers are possible):

- a) on the public announcements board
- b) on the information board
- c) by other means (please specify)

11. Please indicate whether the authority received *written submissions* in a minority language filed by citizens in the course of 2015 and 2016 (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

12. If your answer to question 11 is ‘yes’, what was the total number of such submissions in 2015?

.....

13. If your answer to question 11 is ‘yes’, what was the total number of such submissions in 2016 (until 1 July)?

14. If your answer to question 11 is ‘yes’, what areas did these submissions relate to?

.....

15. If your answer to question 11 is ‘yes’, please indicate whether the authority’s *responses to submissions* in a minority language were, in addition to the State language, also provided in the minority language in the course of 2015 and 2016 (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

16. Please indicate whether the local state administration authority also uses a minority language in official records – e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, registries, etc.:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

17. If your answer to question 16 is (a) or (b), please indicate in what areas:
.....

BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS

OFFICIAL FORMS

18. Please indicate whether the local state administration authority provides citizens with *bilingual official forms* within the scope of its authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

19. If your answer to question 18 is (a) or (b), please indicate in what areas these are provided:
.....

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

20. Please indicate whether the local state administration authority received *requests for the issue of bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, opinions and declarations):

- a) yes
- b) no

21. If your answer to question 20 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2015:

- number of permit requests:
- number of authorisation requests:
- number of certificate requests:
- number of opinion requests:
- number of declaration requests:

22. If your answer to question 20 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2016 (until 1 July):

- number of permit requests:
- number of authorisation requests:
- number of certificate requests:
- number of opinion requests:
- number of declaration requests:

23. If your answer to question 20 is ‘yes’, please indicate whether *bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, opinions and declarations) were issued:

- a) yes
- b) no

24. If your answer to question 23 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2015:

- number of permits:
- number of authorisations:
- number of certificates:
- number of opinions:
- number of declarations:

25. If your answer to question 23 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2016 (until 1 July):

- number of permits:
- number of authorisations:
- number of certificates:
- number of opinions:
- number of declarations:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

26. Please indicate whether the local state administration authority received *submissions initiating administrative proceedings* in a minority language in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

27. If your answer to question 26 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the submissions in 2015:

.....

28. If your answer to question 26 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the submissions in 2016 (until 1 July):

.....

29. Please indicate whether the local state administration authority *issued decisions in administrative proceedings* with a counterpart in the minority language in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

30. If your answer to question 29 is ‘yes’, please indicate the total number of such decisions in 2015:

.....

31. If your answer to question 29 is ‘yes’, please indicate the total number of such decisions in 2016 (until 1 July):

32. If your answer to question 29 is ‘yes’, please specify what areas these decisions concerned:

.....

DECISIONS

33. Please indicate whether the local state administration authority received *requests for the issue of bilingual decisions* in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

34. If your answer to question 33 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the submissions in 2015:

.....

35. If your answer to question 33 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the submissions in 2016 (until 1 July):

.....

36. If the local state administration authority issues decisions in a minority language, please indicate whether the *name of the municipality* in the minority language is provided along with the name in the State language in *decisions* issued in the minority language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

SESSIONS OF LOCAL STATE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITIES

37. Please indicate whether a minority language is used in the sessions of the local state administration authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

38. Please indicate the language in which sessions of the local state administration authority are held:

- a) in the State language
- b) in the minority language
- b) in the State language and in the minority language

39. Please indicate whether supporting documents for sessions of the local state administration authority are also prepared in a minority language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

40. Please indicate how the possibility to use minority languages at the sessions of the local state administration authority is ensured:

- a) by means of interpretation services
- b) by other means (please specify):

INFORMING THE PUBLIC

41. Please indicate whether information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property is also provided to citizens in the minority language in the buildings owned or administered by the local state administration authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

42. Please indicate whether general information for citizens is also provided in the minority language in the buildings owned or administered by the local state administration authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

43. Please indicate whether the local state administration authority received *requests for the issue of information on legislation of general application* in the minority language, along with the State language, in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

44. If your answer to question 43 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the requests in 2015:

.....

45. If your answer to question 43 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the requests in 2016 (until 1 July):

.....

46. If your answer to question 43 is ‘yes’, please indicate whether the local state administration authority has *provided for information on legislation of general application* in the minority language, along with the State language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

47. Please indicate whether important information on the local state administration authority’s public announcements board or website is also provided in minority language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

48. Please indicate where the local state administration authority provides announcements intended to inform the public in the minority language (note: multiple answers are possible):

- a) on its website
- b) on its public announcements board
- c) other places (please specify):

FINAL QUESTIONS

49. Please indicate whether, for the local state administration authority, the creation of condition for the use of minority languages in official contact is:

- a) problem-free
- b) partially problematic
- c) problematic

50. If your answer to question 49 is (b) or (c), please provide the reason:

- a) lack of qualified staff
- b) lack of funding
- c) lack of technical support
- d) other factors (please specify)

51. Please indicate whether the local state administration authority received *complaints concerning breaches of the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages* in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

52. If your answer to question 51 is 'yes', please provide the total number of such complaints in 2015:

.....

53. If your answer to question 51 is 'yes', please provide the total number of such complaints in 2016 (until 1 July):

54. If your answer to question 51 is 'yes', please provide the subject matters of these complaints:

.....

55. If your answer to question 51 is 'yes', please specify how these complaints were handled:

.....

Date:

Questionnaire completed by (name, surname, position and signature):

Questionnaire approved by (name, surname, position and signature of the head of the local state administration authority):

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE
for legal persons established by a local self-government authority on the use of national minority languages

Dear respondents,

We wish to request your cooperation in our survey on the situation regarding the use of minority languages in the Slovak Republic in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July) by completing this questionnaire. The data is being collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Use of Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic to be submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. Within the meaning of § 7a(3) of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended, the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is authorised to request public authorities to provide information and written documentation on the use of minority languages in the areas of their competence. Public authorities that do not provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documentation for this purpose will commit an administrative offence under § 7b(1)(h) of Act No 184/1999 Coll.

Please read the questionnaire carefully, circle the correct answers and complete the relevant information.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

SIGNS IN MINORITY LANGUAGES

1. Please provide the name of the legal person established by a local self-government authority in the State language:

2. Please provide the name of the legal person established by a local self-government authority in the minority language:

3. Please indicate whether the *name of the municipality* in the minority language is displayed along with the name in the State language *on the buildings of the legal person* established by a local self-government authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

4. Please indicate how the *name of the legal person* established by a local self-government authority is displayed *on its buildings*:

- a) only in the State language
- b) in the State language and in the minority language

5. Please indicate whether the *name of the legal person* established by a local self-government authority in the minority language is displayed *on buildings* along with the equivalent in the State language using:

- a) the same font size
- b) smaller font size

OFFICIAL CONTACT

6. Please indicate the total number of staff of the *legal person* established by a local self-government authority:

7. Please indicate the number of staff who have a knowledge of a minority language:

- a) speaking and writing
- b) only speaking

8. Please indicate how the possibility to use minority languages in official contact is provided for by the *legal person* established by a local self-government authority:

- a) by means of staff who communicate in the minority language
- b) by means of interpretation or translation services
- c) by other means (please specify):

9. Please indicate whether the *legal person* established by a local self-government authority displays information in a visible place about the possibilities for using minority languages in official contact – in both spoken and written form, in the seat of the public authority within the meaning of § 1 of Government Regulation No 535/2011 Coll., implementing certain provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll., on the use of national minority languages, as amended:

- a) yes
- b) no

10. If your answer to question 9 is ‘yes’, how is this information provided (note: multiple answers are possible):

- a) on the public announcements board
- b) on the information board
- c) by other means (please specify)

11. Please indicate whether the *legal person* established by a local self-government authority received *written submissions* in a minority language filed by citizens in the course of 2015 and 2016 (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

12. If your answer to question 11 is ‘yes’, what was the total number of such submissions in 2015:

13. If your answer to question 11 is ‘yes’, what was the total number of such submissions in 2016 (until 1 July)?

14. If your answer to question 11 is ‘yes’, what areas did these submissions relate to?

15. If your answer to question 11 is ‘yes’, please indicate whether the *responses of the legal person* established by a local self-government authority *to submissions* in a minority language were, in addition to the State language, also provided in the minority language in the course of 2015 and 2016 (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

16. Please indicate whether the *legal person* established by a local self-government authority also uses a minority language in official records – e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, registries, etc.:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

17. If your answer to question 16 is (a) or (b), please indicate in what areas:

BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS

OFFICIAL FORMS

18. Please indicate whether the *legal person* established by a local self-government authority provides citizens with *bilingual official forms* within the scope of its authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

19. If your answer to question 18 is (a) or (b), please indicate in what areas these are provided:

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

20. Please indicate whether *legal person* established by a local self-government authority received *requests for the issue of bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, opinions and declarations):

- a) yes
- b) no

21. If your answer to question 20 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2015:

- number of permit requests:
- number of authorisation requests:
- number of certificate requests:
- number of opinion requests:
- number of declaration requests:

22. If your answer to question 20 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2016:

- number of permit requests:
- number of authorisation requests:
- number of certificate requests:
- number of opinion requests:
- number of declaration requests:

23. If your answer to question 20 is ‘yes’, please indicate whether *bilingual public documents* (permits, authorisations, certificates, opinions and declarations) were issued:

- a) yes
- b) no

24. If your answer to question 23 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2015:

- number of permits:
- number of authorisations:
- number of certificates:
- number of opinions:
- number of declarations:

25. If your answer to question 23 is ‘yes’, please indicate their number in 2016 (until 1 July):

- number of permits:
- number of authorisations:
- number of certificates:
- number of opinions:
- number of declarations:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

26. Please indicate whether the *legal person* established by a local self-government authority received *submissions initiating administrative proceedings* in a minority language in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

27. If your answer to question 26 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the submissions in 2015:

.....

28. If your answer to question 26 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the submissions in 2016 (until 1 July):

.....

29. Please indicate whether the *legal person* established by a local self-government authority *issued decisions in administrative proceedings* with a counterpart in the minority language in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

30. If your answer to question 29 is ‘yes’, please indicate the total number of such decisions in 2015:

.....

31. If your answer to question 29 is ‘yes’, please indicate the total number of such decisions in 2016 (until 1 July):

32. If your answer to question 29 is ‘yes’, please specify what areas these decisions concerned:
.....

DECISIONS

33. Please indicate whether the *legal person* established by a local self-government authority received *requests for the issue of bilingual decisions* in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

34. If your answer to question 33 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the requests in 2015:

.....

35. If your answer to question 33 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the requests in 2016 (until 1 July):

.....

36. If the *legal person* established by a local self-government authority issues decisions in a minority language, please indicate whether the *name of the municipality* in the minority language is provided along with the name in the State language in *decisions* issued in the minority language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

INFORMING THE PUBLIC

37. Please indicate whether information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property is also provided to citizens in the minority language in the buildings owned or administered by the legal person established by a local self-government authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

38. Please indicate whether general information for citizens is also provided in the minority language in the buildings owned or administered by the legal person established by a local self-government authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

39. Please indicate whether the legal person established by a local self-government authority received *requests for the issue of information on legislation of general application* in the minority language, along with the State language, in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

40. If your answer to question 39 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the requests in 2015:

.....

41. If your answer to question 39 is ‘yes’, please indicate the number of the requests in 2016 (until 1 July):

.....

42. If your answer to question 39 is ‘yes’, please indicate whether the legal person established by a local self-government authority has *provided for information on legislation of general application* in the minority language, along with the State language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

43. Please indicate whether important information on the public announcements board or website of the legal person established by a local self-government authority is also provided in minority language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

44. Please indicate where the legal person established by a local self-government authority provides announcements intended to inform the public in the minority language (note: multiple answers are possible):

- a) on its website
- b) on its public announcements board
- c) other places (please specify):

AREAS OF PUBLIC CONTACT

45. If the legal person established by a local self-government authority is a healthcare facility, please indicate how the possibility to communicate in minority languages with the staff of the healthcare facility is ensured by the facility (please complete only if applicable):

- a) by means of the healthcare facility’s staff communicating in the minority language
- b) by means of interpretation or translation services
- c) by other means (please specify):

46. If the legal person established by a local self-government authority is a social services facility, please indicate how the possibility to communicate in minority languages with the staff of the social services facility is ensured by the facility (please complete only if applicable):

- a) by means of the social services facility’s staff communicating in the minority language
- b) by means of interpretation or translation services
- c) by other means (please specify):

47. If the legal person established by a local self-government authority is a facility for the social and legal protection of children and social guardianship, please indicate how the facility ensures the possibility to communicate in minority languages with its staff (please complete only if applicable):

- a) by means of the staff of the facility for the social and legal protection of children and social guardianship communicating in the minority language
- b) by means of interpretation or translation services
- c) by other means (please specify):

SESSIONS OF THE LEGAL PERSON’S BODIES
--

48. Please indicate whether a minority language is used in the sessions of the bodies of the legal person established by a local self-government authority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

49. Please indicate the language in which sessions of the bodies of the legal person established by a local self-government authority are held:

- a) in the State language
- b) in the minority language
- b) in the State language and in the minority language

50. Please indicate whether supporting documents for sessions of the bodies of the legal person established by a local self-government authority are also prepared in a minority language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

51. Please indicate how the possibility to use minority languages at the sessions of the bodies of the legal person established by a local self-government authority is ensured:

- a) by means of interpretation services
- b) by other means (please specify):

FINAL QUESTIONS

52. Please indicate whether, for the legal person established by a local self-government authority, the creation of condition for the use of minority languages in official contact is:

- a) problem-free
- b) partially problematic
- c) problematic

53. If your answer to question 52 is (b) or (c), please provide the reason:

- a) lack of qualified staff
- b) lack of funding
- c) lack of technical support
- d) other factors (please specify)

54. Please indicate whether the legal person established by a local self-government authority received *complaints concerning breaches of the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages* in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

55. If your answer to question 54 is 'yes', please provide the total number of such complaints in 2015:
.....

56. If your answer to question 54 is 'yes', please provide the total number of such complaints in 2016 (until 1 July):

57. If your answer to question 54 is 'yes', please provide the subject matters of these complaints:
.....

58. If your answer to question 54 is 'yes', please specify how these complaints were handled:
.....

Date:

Questionnaire completed by (name, surname, position and signature):

Questionnaire approved by (name, surname, position and signature of the statutory representative of the legal person established by a local self-government authority):

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE
for organisational units of the Police Force
on the use of national minority languages

Dear respondents,

We wish to request your cooperation in our survey on the situation regarding the use of minority languages in the Slovak Republic in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July) by completing this questionnaire. The data is being collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Use of Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic to be submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic.

Please read the questionnaire carefully, circle the correct answers and complete the relevant information.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

1. Please provide the name of the organisational unit of the Police Force in the State language:

.....

OFFICIAL CONTACT

2. Please indicate the total number of officers in the organisational unit of the Police Force:

3. Please indicate the number of officers in the organisational unit of the Police Force who have a knowledge of a minority language:

a) speaking and writing

b) only speaking

4. Please indicate how the possibility to use minority languages in the performance of state administration tasks is provided for by the organisational unit of the Police Force:

a) by means of officers of the organisational unit of the Police Force who communicate in the minority language

b) by means of interpretation or translation services

c) by other means (please specify):

5. Please indicate whether the organisational units of the Police Force received *written submissions* in a minority language in the context of the performance of state administration tasks filed by citizens in the course of 2015 and 2016 (until 1 July):

a) yes

b) no

6. If your answer to question 5 is 'yes', what was the total number of such submissions in 2015?
.....

7. If your answer to question 5 is 'yes', what was the total number of such submissions in 2016 (until 1 July)?

8. If your answer to question 5 is 'yes', what areas did these submissions relate to?
.....

9. Please indicate whether the *responses* of the organisational unit of the Police Force *to submissions* in a minority language in the context of the performance of state administration tasks were, in addition to the State language, also provided in the minority language in the course of 2015 and 2016 (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

10. If your answer to question 9 is 'yes', please indicate in what areas:

11. Please indicate whether the organisational unit of the Police Force uses, in addition to the State language, a minority language in duty-related contact:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

12. Do the officers of the organisational unit of the Police Force who have a knowledge of the minority language use this language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority?

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS

OFFICIAL FORMS

13. Please indicate whether the organisational unit of the Police Force provides citizens with *bilingual official forms* within the scope of its authority in the context of the performance of state administration tasks:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

14. If your answer to question 13 is (a) or (b), please indicate in what areas these are provided:

.....

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

15. Please indicate whether the organisational unit of the Police Force *received submissions initiating administrative proceedings* in a minority language in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

16. If your answer to question 15 is 'yes', please indicate the number of the submissions in 2015:

.....

17. If your answer to question 15 is 'yes', please indicate the number of the submissions in 2016 (until 1 July):

.....

18. Please indicate whether the organisational unit of the Police Force issued decisions in administrative proceedings with a counterpart in the minority language in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

19. If your answer to question 18 is 'yes', please indicate the total number of such decisions in 2015:
.....

20. If your answer to question 18 is 'yes', please indicate the total number of such decisions in 2016 (until 1 July):

21. If your answer to question 18 is 'yes', please specify what areas these decisions concerned:
.....

DECISIONS

22. Please indicate whether the organisational unit of the Police Force received requests for the issue of bilingual decisions in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

23. If your answer to question 22 is 'yes', please indicate the number of the requests in 2015:

.....

24. If your answer to question 22 is 'yes', please indicate the number of the requests in 2016 (until 1 July):

.....

25. If the organisational unit of the Police Force issues decisions in a minority language, please indicate whether the name of the municipality in the minority language is provided along with the name in the State language in decisions issued in the minority language:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

INFORMING THE PUBLIC

26. Please indicate whether information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property is also provided to citizens in the minority language in the buildings of the organisational unit of the Police Force:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

27. Please indicate whether general information for citizens is also provided in the minority language in the buildings of the organisational unit of the Police Force:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

FINAL QUESTIONS

28. Please indicate whether, for the organisational unit of the Police Force, the creation of condition for the use of minority languages in official contact in the context of the performance of state administration tasks is:

- a) problem-free
- b) partially problematic
- c) problematic

29. If your answer to question 28 is (b) or (c), please provide the reason:

- a) lack of qualified staff
- b) lack of funding
- c) lack of technical support
- d) other factors (please specify)

30. Please indicate whether the organisational unit of the Police Force received *complaints concerning breaches of the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages* in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

31. If your answer to question 30 is 'yes', please provide the total number of such complaints in 2015:
.....

32. If your answer to question 30 is 'yes', please provide the total number of such complaints in 2016 (until 1 July):

33. If your answer to question 30 is 'yes', please provide the subject matters of these complaints:
.....

34. If your answer to question 30 is 'yes', please specify how these complaints were handled:
.....

Date:

Questionnaire completed by (name, surname, position and signature):

Questionnaire approved by (name, surname, position and signature of the head of the organisational unit of the Police Force):

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
QUESTIONNAIRE
for organisational units of rescue services
on the use of national minority languages

Dear respondents,

We wish to request your cooperation in our survey on the situation regarding the use of minority languages in the Slovak Republic in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July) by completing this questionnaire. The data is being collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Use of Minority Languages in the Territory of the Slovak Republic to be submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic.

Please read the questionnaire carefully, circle the correct answers and complete the relevant information.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

1. Please provide the name of the organisational unit of the rescue service in the State language:

.....

OFFICIAL CONTACT

2. Please indicate the total number of staff of the organisational unit of the rescue service:

.....

3. Please indicate the number of officers in the rescue service who have a knowledge of a minority language:

a) speaking and writing

b) only speaking

4. Please indicate whether the officers of the rescue service use, in addition to the State language, a minority language in duty-related contact:

a) yes

b) partially

c) no

5. Please indicate whether the officers of the organisational unit of the rescue service who have a knowledge of the minority language use this language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority:

a) yes

b) partially

c) no

INFORMING THE PUBLIC

6. Please indicate whether information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property is also provided to citizens in the minority language in the buildings of the organisational unit of the rescue service:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

7. Please indicate whether general information for citizens is also provided in the minority language in the buildings of the organisational unit of the rescue service:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no

FINAL QUESTIONS

8. Please indicate whether the organisational unit of the rescue service received *complaints concerning breaches of the Act on the Use of National Minority Languages* in the 2015-2016 period (until 1 July):

- a) yes
- b) no

9. If your answer to question 8 is 'yes', please provide the total number of such complaints in 2015:
.....

10. If your answer to question 8 is 'yes', please provide the total number of such complaints in 2016 (until 1 July):

11. If your answer to question 8 is 'yes', please provide the subject matters of these complaints:
.....

12. If your answer to question 8 is 'yes', please specify how these complaints were handled:
.....

Date:

Questionnaire completed by (name, surname, position and signature):

Questionnaire approved by (name, surname, position and signature of the head of the organisational unit of the rescue service):

Annex 6

List and number of specific deficiencies in the practical application of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
identified based on the questionnaire survey

Number of deficiencies	Type of deficiency in the case of local self-government authorities (municipalities)	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
18	a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority was not allowed to communicate orally and in writing in the minority language	§ 7b(1)(a)
322	information about the possibility to communicate orally and in writing in the minority language was not provided	§ 7b(1)(a)
10	a counterpart of a decision or birth certificate, marriage certificate or death certificate was not issued in the minority language at the request of a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority	§ 7b(1)(b)
91	signs were not displayed in the minority language in the building serving as the seat	§ 7b(1)(c)
73	the name of the municipality in the minority language was not indicated on municipality entry/exit signs	§ 7b(1)(e)
164	the name of the municipality in the minority language was not displayed on buildings of public authorities	§ 7b(1)(e)
184	the name of the municipality in the minority language was not indicated in decisions issued in the minority language within their territory	§ 7b(1)(e)
471	information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic was not displayed in the minority language, along with the State language, in publicly accessible places	§ 7b(1)(f)
52	information and written documentation for the purposes of the report on the use of national minority languages in the Slovak Republic was not provided to the Office of the Government	§ 7b(1)(h)
Total: 1 385		

Note:

In addition to the 493 deficiencies relating to § 7b(1)(d) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. In these cases, local self-government authorities failed to provide for an official form issued under their authority in the minority language and, due to this fact, were unable to make the official form issued under their authority available in the minority language when so requested.

Number of deficiencies	Type of deficiency in the case of legal persons established by a municipality	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
20	information about the possibility to communicate orally and in writing in the minority language was not provided	§ 7b(1)(a)
18	signs were not displayed in the minority language in the building serving as the seat	§ 7b(1)(c)
21	the name of the municipality in the minority language was not displayed on buildings of public authorities	§ 7b(1)(e)
14	the name of the municipality in the minority language was not indicated in decisions issued in the minority language within their territory	§ 7b(1)(e)
29	information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic was not displayed in the minority language, along with the State language, in publicly accessible places	§ 7b(1)(f)
Total: 102		

Note:

In addition to the 29 deficiencies relating to § 7b(1)(d) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. In these cases, legal persons established by a municipality failed to provide for an official form issued under their authority in the minority language and, due to this fact, were unable to make the official form issued under their authority available in the minority language when so requested.

Number of deficiencies	Type of deficiency in the case of legal persons established by a self-governing region	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
5	information about the possibility to communicate orally and in writing in the minority language was not provided	§ 7b(1)(a)
9	signs were not displayed in the minority language in the building serving as the seat	§ 7b(1)(c)
8	the name of the municipality in the minority language was not displayed on buildings of public authorities	§ 7b(1)(e)
5	the name of the municipality in the minority language was not indicated in decisions issued in the minority language within their territory	§ 7b(1)(e)
8	information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic was not displayed in the minority language, along with the State language, in publicly accessible places	§ 7b(1)(f)
Total: 35		

Note:

In addition to the 9 deficiencies relating to § 7b(1)(d) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. In these cases, legal persons established by a self-governing region failed to provide for an official form issued under their authority in the minority language and, due to this fact, were unable to make the official form issued under their authority available in the minority language when so requested.

Number of deficiencies	Type of deficiency in the case of state administration authorities	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
6	a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority was not allowed to communicate orally and in writing in the minority language	§ 7b(1)(a)
33	information about the possibility to communicate orally and in writing in the minority language was not provided	§ 7b(1)(a)
21	signs were not displayed in the minority language in the building serving as the seat	§ 7b(1)(c)
46	the name of the municipality in the minority language was not displayed on buildings of public authorities	§ 7b(1)(e)
81	information relating to threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic was not displayed in the minority language, along with the State language, in publicly accessible places	§ 7b(1)(f)
3	information and written documentation for the purposes of the report on the use of national minority languages in the Slovak Republic was not provided to the Office of the Government	§ 7b(1)(h)
Total: 190		

Note:

In addition to the 78 deficiencies relating to § 7b(1)(d) of Act No 184/1999 Coll. In these cases, state administration authorities failed to provide for an official form issued under their authority in the minority language and, due to this fact, were unable to make the official form issued under their authority available in the minority language when so requested.

Linguistic rights compliance with which is compulsory, but failure to comply with which is not an administrative offence

Number of deficiencies	Type of deficiency in the case of local self-government authorities (municipalities)	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
38	response to a submission in the minority language was not provided in the minority language, in addition to the State language	§ 2(3)
5	request, permits, licences, authorisations, opinions and declarations were not issued in the bilingual format, both in the State language and in the minority language, when so requested	§ 2(5)
5	a public authority decision in administrative proceedings was not issued with a counterpart in the minority language, in addition to the State language, where the proceedings were initiated by a submission in the minority language	§ 2(4)
5	a public authority decision in administrative proceedings was not issued with a counterpart in the minority language, in addition to the State language, when so requested	§ 2(4)
427	important information was not made publicly available in the minority language, along with the State language, on the municipality's public announcements board, website or in the periodicals published	§ 5a(2)
Total: 480		

Number of deficiencies	Type of deficiency in the case of legal persons established by a municipality	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
1	response to a submission in the minority language was not provided in the minority language, in addition to the State language	§ 2(3)
0	request, permits, licences, authorisations, opinions and declarations were not issued in the bilingual format, both in the State language and in the minority language, when so requested	§ 2(5)
0	a public authority decision in administrative proceedings was not issued with a counterpart in the minority language, in addition to the State language, where the proceedings were initiated by a submission in the minority language.	§ 2(4)
0	a public authority decision in administrative proceedings was not issued with a counterpart in the minority language, in addition to the State language, when so requested	§ 2(4)
0	a healthcare facility, a social services facility or a facility for social and legal protection of children and social guardianship does not provide for the possibility to use the minority language	§ 5(3)

21	important information was not made publicly available in the minority language, along with the State language, on the municipality's public announcements board, website or in the periodicals published	211/2000 Coll. § 6(5)
Total: 22		

Number of deficiencies	Type of deficiency in the case of legal persons established by a self-governing region	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
0	response to a submission in the minority language was not provided in the minority language, in addition to the State language	§ 2(3)
0	request, permits, licences, authorisations, opinions and declarations were not issued in the bilingual format, both in the State language and in the minority language, when so requested	§ 2(5)
0	a public authority decision in administrative proceedings was not issued with a counterpart in the minority language, in addition to the State language, where the proceedings were initiated by a submission in the minority language.	§ 2(4)
0	a public authority decision in administrative proceedings was not issued with a counterpart in the minority language, in addition to the State language, when so requested	§ 2(4)
0	a healthcare facility, a social services facility or a facility for social and legal protection of children and social guardianship does not provide for the possibility to use the minority language	§ 5(3)
9	important information was not made publicly available in the minority language, along with the State language, on the municipality's public announcements board, website or in the periodicals published	211/2000 Coll. § 6(5)
Total: 9		

Number of deficiencies	Type of deficiency in the case of state administration authorities	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
2	response to a submission in the minority language was not provided in the minority language, in addition to the State language	§ 2(3)
0	request, permits, licences, authorisations, opinions and declarations were not issued in the bilingual format, both in the State language and in the minority language, when so requested	§ 2(5)
0	a public authority decision in administrative proceedings was not issued with a counterpart in the minority language, in addition to the State language, where the proceedings were initiated by a submission in the minority language	§ 2(4)

0	a public authority decision in administrative proceedings was not issued with a counterpart in the minority language, in addition to the State language, when so requested	§ 2(4)
77	important information was not made publicly available in the minority language, along with the State language, on the municipality's public announcements board, website or in the periodicals published	§ 5a(2)
Total: 79		

Linguistic rights, the application of which is optional under Act No 184/1999 Coll.

the option is used	the option is partially used	the option is not used	Type of option in the case of local government authorities (municipalities)	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
65	32	415	the name of the municipality in the minority language is displayed on signs at the railway station, bus station, airport and river port	§ 4(3)
100	0	48	street-names are also displayed in the minority language in the municipality	§ 4(4)
31	0	41	local place-names are also displayed in the minority language within the territory of the municipality	§ 4(4)
21	43	527	official records, in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, registries, statements, public information and records concerning churches and religious communities intended for the public, with the exception of registrar's office records, are also maintained in the minority language, along with the State language	§ 3(4)
155	44	195	the municipality's chronicles are also maintained in a minority language	§ 3(3)
30	9	24	municipal police officers use the minority language, in addition to the State language, in duty-related contact	§ 7(3)
38	6	15	municipal police officers who have a knowledge of the minority language use this language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority	§ 7(4)
349	124	116	members of the municipality council have used the minority language at the council's sessions	§ 3(2)

114	286	188	sessions of the public authority are held in the minority language	§ 3(1)
6	28	540	legislation of general applications issued by the municipality under its authority is also issued the minority language, along with the State language	§ 4(8)
504	0	17	announcements intended to inform the public through the municipal PA system or other technical equipment are also made available in the minority language, along with the State language	§ 5a(1)
230	83	98	inscriptions on monuments, memorials and commemorative plaques are provided in the minority language, along with the State language	§ 4(7)
Total: 1 643	Total: 655	Total: 2 224		

the option is used	the option is partially used	the option is not used	Type of option in the case of legal persons established by a municipality	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
1	2	29	official records, in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, registries, statements, public information and records concerning churches and religious communities intended for the public, with the exception of registrar's office records, are also maintained in the minority language, along with the State language	§ 3(4)
16	10	6	sessions of the public authority are held in the minority language	§ 3(1)
23	0	5	announcements intended to inform the public through the municipal PA system or other technical equipment are also made available in the minority language, along with the State	§ 5a(1)

			language	
Total: 40	Total: 12	Total: 40		

the option is used	the option is partially used	the option is not used	Type of option in the case of legal persons established by a self-governing region	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
0	0	9	official records, in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, registries, statements, public information and records concerning churches and religious communities intended for the public, with the exception of registrar's office records, are also maintained in the minority language, along with the State language	§ 3(4)
1	2	6	sessions of the public authority are held in the minority language	§ 3(1)
3	0	1	announcements intended to inform the public through the municipal PA system or other technical equipment are also made available in the minority language, along with the State language	§ 5a(1)
Total: 4	Total: 2	Total: 16		

the option is used	the option is partially used	the option is not used	Type of option in the case of state administration authorities	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
0	4	76	official records, in particular minutes, resolutions, statistics, registries, statements, public information and records concerning churches and religious communities intended for the public, with the exception of registrar's office records, are also maintained in the minority language, along with the State language	§ 3(4)

9	14	58	sessions of the public authority are held in the minority language	§ 3(1)
36	0	17	announcements intended to inform the public are made available in the minority language, along with the State language	§ 5a(1)
Total: 45	Total: 18	Total: 151		

the option is used	the option is partially used	the option is not used	Type of option in the case of organisational units of armed security forces and rescue services	Relevant provisions of Act No 184/1999 Coll.
1	9	8	officers of armed security forces who have command of the minority language use this language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to that national minority	§ 7(4)
3	2	1	officers of the Fire and Rescue Service who have command of the minority language use this language when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to that national minority	§ 7(4)
Total: 4	Total: 11	Total: 9		