

# REPORT

ON THE STATE OF USE OF LANGUAGES OF NATIONAL  
MINORITIES IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
FOR 2019 – 2020 PERIOD

GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
2020

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## **List of abbreviations**

ERO – Efficient, reliable and open public administration

EU – European Union

FaRS – Fire and Rescue Service

MF SR – Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic

MoD SR – Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic

MARD SR – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic

MLSAF SR – Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

MJ SR – Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

MI SR – Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

MFEA SR – Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

NAP PHC – National Action Plan of Population and Housing Census

NC SR – National Council of the Slovak Republic

OSCE – Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

DD FaRS – District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service

DD PF – District Directorate of the Police Force

UN – United Nations

AF SR – Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic

PF - Police Force

RPHA – Regional Public Health Authority

RVFA – Regional Veterinary and Food Administration

SK OSCE - Presidency of the Slovak Republic in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

SNCHR - Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

PHC – Population and Housing Census

SR - Slovak Republic

SD – Severe Disability

UPR - Universal Periodic Review

OLSAF – Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

OPRC – Office of the Plenipotentiary for Romani Communities

SGR – Self-governing Region

PJGC - Prison and Judicial Guard Corps

## Introduction

Pursuant to § 7a (2) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter also referred to as the “Office of the Government”) is submitting the fifth *Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic* (hereinafter also referred to as the “Report”). In accordance with the cited provision, the opinion of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (hereinafter also referred to as the “Government Council”) shall take a stand before submitting the Report. The Report was reviewed by the Government Council and taken into consideration by Resolution no. 254 of 28 December 2020. The Government Council also recommended to the Government of the Slovak Republic to approve the Report. The Government approved the Report at its 66th session on 13 January 2021 by Resolution no. 24/2021 and, at the same time, assigned specific tasks to the concerned members of the Government.<sup>1</sup>

For the purposes of obtaining the information necessary for the preparation of the Report, the Office of the Government was in accordance with § 7a Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, entitled to request information and written documents on the use of languages of national minorities in the area of their competence from public administration bodies.

This Report has been prepared 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 also referred to as the "Office of the Plenipotentiary") to provide up-to-date information on the use of language of national minorities for the period 2019 – 2020. In its individual sections, the Report describes the national legislative framework for the use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic, summarizes the process and results of implementation of the international legal framework for the use of languages of national minorities, as well as current developments within the institutional framework of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic.

A significant part of the Report consists of information on the state of fulfilment of obligations arising from Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, (hereinafter also referred to as "Act No. 184/1999 Coll.") in the field of use of languages of national minorities by self-government bodies, organizational units of armed security forces and rescue corps, local self-government bodies and legal entities established by local self-government bodies (hereinafter also referred to as “public administration bodies”) in municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

In order to provide a comprehensive and structured picture of the current state of use of languages of national minorities, the Government Office, through the Office of the Plenipotentiary, conducted an extensive questionnaire survey aimed at collecting data in relevant areas of minority language use.

The questionnaire survey of the fifth report was optimized compared to the previous one, and expanded with new questions, which were included in the survey in order to obtain more

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<sup>1</sup>Government Resolution no. 24/2021 is available online at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Resolution/18986/1> .

specific data in the examined areas. At the same time, some questionnaires were updated with new questions on the language competence training for civil servants aimed at maintaining and improving the level of command of a national minority language for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a separate regulation, and the area of determining the costs to foster the use of languages of national minorities in official contact.

Language competence training was included in the Report in connection with the Decree of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 126/2017 Coll., laying down details on the training of civil servants. The Decree stipulates that language competence training for civil servants is aimed at maintaining and improving the level of command of a national minority language for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a separate regulation.

The part dealing with determining the costs to foster the use of the languages of national minorities in official contact was included in the questionnaire based on the findings of previous surveys, in which respondents stated the lack of financial resources needed to ensure their legal obligations. The aim was to find out the financial demands of executing these tasks by local state administration bodies, local self-government bodies and district directorates of the Fire and Rescue Service.

Regarding the content of the questionnaire, it should be noted that despite minor changes, the basic criterion for its elaboration was to maintain the greatest possible degree of comparability of data with previous reports – in order to identify development trends in this area.

The data was collected between July and October 2020. In total, 772 respondents were addressed (637 municipalities; 6 self-governing regions, 89 public administration bodies, 6 district directorates of the Fire and Rescue Service, 6 organizational units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic – military units and 1 organizational unit of the Prison and Court Guard Corps – Institute for imprisonment (the number also includes 27 district directorates of the PF, to which, finally, the questionnaires were not delivered for the reasons explained below).

Municipalities listed in the Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll., issuing a list of municipalities, where Slovak citizens belonging to national minorities make up at least 20% of the population, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the “Government Provision No. 221/1999”), were contacted on 10 July 2020 with a request to complete the questionnaire. In total, there were 638 municipalities, 507 of them with Hungarian, 56 with Ruthenian, 50 with Roma, 6 with Ukrainian, 1 with German national minority, as well as 18 municipalities with population with two national minorities (Ruthenian and Ukrainian 11, Hungarian and Roma 5, Ukrainian and Roma 1 and Ruthenian and Roma 1). In order to ensure the highest possible return rate of the questionnaires, the municipalities were repeatedly invited to send the completed questionnaire, and thus we managed to achieve a 97 % return rate on surveys.

The municipalities were asked a total of 79 questions in 7 thematic areas dealing with the use of languages of national minorities in the competence of local self-government bodies: markings in the language of a national minority, official contact, bilingual documents, negotiations of local administration bodies, disclosing information to public and final questions.

The survey addressed the use of languages of national minorities by legal entities established by local government authorities (municipalities and self-governing regions) for the third time. Since there is no list of such legal entities, the Office of the Plenipotentiary addressed

all the concerned municipalities and 6 self-governing regions (Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov), where such municipalities are present, and asked them to cooperate in terms of data collection. The given area processed data for 74 legal entities established by local self-government bodies (50 legal entities established by municipalities and 24 legal entities established by self-governing regions). Legal entities were asked a total of 58 questions in 6 thematic: designations in the language of a national minority, official contact, bilingual documents, negotiations of local administration bodies, disclosing information to public and final questions.

The survey also explored the use of languages of national minorities among state administration bodies. For the purposes of this survey, 89 state administration bodies as well as their organizational units (branches, contact centres, workplaces or duty stations) were addressed, of which 85 state administration bodies in municipalities with the Hungarian national minority and 4 state administration bodies in municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority. In concrete terms, these included 14 district offices, 27 offices of labour, 16 tax offices, 13 customs offices, 8 regional veterinary and food administrations, 6 regional public health authorities and 5 state archives. The district offices were asked a total of 59 questions in 7 thematic areas dealing with the use of languages of national minorities in the competence of local self-government bodies: designations in the language of a national minority, official contact, bilingual documents, negotiations of local administration bodies, disclosing information to public and final questions. The remaining state administration bodies were asked a total of 55 questions in 7 identical fields. The completed questionnaire was sent by all 89 entities, thus achieving a 100% return rate.

The survey also addressed relevant organizational units of the Armed Security Forces and Rescue Service, namely the Police Force, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and the Prison and Court Guard Corps. A total of 40 entities were addressed in this survey.

Data on behalf of 27 PF entities were not delivered due the reasons shown in subchapter 3. 4. 1. Six DD FaRS were asked a total of 56 questions in 7 thematic: designations in the language of a national minority, official contact, bilingual documents, negotiations of local administration bodies, disclosing information to public and final questions. Six departments of AF SR and one organizational department of PCGC were asked a total of 11 questions in 3 thematic areas: official contact, disclosing information to public and final questions.

This Report aims to provide comprehensive data on the state of use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic as well as to identify areas with shortcomings of the application practice, all based on the analysis of these data. The given findings will again serve as a starting point for ensuring a positive development of the application practice.

# **1. National legislative and institutional framework for the use of languages of national minorities**

## **1.1 Legislative framework for the use of languages of national minorities**

Language rights are guaranteed to citizens belonging to national minorities in the Slovak Republic by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. Pursuant to Art. 34 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and under conditions laid down by law, citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups are guaranteed, in addition to the right to master the state language, the right to receive education in their own language, the right to use their language in official contact and the right to participate in dealing with issues related to them. The conditions for the use of the languages of national minorities are regulated primarily by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended.

Pursuant to § 1 (2) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., the language of a minority group for the purposes of this Act shall be considered a codified and standardized language traditionally used within the territory of the Slovak Republic by its citizens belonging to a national minority, which is different from the state language; the language of a minority group is as follows: Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian.

Implementing legislations to Act no. 184/1999 Coll. are as follows: Government Provision no. 535/2011 Coll. implementing certain provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Government Provision no. 535/2011 Coll.”) and Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll., issuing a list of municipalities, where Slovak citizens belonging to national minorities make up at least 20% of the population, as amended.

According to § 2 (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., the condition for using the language of a national minority in official contact applies when citizens belonging to a national minority with permanent residence in the municipality make up at least 15% of the population according to the results of two consecutive censuses. This condition applies along with § 7c (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., according to which two consecutive censuses are censuses whose results were announced after 1 July 2011. Due to the fact that the interpretation of the above provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. may be often misleading, we need to clarify it by adding the following:

Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll. was issued according to § 2 (2) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, which established a list of municipalities in which, according to the last census, the citizens of national minorities make up at least 20% of the population (given that the above wording of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. was adopted in 1999, so the last Population and Housing Census stands for the Population and Housing Census of 1991). Act no. 204/2011 Coll., amending and supplementing Act no. 184/1999 Coll., has amended the provision of § 2 (1) in connection with § 2 (2) in a way that the right to use the language of a national minority in official contact belongs to citizens of the Slovak Republic in municipalities where inhabitants of national minorities make up at least 15% of the population according to two consecutive censuses. This circumstance will occur only after the announcement of the results of the Population and Housing Census of 2021.

Pursuant to § 7c (2) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., the provision of § 2 (1) does not apply to municipalities listed in the Government Provision of the Slovak Republic under § 2 (2) that is valid and effective as of 1 July 2011, while these municipalities may lose the right to use the language of a national minority if, according to the results of three consecutive censuses after 1 July 2011, the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority and having a permanent residence in municipality, do not make up at least 15% of the population within the municipality at least once.

The use of languages of national minorities is further regulated by several specific regulations.<sup>2</sup> The contents of these regulations are addressed in detail in previous reports for 2012 and for the periods 2013 – 2014, 2015 – 2016 and 2017 – 2018. Following legislative changes took place in the given period:

- Act no. 371/2019 Coll. on Basic Requirements for Playground Safety, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Act No. 371/2019 Coll.”), has been adopted and its § 3 stipulates the conditions for a warning sign that shall be installed within the playground to warn about risks that cannot be avoided during its production or installation, while the given sign shall be installed in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in designated municipalities in state language as well as in the language of the national minority.<sup>3</sup>
- The Decree of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Investments and Informatization no. 438/2019 Coll., implementing certain provisions of the Act on e-Government, has been approved in the given period. In accordance with § 2 (5) of this Decree, the Public authority ensures the creation of information contents about its activities for the public under the conditions in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll.
- Adoption of the Decree of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic no. 30/2020 Coll. on Traffic Signs was an important change. Its § 5 (1) stipulates that traffic signs shall be indicated in the state language; another language may be used if it is in accordance with a special regulation and an international agreement by which the Slovak Republic is bound, i.e. also with Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

Application practice of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. will significantly affect the Resolution of the Regional Court in Nitra as of 22 July 2020, file no. 23Sa / 90/2019, which deals with issuing bilingual registration documents. According to the first sentence of § 2 (5) of Act no. 184/1999

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<sup>2</sup>This refers to, in particular: Act no. 596/2003 Coll. on State Administration in the Education and School Self-government and on the amendment of certain laws, as amended; Act no. 245/2008 Coll. on Upbringing and Education (School Act) and on the amendment of certain acts, as amended; Act no. 597/2003 Coll. on the Financing of Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and School Facilities, as amended; Act no. 126/2015 Coll. on Libraries and on amendments to Act No. 206/2009 Coll. on Museums and Galleries and on the Protection of Objects of Cultural Value and on the amendment of the Act of the Slovak National Council no. 372/1990 Coll. on Offenses, as amended by later regulations, as amended by Act no. 38/2014 Coll., as amended; Act no. 532/2010 Coll. on Radio and Television of Slovakia and on amendments to certain acts, as amended; Act no. 301/2005 Coll. on Criminal Procedure Code, as amended; Act no. 71/1967 Coll. on Administrative Proceedings (Administrative Order), as amended; Act no. 160/2015 Coll. on Code of Civil Procedure, as amended; Act no. 162/2015 Coll. on Administrative Procedure Code, as amended; Act no. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipal Establishment, as amended; Act no. 180/2014 Coll. on the Conditions for the Exercise of the Right to Vote and on the amendment of certain laws, as amended; Act no. 371/2019 Coll. on the Basic Requirements for the Safety of the Playgrounds and on the amendment of certain laws.

<sup>3</sup>The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic initiated the repeal of Act no. 371/2019 Coll. due to the financial and administrative burden for playground owners. The draft legislation repealing this law was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic on 4 November 2020 by Resolution no. 700/2020.

Coll.: *"Birth certificate, marriage certificate, death certificate, permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations in the municipality pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be issued bilingually upon request, both in the state language and in the language of the minority."*

The plaintiff's birth certificate was issued at the Registry Office in Nové Zámky on a bilingual form, the data itself (e.g. Komárno, female, etc.) were, however, indicated exclusively in the Slovak language. The town of Nové Zámky is listed in municipalities where citizens of the Slovak Republic belong to the Hungarian national minority and they make up at least 20% of the population, and therefore the given obligation under § 2 (5) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. shall apply.

In the given case, the Regional Court ruled that the non-issuance of a complete bilingual version of the birth certificate<sup>4</sup> was an illegal act by the Registry Office in Nové Zámky, and the right to access personal documents, which is a part of the right to respect for private and family life, was violated. Following the above decision, the Department of Registers, Registry Offices and Residence Registration of the Public Administration Section of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic issued guidelines for bilingual registry forms for relevant district offices imposing on registry offices an obligation to issue registry extracts in the Hungarian language, These guidelines include an exact procedure to issue such forms (execution of an additional record of the applicant in the IS CISMA system, within which the registrar enters the data in the state language, under which s/he places an entry in the language of the national minority). As this is only a temporary solution, the IS CISMA system for the application of the Hungarian language as well as other languages of national minorities needs to be updated.

## **1.2 Non-legislative framework for the use of languages of national minorities**

### **1.2.1 Action plan for the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups for the period 2016 – 2020**

The Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2016 – 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the "Action Plan") was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution no. 492/2016, and obliged the relevant Ministers to ensure the fulfilment of its tasks. The key objective identified by the Action Plan is to ensure an effective, transparent and reliable system of protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, including strengthening the relevant institutional framework. This objective is elaborated into seven operational objectives.<sup>5</sup> Each of them are elaborated into specific measures and activities that include performance indicators, deadlines for implementation, responsible guarantors, collaborative entities and sources of funding. From the point of view of the use of languages of national minorities, operational objective 1 and 4 are the most relevant. As part of the fulfilment of the 1st operational objective *"Ensuring a comprehensive approach to drafting legislation on the rights and status of national minorities"*, the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak

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<sup>4</sup>The 'bilingual' birth certificate was issued to the claimant bilingually only in respect of the pre-filled text of the form, not its entire contents.

<sup>5</sup>The Action plan is published on the website of the Plenipotentiary:  
[https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/6765\\_akcny-plan-ochrany-prav-osob-patriacich-k-narodnostnym-mensinam-a-etnickym-skupinam-na-roky-2016-2020.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/6765_akcny-plan-ochrany-prav-osob-patriacich-k-narodnostnym-mensinam-a-etnickym-skupinam-na-roky-2016-2020.pdf) .

Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter also referred to as the “Plenipotentiary”) established both a working group and an informal working group consisting of legal experts. These groups have elaborated an analysis of legislation on the rights and status of national minorities and ethnic groups. The analysis revealed the need to create a comprehensive, concise, unambiguous and user-friendly legislation to exercise the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. On the basis of the above, a draft legislative proposal for the Act on National Minorities was prepared and submitted at the 36th session of the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, and approved by the Principal statement no. 4 as of 23 January 2020. The Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality at its 38th session, which took place on 2 October 2020, took note of the draft legislative proposal by Resolution no. 250, and recommended to the Chairman of the Council to submit the draft legislative proposal to the Government of the Slovak Republic.

In the given period, as a part of the fulfilment of the operational objective 1 of the Action Plan, the Office of the Plenipotentiary prepared an *Analysis of Possibilities of Using Temporary Compensatory Measures in the Area of Prevention of Discrimination against Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups*, and in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Romani Communities (OPSGRC) elaborated a *Methodology for Temporary Compensatory Measures in the Area of Rights of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups with regard to marginalized Romani communities*, which also includes the adoption of special measures in favour of minority languages to promote equality between users of these languages and the general population, or measures which take their specific conditions into account.<sup>6</sup>

As of the operational objective 1, the Office of the Plenipotentiary organized an international conference entitled "*Legislative Models for the Protection of the Rights of National Minorities*" that took place on 18 February 2020 in Bratislava. The conference included three panel discussions on the following topics: *What legislation does Slovakia need to ensure the full exercise of the rights of national minorities?*, *Working models of protection of the rights of national minorities abroad*, and *What are the basic needs and expectations of national minorities in a changing Slovak society?* The conference created a platform for presentation of both domestic and foreign experiences in this field, and a constructive professional discussion on the given topics.

The implementation of operational objective 4 of the Action Plan "*Improving the conditions for the practical use of the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups*" is closely linked to the Plenipotentiary's Advisory Language Group that is aimed at ensuring the compliance with current law on the use of national minority languages (hereinafter referred to as the "Plenipotentiary's Advisory Language Group"). The Plenipotentiary's Advisory Language Group was established for the period between 1 February 2018 and 31 December 2020, and consists of five individual subgroups, namely for Hungarian, Ruthenian, Romani, Ukrainian and German language. The main task of the Plenipotentiary's Advisory Language Group is to prepare background materials to ensure unified professional terminology in languages of national

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<sup>6</sup>The methodology is available on the Plenipotentiary's website:  
[https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7722\\_metodika\\_dvo.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7722_metodika_dvo.pdf).

minorities,<sup>7</sup> informative language versions of legislative texts,<sup>8</sup> official forms, documents on methodological materials in the use of national minority languages regulated by Act no. 184/1999 Coll.<sup>9</sup> Besides the above, the Plenipotentiary's Advisory Language Group also submits informative materials related to Census of Population and Housing.<sup>10</sup> All outputs of the Plenipotentiary's Advisory Language Group were gradually published on the Plenipotentiary's website. Since March 2020, its members have also been preparing translations of the COVID-19 pandemic related materials.<sup>11</sup> As part of this operational objective, a cost analysis to increase the availability of services of local state administration bodies, local self-government bodies to persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the field of use of minority languages in official contact was planned. With this objective in mind, a new set of questions was included in the current questionnaire survey that were aimed at determining the costs to foster the use of languages of national minorities in official contact. The basic results of their analysis are listed on pages 61-65, 95-101, 106, 109, 113, 115, 117, 119, 125 and 126.

As part of fulfilling tasks to improve the conditions for the use of languages of national minorities, the Office of the Plenipotentiary initiated a competence language (Hungarian and Ruthenian) training for district office employees in the given period – in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (Educational and psychological centre, Department of Human and Social activities of the HR Office of the MI SR) and in cooperation with the Faculty of Central European Studies of the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra, the Department of Hungarian Language and Literature and the Centre for Languages and Cultures of National Minorities of the University of Prešov and the Institute of Ruthenian Language and Culture. Language competence training took place at the Šaľa district office (from 28 May to the end of June 2019, for 21 employees), Nové Zámky (from 28 May to the end of June 2019, for 24 employees), Rimavská Sobota (during September and October 2019, for 14 employees) and Medzilaborce (during September and October 2019, for 8 employees). In 2020, the language competence training was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When building Client centres within ESO reform program, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic took into account the language rights of members of national minorities by installing bilingual signs and introducing partial bilingualism in the electronic calling system). It should be noted that in order to support the improvement of the conditions for the use and application of Act no. 184/1999

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<sup>7</sup>Professional terminological dictionaries in the languages of national minorities are available on the website of the Plenipotentiary: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk//odborne-terminologicke-slovniky-v-jazykoch-narodnostnych-mensin/>

<sup>8</sup>Links to legislation in minority languages are available on the Plenipotentiary's website: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk//pravne-predpisy-v-mensinovyach-jazykoch/>

<sup>9</sup>Selected additional traffic signs in minority languages are available on the Plenipotentiary's website, safety signs in construction, Annex no. 2 to Government Regulation No. 387/2006 on Requirements for Ensuring Health and Safety Signs at Work, which contains models of safety signs (prohibition, warning, command, rescue and fire) and recommended texts of supplementary signs are available on the Plenipotentiary's website: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk//informacie-tykajuca-sa-ohrozenia-zivota-zdravia-bezpecnosti-alebo-majetku-obcanov/>.

<sup>10</sup>The listed materials are available on the website of the Plenipotentiary : <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk//rozmanitost-obohacuje-scitanie-obyvatelstva-2021/>

<sup>11</sup>The above information is available on the website of the Plenipotentiary : <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk//covid-19/> and on the portal <https://korona.gov.sk/rom/>.

Coll., a Methodological Guideline to the Act was prepared and translated into minority languages.<sup>12</sup>

In accordance with the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 492/2016, the head of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic shall prepare and submit a Report on the fulfilment of tasks from the Action Plan with a proposal for its update to the Government by 31 March 2021. In this context, the Office of the Plenipotentiary has already addressed the relevant ministries with a request to submit documents for the elaboration of the given Report and the draft Action Plan for the period 2021 – 2025.

### **1.2.2 The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024**

Following the results of elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic that took place on 29 February 2020, a new Government of the Slovak Republic was appointed on 21 March 2020, and on 19 April 2020 – the newly appointed Government approved its Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024 (hereinafter referred to as the “Manifesto”) by Resolution no. 239/2020. The National Council of the Slovak Republic approved the Manifesto on 30 April 2020. This political document was translated into Hungarian for the first time in history and published in this form.<sup>13</sup>

In its Manifesto, the Government of the Slovak Republic paid significant attention to the position and rights of members of national minorities in the Slovak Republic, including language rights. The Government considers the protection and support of national minorities as its natural mission, and therefore undertook steps neither to abolish nor limit the rights already acquired by national minorities, and continues to provide effective protection for their members, while respecting state sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Slovak Republic. The Government has further pledged to create opportunities for persons belonging to national minorities to preserve their cultural customs, language, traditions, and stated not to take any measures to assimilate or encourage such assimilation with the majority population.<sup>14</sup>

An exceptionally important and unprecedented commitment of the Government of the Slovak Republic, as declared in its Manifesto, is the adoption of Act on the State of National Minorities. The given Act is meant to slow down the assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities and to guarantee the exercise of the rights of minorities laid down by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. The Act will regulate the position of national minorities and consistently apply and specify their rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic to exercise their rights to participate in resolving public affairs. Furthermore, the Government declared the possibility of establishing an Office for National Minorities.<sup>15</sup>

In relation to the use of the languages of national minorities, the Manifesto contains several objectives. In addition to the adoption of the above Act, it is an obligation to consider the possibility of extending the scope of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. to higher territorial units, for example in relation to the Hungarian national minority. This measure would be applied to two higher

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<sup>12</sup>Methodological guidelines for Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in the languages of national minorities are available on the website of the Plenipotentiary: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk//metodicke-usmernenie-k-zakonu/>.

<sup>13</sup>Available at: [https://www.obycajniludia.sk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PVV\\_hu\\_SZLOVAK-KOZTARSASAG-KORMANYANAK-PROGRAMNYILATKOZATA.pdf](https://www.obycajniludia.sk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PVV_hu_SZLOVAK-KOZTARSASAG-KORMANYANAK-PROGRAMNYILATKOZATA.pdf)

<sup>14</sup>The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024, pp. 17-18.

<sup>15</sup>The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024, p. 18.

territorial units (Trnavský and Nitriansky).<sup>16</sup> When amending relevant acts, one must not forget about the application of language rights at the level of districts whose seats of public administration bodies are not in municipalities listed in the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 221/1999 Coll., however, several municipalities in these districts are listed in the Government's Regulation. Due to the current legal situation, the inhabitants of these municipalities and the members of national minorities do not have the opportunity to use the language of the national minority in official contact at the district level.

The use of languages of national minorities is closely related to the process of electronic public administration. In connection with e-Government, the Government has committed, based on the already built architecture, to promote full digitalization and automation for selected agendas. The Government of the Slovak Republic will streamline expenditures on information and communication technologies under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.<sup>17</sup> In accordance with the Manifesto, the Slovak Republic will aim to digitalize the agenda of all central and regional state administration bodies. The Government of the Slovak Republic will provide a portal for submitting reports and statements with an explanation of legal regulations for companies, and an overview of the obligations of citizens and entrepreneurs towards all state and public administration bodies.<sup>18</sup> In this area, the constitutionally guaranteed right to use minority languages in official contact should not be forgotten, which tends to be an everyday practice.

In connection with the financing of local governments, the Government undertook in its Manifesto to audit the competencies of local governments in order to evaluate the quality of the competencies exercised, and their compliance with the current setup of their financing. Following the above and according to its Manifesto, the Government will consider changing the model for financing local governments.<sup>19</sup> This area also significantly affects the use of languages of national minorities that encounters the absence of financial compensation for increased local government expenditures incurred in connection with the implementation of the provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

According to its Manifesto, the Government of the Slovak Republic shall strengthen the strategic aspects of employment management and remuneration of public employees, including planning the number of employees and their coordinated recruitment, and differentiated approach to professions with regional differences in mind.<sup>20</sup> Regarding the use of languages of national minorities in official contact, it is necessary to support and strengthen personnel capacities and their preconditions for mastering the language of a national minority in this area.

The education system is very closely connected with the creation of conditions for the use of languages in official contact, specifically with staffing process. In matters of national education, the Government of the Slovak Republic emphasizes in its Manifesto the need for strengthening its quality and professional background, and creating equal opportunities for all pupils with regard to their mother tongue. In order to fulfil these objectives, the Government aims to support

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<sup>16</sup>The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024, p. 18.

<sup>17</sup>The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024, p. 28.

<sup>18</sup>The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024, p. 69.

<sup>19</sup>The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024, p. 59.

<sup>20</sup>The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024, p. 59.

schools with the language of instruction of national minorities, as well as schools where the national minority predominates, and where there is a demand for a school with the language of instruction in Slovak. The Government of the Slovak Republic has committed itself to defining the concept of national education within the framework of Slovak legislation, and to increase the support and development of education of children and pupils belonging to national minorities in their mother tongue. The Government of the Slovak Republic will also provide current and modern textbooks and other teaching materials for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools with the language of instruction or with the teaching of the language of national minorities with the emphasis on their accessibility for pupils and schools.<sup>21</sup>

There is also a very close connection between language and culture. In this context, it is also important to mention that, according to the Manifesto, the diverse culture of national minorities has a special status. By supporting culture we increase the cultural diversity of the regions. The Government of the Slovak Republic has undertaken to implement the prepared Strategy for the Development of Local and Regional Culture and the Culture of National Minorities, and to create a legislative framework to ensure the development of the culture of members of national minorities and also the so-called new minorities in Slovakia. Furthermore, the Government has promised to reform the institutional coverage, the legislative environment and the financial mechanisms to support the development of culture of national minorities in accordance with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, and international obligations.<sup>22</sup>

In its Manifesto, the Government of the Slovak Republic has undertaken to approach the coexistence of the state language with other official EU languages and languages of national minorities in a sensitive way, as well as to evaluate and prepare an amendment to Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language of the Slovak Republic, as amended (hereinafter also referred to as "Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 270/1995 Coll."), in order to prevent unjustified interference with the freedom of expression and the right to disseminate information under the pretext of state language protection.<sup>23</sup>

### **1.2.3 Framework plan for legislative tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for VIII. election period**

Following the priorities of the Manifesto, the Government of the Slovak Republic at its meeting on 9 September 2020 approved the Framework Plan for Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for VIII. election period by Resolution no. 547/2020. Based on the proposal of the Plenipotentiary of the Government, the material contains several specific measures that will directly impact the minority language rights. In line with the commitment of the Government of the Slovak Republic to adopt the Act on the State of National Minorities resulting from the Manifesto, the Framework Plan for Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for VIII. election period included the task (4Q 2021) to elaborate and submit a draft legislation on the State of National Minorities.

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<sup>21</sup>The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024, p. 74.

<sup>22</sup>The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024, pp.73-74.

<sup>23</sup>The Slovak Government's Manifesto for the period 2020 – 2024, pp. 118-119.

Based on the announcement of the basic results of the Census of Population and Housing 2021, which will be published by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic under § 36 (2) of Act no. 223/2019 Coll. on the Census of Population and Housing 2021 and on Amendments to Certain Acts (hereinafter also referred to as “Act No. 223/2019 Coll.”) by 1 January 2022 at the latest, the Government has undertaken to submit (1Q 2022) a draft regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic amending Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 221/1999 Coll., which issues a list of municipalities where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 20% of the population, as amended by Government Regulation of the Slovak Republic no. 534/2011 Coll. An amendment to the Government Regulation is envisaged by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, pursuant to § 2 (1) and (7c) (2). In accordance with these provisions, the list of municipalities within the Regulation will be amended, changing the quorum for the right to use the language of a national minority in official contact in municipalities where citizens belonging to a national minority make up at least 15% of the current 20% of the population, based on the announcement of the results of the Census of Population Housing 2021.

In connection with the Government's commitment to extend the scope of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. for higher territorial units, which results from the Manifesto, the Government of the Slovak Republic shall discuss (1Q 2022) a draft bill amending Act no. 184/1999 Coll. These three tasks shall fall under the responsibility of the Office of the Government that integrates the Office of the Plenipotentiary.

#### **1.2.4 Other non-legislative materials**

Other non-legislative materials also partially covered the areas of language rights of persons belonging to national minorities. *The Concept for the Fight Against Extremism for 2015 – 2019* (hereinafter referred to as the “Concept”) was adopted by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 129/2015. The Concept defines Slovakia’s strategic priorities with regard to the prevention and elimination of radicalisation, extremism and the associated anti-social activities that threaten fundamental rights and freedoms and the foundations of the democratic rule of law, and refuses to accept manifestations of hate against certain population groups for reasons such as gender, race, colour of skin, ethnic or national origin, language, sexual orientation, religion or affiliation with a social class. The report on the fulfilment of tasks arising from the Concept with a proposal to update the tasks has undergone a consultation between the government departments and will be presented to the Government for discussion.

The preparation of the *Concept for Combating Radicalization and Extremism for 2020 – 2024* is currently being finalized. The given Concept aims to promote, defend and safeguard the democratic rule of law, its fundamental values and attributes in order to create a strong democratic and political environment that rejects any manifestation of extremism and hate speech based on national, racial, ethnic, religious, or other intolerance. In the previous period, the *Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance for 2016 – 2018* was another strategic document in the field of minority rights. It was adopted by Government Resolution no. 12/2016. Informative material called *Evaluation of the Action Plan to Prevent and Eliminate Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism*

*and Other Forms of Intolerance for 2016 – 2018* was presented to the Government of the Slovak Republic for discussion that took place on 4 June 2019.

The *Action Plan to Prevent All Forms of Discrimination for 2016 – 2019* was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution no. 5/2016. The above-mentioned Action Plan was aimed to raise public awareness of non-discrimination and streamline the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation. Currently, the consultation procedure of governmental departments of the Report on the fulfilment of tasks from the Action Plan to Prevent All Forms of Discrimination for 2016 –2019 is being evaluated and, once finished, it will be in accordance with the resolution drawn up and presented to the Government for discussion.

The Resolution of the Slovak Government no. 1/2012 approved another strategic document, which is partially devoted to the rights of national minorities, namely the *Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Romani Integration until 2020*. The updated action plans of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Romani Integration until 2020 for the years 2019 – 2020 for the areas: D.2.1 Area of education, D.2.2 Area of employment, D.2.3 Area of health, D.2.4 Area of housing and D.2.5 Area of financial inclusion were adopted by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 25/2019. Based on the resolution no. 424/2017, Action Plans of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Romani Integration until 2020 for the years 2017 – 2020 were adopted for the following areas: D.2.6 Non-discrimination and D.2.7 the Approaches towards the majority society. The non-discrimination area pursues the global objective of increasing the effectiveness of Romani protection against discrimination and unequal treatment. In terms of approaches towards the majority society – the Romani integration initiative through communication – the goal is to promote public opinion sensitization, mitigate mutual stereotypes and prejudices, and strengthen coherence between the Romani population and the majority society.

A *Concept of strategy for the development of local, regional and national minority culture of the Slovak Republic until 2030* was adopted in the given period in the area of culture. This concept was adopted by Government Resolution no. 317/2019. The given Resolution imposed a duty on the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic to ensure the preparation of a non-legislative material: a Strategy for the Development of Local, Regional and Minority Culture of the Slovak Republic by 2030, and to submit it to the Government of the Slovak Republic by 31 December 2020.

### **1.3 Institutional framework for the use of languages of national minorities**

A citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority may, in the area of application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., contact institutions that provide assistance in the field of human rights, and submit a complaint, for example, to the Public Defender of Rights or, in the event of an objection of unequal treatment, to the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights.

The Public Defender of Rights deals with the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural and legal entities with regard to actions, decisions or lack of actions of public administration bodies if their actions, decisions or lack of actions are contrary to the law or the principles of a democratic state and the rule of law. Anyone who considers that his/her fundamental rights and freedoms have been violated or are against the rule of law or the principles of democracy, may contact the Public Defender of Rights. Natural entities may use their mother tongue in contact with the Public Defender of Rights, while the costs for the

interpreter will be borne by the State. The Public Defender of Rights also submits an annual activity report to the National Council of the Slovak Republic, in which s/he states his/her findings on the observance of fundamental rights and freedoms of natural entities and legal entities by public administration bodies and his/her proposals and recommendations to remedy identified shortcomings. If the Public Defender of Rights discovers facts indicating that the violation of a fundamental right or freedom is severe or related to a larger number of persons, then s/he may submit an extraordinary report to the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

In the given period, the Public Defender of Rights dealt with one complaint in connection with the right of citizens belonging to national minorities regarding the non-issuance of a bilingual registry statement. Similar written suggestions were also presented to the Office of the Plenipotentiary.

In connection with the application of the principle of equal treatment under Act No. 365/2004 Coll. on Equal Treatment in Certain Areas and Protection against Discrimination and amending certain laws (the Anti-Discrimination Act), as amended, the SNCHR in the given period did not receive any complaints and did not carry out monitoring or research in the given field.

### **1.3.1 Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic – rendering professional and methodological assistance and administrative proceedings in the field of the use of languages of national minorities**

Pursuant to § 7a (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., the Office of the Government provides expert and methodological assistance to public authorities and organizational units of security forces and rescue services with regard to the implementation of this Act. The Office of the Government has established for the Application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. an Expert Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Expert Committee") – a permanent advisory body to the Secretary-General of the Office of the Government that is responsible for the elaboration of methodological guidelines to assist the above-mentioned organizational units, and for statements to complaints submitted pursuant to § 7b of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. The Expert committee did not deal in the given period with any complaints.

In the period 2017 – 2018, the Expert Committee dealt with the *Methodological Guidelines to Act no. 184/1999 Coll.*, prepared by the Office of the Plenipotentiary. In the given period, this material was published on the website of the Plenipotentiary. Once translated into Hungarian, Romani, Ruthenian, Ukrainian and German, the material was also published in these language versions.<sup>24</sup>

Pursuant to § 7b par. 3 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., the Office of the Government discusses administrative offenses in the area of the use of the languages of national minorities. According to the Organizational Rules of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, the Secretary-General of the Service Office of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic ensures the fulfilment of tasks pursuant to Act no. 184/1999 Coll., and the Office of the Secretary-General of the Service Office ensures the processing of submissions pursuant to the said Act in cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National

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<sup>24</sup>Available at: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk//metodicke-usmernenie-k-zakonu/>. At the same time, it is published in parts by the Ruthenian magazine РУСИН, so far under editions 4/2020 and 5/2020.

Minorities. In the past period, the Government office did not discuss a single administrative offense, and thus the submissions were processed without imposing a fine.

### **1.3.2 Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities – cooperation in providing professional and methodological assistance in the field of the use of languages of national minorities**

The Plenipotentiary, as an advisory body to the Government of the Slovak Republic, carries out duties to foster preservation, development and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and implements systemic measures to improve the status of national minorities. Pursuant to Article 4 of the Statute of the Plenipotentiary, the Plenipotentiary may, inter alia, within his/her competence, submit proposals for legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The Plenipotentiary's activities are supported by the Office of the Plenipotentiary, which is included within the organisational structure of the Office of the Government.

In accordance with the Organizational Rules of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, the Office of the Plenipotentiary cooperates with the Office of the Secretary-General of the Service Office (hereinafter referred to as the "Office of the Secretary-General") in handling submissions pursuant to Act no. 184/1999 Coll. and in providing professional and methodological assistance to public administration bodies and organizational units of security and rescue services in terms of implementing the provisions of this Act.

The Office of the Plenipotentiary provided professional and methodological assistance upon request to 18 entities in the period from 2019 to 2020, namely to public administration bodies and legal entities. The Signs designating buildings in the languages of national minorities, bilingual official forms, publication (mandatory) of information on the use of the minority language in official contact, and indicating surnames of persons belonging to national minorities properly in their language accounted for professional and methodological assistance in most cases at the level of public authorities.

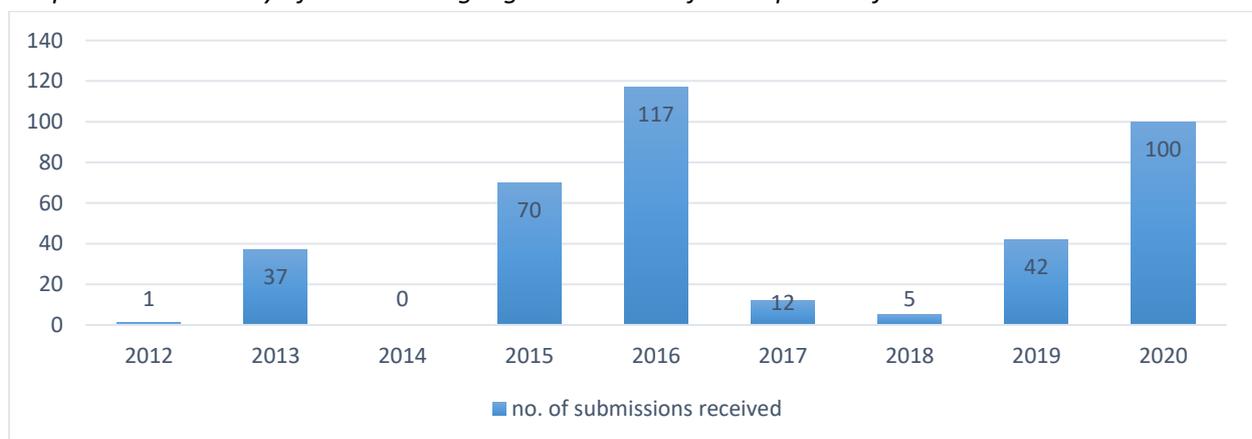
The requests of legal entities mainly concerned the guidelines in connection with the application of § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., under which the information (in municipalities with a national minority) concerning threats to life, health, safety, or property of Slovak citizens are presented at places accessible to the public not only in the state language but also in the language of a national minority. In connection with publication of this information, we have managed to cooperate successfully with Železnice Slovenskej republiky (Railways of the Slovak Republic), Slovenská pošta a.s. (The Slovak Post), as well as with some supermarket chains.

In 2019, the Office of the Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General, processed a total of 42 language submissions concerning a possible violation of the provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. Out of the total number of submissions, 5 were received from legal entities and 37 from natural entities. In 2020, this number increased to 100 submissions, all from natural entities. Most of these submissions mainly concerned the violation of § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. One of the complaints concerned the violation of § 2 (3) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., more specifically, it was a failure to use the language of a national minority in oral communication at the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Galanta. Part of the complaints included the violation of § 2 (5) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., pursuant to which the birth

certificate, marriage certificate, death certificate, permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations are issued in the minority municipality bilingually, both in the state language and in the language of the minority. The problematic application of § 2 (5) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. also points to the decision of the Regional Court in Nitra, which responds to the denial of the plaintiff's right for a complete bilingual birth certificate by the Registry Office in Nové Zámky.<sup>25</sup>

The Office of the Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General, processed 81 language submissions in 2019 and 2020, while another 61 are still in the process of being resolved. Several of these claims have been received during the last weeks of the report preparation, and the initial communication with stakeholders is ongoing right now. Currently, we're in the process of rectifying shortcomings in some of the submissions. At the same time, the Office of the Plenipotentiary completed in the given period the processing of the 2016 mass submission, which included 117 complaints.

*Graph no. 1: Summary of received language submissions for the period of 2012 – 2020*



Source: Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic<sup>26</sup>

In order to support the improvement of the conditions for the use of languages of national minorities and ethnic groups in practice, the Plenipotentiary continued to ensure the activities of advisory language groups that prepared translations of legislative texts, forms, and methodological materials for the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., as well as translations of information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens.

In connection with the findings of the previous language report, the Plenipotentiary informed in writing the individual public administration bodies about the specific shortcomings that had been identified in their offices, and subsequently organized meetings to rectify them. Fifteen regional level meetings between the Plenipotentiary and representatives of towns and municipalities took place from May to November 2019, during which the Plenipotentiary provided, inter alia, methodological assistance to the participants in terms of application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. At the same time, similar meetings were held with representatives of the higher territorial units. The Plenipotentiary also held a series of negotiations with several state administration bodies, self-government bodies, as well as state enterprises, and other legal entities, such as Železnice slovenskej republiky (Railways of the Slovak Republic), Slovenská pošta

<sup>25</sup>More info in the subchapter 1.1 The Legislative framework for the use of languages of national minorities.

<sup>26</sup>All graphs in this Report are based on data from the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

a. s. (The Slovak Post), or Národná banka Slovenska (The National Bank of Slovakia) with the aim to improve the application practice of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. The result of these negotiations was the elaboration of the following methodological materials for the application of § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.: *Information of the State Office for Drug Control, Guidelines of the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic on the Use of the Language of National Minorities on Traffic Signs and Transport Facilities, Statement of the Slovak Trade Inspection, Guidelines of the Slovak Police Presidium, Information of the National Labour Inspectorate, Information on the designation of dangerous places in the language of national minorities and the Guidelines of the Ministry of Transport for building authorities.* These materials are published on the website of the Government Plenipotentiary.<sup>27</sup>

The given negotiations also led to the elaboration of three memoranda of cooperation. In January 2019, a Memorandum of Cooperation was concluded between the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. Both parties agreed to actively cooperate to ensure translations of selected legal norms into national minority languages and their publication on the Slov-Lex portal.<sup>28</sup> In the period 2019 – 2020, the following acts have been added to the already translated pieces of legislation: Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 154/1994 Coll. on Registries, Act no. 85/1990 Coll. on the Right of Petition, Act no. 96/1991 Coll. on Public Cultural Events and Act no. 84/1990 Coll. on the Right to Assemble, which have so far been translated into Hungarian, Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 300/1993 Coll. on the Name and Surname, which has been translated into Hungarian and Romani. At the same time, Act no. 83/1990 Coll. on the Association of Citizens and Act no. 601/2003 Coll. on the Minimum Subsistence Level and amending certain laws, as amended, has been translated into Romani.<sup>29</sup>

In June 2019, a Memorandum of Cooperation was adopted between the Government Plenipotentiary and the Slovak Trade Inspection and both parties agreed to actively cooperate in terms of supervising the compliance with the provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in municipalities, under the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 534/2011 Coll., in the field of consumer protection, surveillance, and control of the business within the energy sector.<sup>30</sup> In November 2019, a Memorandum of Cooperation was adopted between the

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<sup>27</sup>Methodological materials for the application of § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. are available at: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk//informacie-tykajuca-sa-ohrozenia-zivota-zdravia-bezpecnosti-alebo-majetku-obcanov/>.

<sup>28</sup>The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Plenipotentiary and the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic is available at: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7499\\_memorandum-o-spolupraci.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7499_memorandum-o-spolupraci.pdf).

<sup>29</sup>As of 1 July 2020, on the basis of Act no. 134/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing Act no. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organization of Government Activities and the Organization of the Central State Administration, as amended, and which amends and supplements certain laws, the operation of the Slov-Lex portal was transferred from the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic and passed on to the Government Office. In connection with this change, the Plenipotentiary opened the first round of negotiations with the aim of maintaining cooperation in terms of providing translations of legal norms into the languages of national minorities.

<sup>30</sup>The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Plenipotentiary and the Slovak Trade Inspection Authority is available at: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7573\\_memorandum-o-spolupraci-medzi-svsrnm-a-soi-ui.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7573_memorandum-o-spolupraci-medzi-svsrnm-a-soi-ui.pdf).

Plenipotentiary and the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate and both parties agreed to cooperate within the application and observance of § 4 (6) of Act 184/1999 Coll.<sup>31</sup>

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Plenipotentiary took the initiative, in accordance with the provisions of § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., and in cooperation with the responsible authorities, to make the information, signs and announcements on threats to life, health, safety and property available to the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to national minorities also in the languages of national minorities. During this period, the Plenipotentiary worked intensively to raise awareness among persons belonging to national minorities by ensuring translations of COVID-19 related basic information and instructions into Hungarian, Romani, Ruthenian, Ukrainian and German. These translations have been published in cooperation with the Public Health Authority on the websites of relevant regional offices, as well as on the website of the Plenipotentiary and at [korona.gov.sk](http://korona.gov.sk) website.<sup>32</sup> The above translations have been managed by the advisory language groups of the Government Plenipotentiary. At the same time, the Plenipotentiary called on public administration bodies and legal entities (established by them), as well as other legal entities and natural entities-entrepreneurs, to publish COVID-19 related information, signs and announcements in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. also in the languages of national minorities.

### **1.3.3 Fulfilment of the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 10/2019**

The previous *Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the Period 2017 – 2018* was adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic on 9 January 2019 by Resolution no. 10/2019. By the given Resolution, the Government of the Slovak Republic imposed the following tasks on the Head of the Government Office and the Plenipotentiary (paragraphs B.1. to B.3, by 31 December 2019):

- to establish an inter-ministerial working group to elaborate documents for the application of § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended;
- to draw up methodological guidelines for competence training aimed at maintaining and improving the level of command of the language of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in the municipalities defined in a special regulation;
- to establish an inter-ministerial working group for the coordination of the issuance of bilingual forms within the competence of municipalities and state administration bodies;

Under paragraph B.4, this resolution imposed, at the same time, on the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Information Technology, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Transport and Construction, the Minister of Defence, and the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Roma Communities, to take measures to eliminate

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<sup>31</sup>The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Plenipotentiary and the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate is available at: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7694\\_doc673.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7694_doc673.pdf).

<sup>32</sup>Basic information and instructions related to COVID-19 disease are available in Hungarian, Romani, Ruthenian, Ukrainian and German at: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk//covid-19/> a <https://korona.gov.sk/>.

the shortcomings listed in Annex no. 10 to Report; and to continuously evaluate their fulfilment within their competence by 31 December 2019.

In accordance with task B.1 as of 15 August 2019, the Plenipotentiary set up an Inter-ministerial Working Group for the preparation of documents for the application of § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended; The working group included representatives of the following government agencies: Office of the Government of the SR, Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the SR for National Minorities, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Transport and Construction, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR, Ministry of Environment of the SR, Ministry of Finance of the SR, National Labour Inspectorate, Slovak Trade Inspection, Slovak Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing and the Office for Regulation of Electronic Communications and Postal Services.

Since Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in the provision of § 4 (6) of the first sentence does not stipulate any specific types and kinds of information, signs and announcements on threats to life, health, safety or property of the citizens of the Slovak Republic, the individual ministries have defined their scope of competence on their own. As a result, the working group has created *Guidelines for the application of § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended*, which is published on the website of the Plenipotentiary.<sup>33</sup> This fundamental document ensures legal certainty and enforceability of the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities in relation to the first sentence of § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., defines the obligations of entities bound to provide public information and renders professional and methodological assistance through summary information and recommendations in order to ensure uniform application of the above-mentioned provision for a) public administration bodies (local state administration bodies, local self-government bodies, legal entities established by territorial self-government); (b) legal entities; c) natural entities-entrepreneurs; d) organizational units of security and rescue forces.

The Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, ensured the fulfilment of task B. 2 of the Resolution, which reflected the current level of command of minority languages among civil servants. Based on the positive experience from district offices, the aim was to draw up methodological guidelines for competence training aimed at maintaining and improving the level of command of the language of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in the minority municipalities. The material entitled *Methodological Guidelines for the Provision of Competence Education aimed at maintaining and improving the level of language skills of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a special regulation* was published in December 2019 on the Plenipotentiary's website<sup>34</sup> and disseminated to the secretaries-general of relevant ministries.

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<sup>33</sup>Guidelines for the application of § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, are available at: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7750\\_usmernenie-k-aplikacii-%C2%A7-4-ods-6-zakona-o-pouzivani-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7750_usmernenie-k-aplikacii-%C2%A7-4-ods-6-zakona-o-pouzivani-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin.pdf).

<sup>34</sup>Methodological guidelines for competence training aimed at maintaining and improving the level of command of the language of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in the municipalities defined in a special regulation are available at:

In accordance with task B.3., the Plenipotentiary established on 20 June 2019 an inter-ministerial working group for the coordination of the issuance of bilingual forms within the competence of municipalities and state administration bodies. The working group included representatives of the following government agencies: Office of the Government of the SR, Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the SR for National Minorities, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Informatization, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Transport and Construction, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR and the Ministry of Finance of the SR. The need to set up this working group was based on the findings of the previous report, which shows that 71% of local government bodies and 50% of cities and municipalities did not have bilingual official forms. The task of this working group was to select the relevant forms within the scope of individual ministries, to prepare an analysis of the legal state in the mentioned areas, and to take the necessary measures. While working on this task, the Plenipotentiary held several negotiations with the responsible ministries, local governments and the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia. The results of these activities represent an improvement in this area, which is reflected in the findings of the current survey on pages 45-47 and 88-90.

In connection with the fulfilment of the fourth task, the Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, addressed a letter to the local self-government bodies and responsible<sup>35</sup> ministries to rectify the shortcomings identified in the *Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2017 – 2018*. In this matter, the Plenipotentiary organized a series of meetings with representatives of the responsible ministries, self-governing regions and municipalities and, at the same time, requested an update on the performance of this task. The given municipalities and ministries stated in their update that they had eliminated the identified shortcomings or were working to eliminate them, which is finally being reflected, to some extent, in the results of the current questionnaire survey.

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

The Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”) is a permanent professional body of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality for issues related to national minorities and ethnic groups and their members and for the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages (Notification No. 588/2001 Coll. , pursuant to its Art. 7 (4) and under Art. 15 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Notification no. 160/1998 Coll.).<sup>36</sup> The Committee acts as an advisory body in matters of participation of persons

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[https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7733\\_metodicke-usmernenie-k-zabezpeceniu-jazykoveho-kompetencneho-vzdelavania.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7733_metodicke-usmernenie-k-zabezpeceniu-jazykoveho-kompetencneho-vzdelavania.pdf).

<sup>35</sup>Besides the Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Informatization and the Minister of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic, this task was abolished by the Resolution no. 168/2019 of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

<sup>36</sup>Pursuant to Art. 7 (4) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Contracting Parties shall, when determining their policy towards regional or minority languages, take into account the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use those languages. If necessary, they may set up advisory bodies to assist the authorities in all matters concerning regional or minority languages. In accordance with the above, the Committee

belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in terms of resolving matters of national minorities and ethnic groups under Art. 34 (2) letter c) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

At present, the Committee consists of a chamber made up of representatives for national minorities (23 members in total) and a chamber made up of representatives for the central state administration (9 members). The members of both chambers of the Committee have the right to vote. The Committee also consists of 10 members without the right to vote. During the given period, by-elections were held twice for two alternates for members of the Roma and an alternate member for the Jewish national minority (6 February 2019) and for alternates for the Romani and German members national minorities (5 October 2020).

Under the valid statute, the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups prepares an Evaluation report every two years pursuant to Art. (3) letter f) of the Statute of the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups on the Promotion of the Cultures of National Minorities, on the State of National Education and on the Use of the Languages of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Evaluation report"). The Evaluation report for the period 2017 – 2018<sup>37</sup> was approved by the Committee by resolution no. 148 as of 20 September 2019, and imposed on the Chairman of the Committee to submit the given report for approval to the Government Council. The given report was approved by the Government Council by its Resolution no. 225 as of 30 September 2019. Next year, the Committee shall prepare an Evaluation report for 2019 – 2020.

The Committee adopted 37 resolutions (3 by a per rollam procedure) and 1 major statement in the given period (before the finalization of the report). A draft legislative proposal for the Act on National Minorities ranks among the most important materials the Committee was<sup>38</sup> partaking in.

In connection with the language rights of national minorities in the given period, the Committee discussed and by resolutions no. 158 as of 30 April 2020 and no. 164 as of 4 September 2020 acknowledged the *Report on the results of the fifth round of monitoring the level of implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic*. The material was discussed by the Committee and the Government Council before being submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic for discussion. The Government Council acknowledged the Report by its Resolution no. 243 as of 21 September 2020. This material was discussed through by the Government of the Slovak Republic on 11 November 2020.<sup>39</sup>

#### **1.4 Preparation of the Census of Population and Housing 2021**

In the Slovak Republic, the exercise of the right to use the language of a national minority is linked to the results of the census. Under § 2 (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., if citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority and have a permanent residence in a given

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acts as the supervisory body for the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovakia.

<sup>37</sup>The Evaluation report is available at: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7609\\_hodnotiaci-sprava-vnmes-o-podpore-kultur-narodnostneho-skolstva-a-stave-pouzivania-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin-2017--2018.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7609_hodnotiaci-sprava-vnmes-o-podpore-kultur-narodnostneho-skolstva-a-stave-pouzivania-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin-2017--2018.pdf)

<sup>38</sup>More about the legislative intention under paragraph 1.2.1 on pages 9-10.

<sup>39</sup>The material is available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25320/1>.

municipality and make up at least 15% of the population in that municipality according to two consecutive censuses, then they have the right to use the language of the minority in official contact. Pursuant to § 7c, two consecutive censuses are censuses whose results were announced after 1 July 2011.

Since the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic published the first selected final results of CPH 2011 on 29 February 2012<sup>40</sup>, the 2021 Census of Population and Housing will be crucial from the point of view of the rights of persons belonging to a national minority to use the language of a national minority in official contact. Based on its results, the quorum for the right to use the language of a national minority in official contact in municipalities where citizens belonging to a national minority make up at least 20% of the population will change to 15 %. Following this fact, the Government of the Slovak Republic included the task of submitting a proposal for an amendment to the regulation issuing such a list of municipalities in the Framework Plan of Legislative Tasks of the Slovak Republic for VIII. election period.<sup>41</sup>

In connection with the fulfilment of tasks arising from the *National Action Plan of the Census of Population and Housing 2021 for 2017 – 2020*, the Office of the Plenipotentiary worked on the fulfilment of strategic objective no. 5 of the NAP SODB, which includes specific groups of the population and their needs for a special approach in terms of the census, both from the point of view of nationality and ethnicity, with regard to the mother tongue. The Plenipotentiary, in cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, set up an expert working group, which developed a *Methodology for population census in terms of their nationality or ethnicity affiliation with respect to their mother tongue*.<sup>42</sup>

The Census of Population and Housing will be carried out exclusively electronically via the web application of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. The basic frameworks of the scope and manner of conducting the census are regulated by Act no. 223/2019 Coll. on the Census of Population and Housing 2021, amending certain acts, adopted on 18 June 2019. The given piece of legislation sets out, inter alia, the topics and characteristics identified in the census, while nationalities and the mother tongue are being included among the topics relating to the population. Following the adoption of the given Act, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic gradually prepared measures published in the Collection of Laws. The most important of them, from the point of view of the given area, is the Measure of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic no. 44/2020 Coll., which lays down details on the characteristics and structure of the surveyed data on topics according to the list and details on the method of data collection and models of census forms for the population census and census forms for the census of houses and flats. The sample census form contains the following questions: "What is your nationality? "Do you claim another nationality as well?" and "What is your mother tongue?". Pursuant to Act no.

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<sup>40</sup>Information on the completion of the project on the Census of Population and Housing 2011. Available at: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/10870/1>.

<sup>41</sup>For more details, see part: 1.2.2 Framework Plan for Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for VIII. election period

<sup>42</sup>The methodology is available on the Plenipotentiary's website: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7470\\_metodika-sodb-2021.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7470_metodika-sodb-2021.pdf) . and on the website of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic: [https://www.scitanie.sk/storage/app/media/dokumenty/Methodika\\_scitania\\_obyvateľov\\_z\\_hľadiska\\_ich\\_prislušnosti\\_k\\_narodnosti\\_alebo\\_etniku\\_so\\_zretelom\\_na\\_materinsky\\_jazyk.pdf](https://www.scitanie.sk/storage/app/media/dokumenty/Methodika_scitania_obyvateľov_z_hľadiska_ich_prislušnosti_k_narodnosti_alebo_etniku_so_zretelom_na_materinsky_jazyk.pdf) .

223/2019 Coll., all the forms will also be available in 5 languages of national minorities, namely in Hungarian, Romani, Ruthenian, Ukrainian and German.

The Office of the Plenipotentiary prepared and published a document with Information on the Census 2021, with a special regard to nationality and mother tongue. It included questions and answers, which had been translated into 5 languages of national minorities (Hungarian, Romani, Ruthenian, Ukrainian and German). The given document, along with information leaflets on current topics related to the census in the field of nationality and mother tongue in 11 languages of national minorities, was published by the Plenipotentiary on its website and sent to all relevant municipalities.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>43</sup>The listed documents are available on the website of the Plenipotentiary:  
<https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/rozmanitost-obohacuje-scitanie-obyvatelstva-2021/>.

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

In the field of rights and the state of national minorities, including language rights, the Slovak Republic is a party to several international conventions, in particular to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as "Charter of Languages") and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as "Convention"). The listed international agreements shall under the Article 7 (5) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic<sup>44</sup> take precedence over other laws. In this context, the Slovak Republic participates in monitoring mechanisms of the Council of Europe. The Slovak Republic also participates in monitoring mechanisms within the universal periodic evaluation of the UN Human Rights Council and, at the same time, fulfils bilateral contractual obligations with Hungary and Ukraine. In accordance with the Statute, the Plenipotentiary participates in the preparation of reports on the implementation of international agreements in the field of the state and rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

The Charter of Languages is an international multilateral framework agreement of a cultural nature. For the Slovak Republic, the Charter of Languages entered into force on 1 January 2002. The monitoring process-related activities of the Charter of Languages are guaranteed by the MFEA SR. The Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups is a permanent professional body of the Government Council for the implementation of the Charter of Languages under Art. 7 (4) Charter of Languages<sup>45</sup>. The Slovak Republic, as a party to the Charter of Languages, submits implementation reports on the fulfillment of obligations, which are assessed by an independent Committee of Experts, every three years.

The Slovak Republic is also a party to the Framework Convention, which entered into force on 1 February 1998 for the Slovak Republic. The Framework Convention is a legally binding multilateral document dedicated to the protection of national minorities and it aims to specify the legal principles that states undertake to respect in order to ensure the protection of national minorities.<sup>46</sup> The monitoring process-related activities of the Framework Convention are guaranteed by the MFEA SR. The Committee is a permanent professional body of the Government Council for the implementation of the Charter of Languages under Art. 15 of the Framework Convention. The Slovak Republic, as a party to the Convention, puts forward at regular five-year intervals a report on its implementation.

The language rights are also being dealt with by one of the independent autonomous institutions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "OSCE High Commissioner"). Within its mandate, the OSCE High Commissioner identifies and seeks timely solutions to ethnic tensions that may threaten peace, stability, or friendly relations between OSCE participating States. In relation to national minorities and individual participating states, the OSCE High

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<sup>44</sup>International treaties on human rights and fundamental freedoms, international treaties for the implementation of which no law is required, and international treaties which directly establish the rights or obligations of natural or legal persons and which have been ratified and declared in the manner prescribed by law, shall take precedence over the law.

<sup>45</sup>See: Art. 2 (1) of the Statute of the Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups.

<sup>46</sup>See: Interpretative Report on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Commissioner has developed nine thematic recommendations that are laid down by non-binding guidelines, while their application depends on the individual OSCE participating States. The given recommendations are addressed not only to the governments of the participating states but also to the national minorities themselves.<sup>47</sup>

## 2.1 European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The Charter of Languages in the Slovak Republic applies to the following languages: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, Ukrainian (Part II and Part III), Russian, Serbian (Part II). Part II of the Charter of Languages sets out the objectives and principles in relation to regional or minority languages, based on which the Contracting Parties shall establish their policies, legislation and practices. Each Contracting Party undertakes to comply with the provisions of Part II with respect to all regional or minority languages spoken on its territory, and which conform to the term regional or minority language. Russian and Serbian have been recognized as minority languages in the Slovak Republic in accordance with Part II of the Charter of Languages. Part III of the Charter of Languages lists the various measures to promote the use of regional or minority languages in public life (education; judicial system; public authorities and public services; media; cultural activities and facilities; economic and social life and cross-border cooperation). The given part covers nine languages: Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian. In terms of selected provisions, these languages are divided into three groups: 1) Hungarian, 2) Ruthenian and Ukrainian, 3) other languages: Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, German, Polish and Romani.

In the given period, the Government of the Slovak Republic by its Resolution no. 352 as of 22 August 2018 adopted the *Fifth Report on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic*. The material contains an updated reflection on the state of regional or minority languages in the Slovak Republic, the development of legislation, as well as social practice in the field of protection and promotion of regional or minority languages. The Implementation report was submitted to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe in August 2018. Subsequently, the standard monitoring process continued on 3-5 December 2018 with the following visit to the Committee of Experts of the Charter of Languages in the Slovak Republic aimed at the level of its implementation. On 22 March 2019, the Committee of Experts approved the Evaluation report that included a monitoring of each minority language.

The fifth round of monitoring the fulfilment of the Slovak Republic's obligations arising from the Charter of Languages was concluded with the adoption of the *Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe* on 5 November 2019. The Committee of Ministers recommended that the authorities of the Slovak Republic take into account all the comments and recommendations of the Committee of Experts, in particular:

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<sup>47</sup>See: <https://www.osce.org/hcnm>. The most important thematic recommendations of the OSCE High Commissioner include, for example, the Hague Recommendations on the Education of Members of National Minorities (1996); Oslo Recommendations on the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities (1998); Lund Recommendations: Effective Participation in Public Life (1999); Ljubljana Guidelines: Integration in a Diverse Society (2012); Graz Recommendations: Access to Justice and National Minorities (2017); Tallinn Guidelines: National Minorities and the Media in the Digital Age (2019).

1. to ensure that the languages in Part III are used in administrative practice regardless of the limits, (i.e. the use of minority languages is not limited to %, which severely restricts or excludes minority languages from being used in the field of administrative and public services. In order to ensure a consistent and stable application of Article 10 of the Charter of Languages, the Committee of Experts reiterates that the Slovak authorities should determine the total "number of inhabitants who use regional or minority languages" that is sufficient to implement the obligations under Article 10).
2. to strengthen efforts to provide teaching in or of all regional or minority languages at all appropriate levels,
3. to improve the training of teachers in terms of education in minority languages,
4. to expand the duration and frequency of public and private broadcasting media and, where necessary, facilitate the publication of newspapers in minority languages,
5. to continue raising awareness and promoting tolerance in the Slovak society as a whole towards minority languages and cultures they represent.

By the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 711 as of 11 November 2020, the *Report on the course and results of the 5<sup>th</sup> round of monitoring the level of implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic* was approved. The Slovak Republic is obliged to submit information on the implementation of recommendations for immediate action by 1 January 2021 (instead of the periodic report of the Slovak Republic)<sup>48</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> periodic report by 1 January 2024. Information on the course of the 5<sup>th</sup> round of monitoring the fulfilment of the obligations arising for the Slovak Republic from the Charter of Languages was continuously included in the agenda of the Committee during the years 2019 – 2020. In 2019, the mandate of the representative of the Slovak Republic in the Committee of Experts, Mr. Alexander Bröstl, ended, and a new member for the Slovak Republic, Mrs. Júlia Choleva, was elected at Plenipotentiary's proposal for a 6-year period with the possibility to renew her mandate.

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

By the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 44 as of 30 January 2019, the *Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic* was approved. It included information on the development of legislation and social practice in the field of protection of national minorities at the national level since 2013 with an emphasis on the implementation of recommendations from the previous round of monitoring process. The Report was sent to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe in February 2019.

The 5<sup>th</sup> round of monitoring was to result in an expert visit to Slovakia by a delegation of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention (19-23 October 2020), which was cancelled and postponed by the CE Secretariat due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Advisory

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<sup>48</sup>The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted amendments on 28 November 2018 to strengthen the monitoring mechanism of the Charter of Languages, which entered into force on 1 July 2019.

For more information, please see :

[https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016808f22ea](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016808f22ea) .

Committee is an independent expert body that helps the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in assessing the implementation level of the Framework Convention in terms of the Contracting Parties. During the visit, the CE experts were supposed to meet with the representatives of the governmental and non-governmental sectors, self-government units and representatives of minorities. As in previous monitoring rounds, trips to regions with a higher proportion of national minorities were planned. In order to continue the process, while meeting the deadlines, the Council of Europe Secretariat delivered the first part of the Advisory Committee's questions in mid-November 2020. This batch of questions was forwarded to the relevant ministries and institutions with a request to reply by 15 December 2020.

On the basis of all available information, the Advisory body will prepare an Evaluation report for the Committee of Ministers, to which the Slovak Republic will have an opportunity to send its opinion. Monitoring will be formally closed by the adoption of a Resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which will include recommendations to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention. Following the formal end of the monitoring procedure, it is common to carry out at the national level so-called follow-up seminar as a form of continuation of the dialogue with the Advisory Committee. In 2018, the mandate of the representative of the Slovak Republic to the Advisory Committee for the Framework Convention (Mr. Tomáš Hrustič) ended as a full member. Furthermore, on a proposal from the Plenipotentiary, he was nominated at the national level and subsequently approved at the international level to perform his duties, should he become a full member of the Advisory Committee on the rotation member basis. The number of members of the Advisory Committee does not equal to the number of parties to the Framework Convention, therefore the membership of the Advisory Committee is rotating, based on a draw.

### **2.3 High Commissioner of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for National Minorities**

In 2019, the Slovak Republic held the chairmanship of the OSCE. One of the three main priorities of the SK OSCE was to support effective multilateralism. SK OSCE, therefore, supported strengthening the cooperation and synergies between the OSCE and other international organizations. The synergy approach also includes the promotion and protection of national minorities. Human rights standards in this area are based on OSCE, Council of Europe and UN documents.

In 2019, the Office of the High Commissioner for National Minorities, in cooperation with the SK OSCE and Sweden, commemorated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of *the Lund Recommendations on the effective participation of national minorities in public life*. The event entitled *Promoting the participation of National Minorities as a Pathway to the Integration of Diverse Societies* took place on 14 November 2020 in Lund, Sweden. The aim of the conference was to create an opportunity to assess the relevance and the state of implementation of the Lund Recommendations, and to discuss ways to support and develop the participation of national minorities in public life, including some new key thematic areas such as the economic sector. The Slovak Republic was represented by the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. At the conference, he emphasized that the effective participation of national minorities in public life is an integral part of a democratic society. The

conference participants confirmed the main message of the Lund Recommendations: the participation of national minorities in public life is equally beneficial for the minorities themselves as well as for the state.

During the SK OSCE in April 2019, a thematic event dedicated to the *Bolzano recommendations to national minorities in interstate relations* took place in Chernivtsi, Ukraine. The event was organized by the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities with the participation of representatives from the Ministries of Culture, State Regional Administration, National Minorities, Consulates and Embassies of OSCE participating States. The main goal of the event was to present international principles, standards, examples of good practice and to support participants to reflect on the main topics concerning national minorities that occur in international relations. The Slovak Republic was represented by representatives of the Office of the Plenipotentiary.

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

By the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 252 as of 29 May 2019, the recommendations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the universal periodic evaluation were approved. Five of the 195 recommendations were related to the national minorities, the quality of their application in public life and the preservation of their identity and the creation of a relevant legislative framework. One of the most important recommendations of this kind is the one to ensure the use of minority languages in accordance with the obligations of the Charter of Languages and the Framework Convention, and to implement the obligations related to national minorities under the Treaty on Good Neighbourly Relations and Friendly Cooperation between Hungary and Slovakia (UPR 160/2019).

#### **2.5 Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission on Minority Affairs**

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mixed Commission took place on 20 February 2019 in Bratislava. The parties underlined the strategic partnership in bilateral relations between Hungary and the Slovak Republic, and the close cooperation within the framework of V4, which has a positive impact on strengthening the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. By the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 305 as of 18 June 2019, new recommendations were approved for the Slovak side. They relate, inter alia, to the assessment of the possibility of adopting new legislation in the field of national rights, recognition of diplomas of medical teachers and speech therapists with a diploma from Hungary, and cooperation with non-governmental organizations of the Hungarian minority living in Slovakia. However, the recommendations concerning language rights remain valid, such as the development of technical terminology in minority languages, the use of minority languages in official contact, ensuring the application of existing laws regulating the use of minority languages, and removing obstacles to their application in practice, and others. In January 2020, the Hungarian side indicated its interest in convening another meeting of the Joint Commission in autumn 2020 in Budapest.

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

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mixed Commission took place on 23 March 2017 in Bratislava. The final protocol emphasized the importance of the Slovak-Ukrainian dialogue and the common interest in addressing educational, cultural and information needs of members of national minorities. The meeting did not identify acute problems in the agenda of minority education and culture. The Ukrainian side has not yet summoned the 15th meeting of the Mixed Commission due to several circumstances (parliamentary elections, presidential elections, COVID-19 pandemic).

### 3. The state of use of languages of national minorities by public administration bodies – questionnaire survey results

#### 3.1 Territorial self-government (municipalities)

##### Return rate of questionnaires

In accordance with Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll., which issues a list of municipalities, where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 20% of the population, as amended, a total of 656 municipalities are registered, in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 20% of population. The given group also includes 18 municipalities with a population belonging to two national minorities, which appear twice in the list (11 municipalities with Ruthenian and Ukrainian, 5 with Hungarian and Romani, 1 with Ukrainian and Romani, and 1 with Ruthenian and Romani national minorities). This means that the real number of municipalities listed in the Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll. is 638.

A total of 656 completed questionnaires from 638 municipalities (of which 18 municipalities on behalf of two languages) were to be delivered to the Office of the Plenipotentiary as part of a questionnaire survey conducted from July to October this year. Municipalities sent 638 questionnaires, which represents a 97.3% return rate on questionnaires. For the sake of completeness, it should be noted that in one municipality, due to its specific situation, it was not possible to carry out a questionnaire survey<sup>49</sup>. Compared to previous surveys, the return rate was high again (in 2018, there were 5 more questionnaires, i.e. 643 in total). The return rate decreased slightly for the Hungarian (from 506 to 503), Ruthenian (from 67 to 64) and Ukrainian (from 17 to 16) minorities, while the return rate for the Romani minorities increased (from 52 to 54). The total number is co-created by one municipality with a German national minority, which sent the given questionnaire this year as well. Absolute numbers and percentages are shown in Table no. 1. The data are broken down by national minorities, while municipalities with a population belonging to two national minorities were counted twice. The above table shows that 638 questionnaires were processed in this survey – which stands for 100% in the tables for individual areas of use of national minority languages.

*Table no. 1: Comparison of the return rate on questionnaires sent to municipalities in surveys conducted in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020.*

	2012		2014		2016		2018		2020	
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>97%</b>

<sup>49</sup>The municipality of Ondavka, which had 11 inhabitants in 2019, had the last elected mayor in the 2011 elections. Elections of the mayor and deputies of this municipality were unsuccessfully announced in this municipality on 15 November 2014, 7 March 2015, 13 June 2015, 24 October 2015, 9 April 2016, 5 November 2016, 8 April 2017, 27 January 2018, 10 November 2018, 13 April 2019 and 21 September 2019. The mayor and 3 deputies managed to be elected in the elections announced on October 3, 2020. From 2014 to the beginning of October 2020, Ondavka did not have an elected self-government and was a non-functional municipality.

18 questionnaires from 17 municipalities (of which one municipality with population belonging to two national minorities) were not processed, as they had not been delivered or had been filled out improperly. In this context, it is necessary to state that under § 7b (1) letter h) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offense in the area of the use of minority languages is committed by a public administration body (a municipality in this case), which is listed in the Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll. and which does not provide written documents in line with § 7a (3). Under this section, the Office of the Government is entitled to request information and written documents from public administration bodies on the use of the language of national minorities in their area of competence.

The questionnaire was used to find out data concerning the use of languages of national minorities within the competence of local self-government bodies as per Act no. 184/1999 Coll. The scope of the questionnaire for municipalities was optimized based on previous experience, in comparison with surveys in 2014, 2016 and 2018. Following the tasks of the Action Plan, the questionnaire also sought the data needed to carry out a cost analysis to increase the availability of services of local state administration bodies, local self-government bodies for persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the field of use of minority languages in official contact. The basic criterion in the creation of the questionnaire, which is based on the wording of the questionnaire used in 2018, was to maintain the greatest possible degree of comparability of data, which allows assessing the development trends in this area.

The municipalities were asked a total of 79 questions in 6 districts in the following order: signs in the language of the national minority (questions 1 – 12), official contact (questions 13 – 28), municipal police 29 – 33), bilingual documents (questions 34 – 54), discussions of local authorities (questions 55-59), informing the public (questions 60 – 71), financial costs (questions 72 – 73) and final questions (questions 74 – 79). The wording of the questionnaire for municipalities forms Annex no. 1.

### **3.1.1 Signs in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 12)**

Under Act no. 184/1999 Coll., all municipalities listed in Provision no. 221/1999 Coll. are obliged to designate the municipality with a road sign in the language of the national minority, both at the beginning and at the end of the municipality, with the exception of those municipalities where the signs in the language of the national minority coincide with the signs in the state language. In such cases, the relevant provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. are not applicable. The designations of 9 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (Baka, Virt, Bajka, Zalaba, Nána, Pozba, Bátka, Rad and Kalonda) and all municipalities with the Romani national minority under Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll. coincide with the name of the municipality in the state language.

Eight of the named municipalities with a Hungarian national minority and 6 municipalities with a Romani national minority stated that they have the designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority in terms of the road signs at the beginning and at the end of the municipality. One municipality with a Hungarian and 42 municipalities with a Roma national minority stated that the designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority coincides with the name in the state language. Three municipalities with a Hungarian (one in the last survey) and currently one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority stated that the

designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority coincides with the name in the state language, although the designation of these municipalities does not coincide with its name in the state language.

The total number of municipalities that indicated the designation of a municipality in the language of a national minority (road signs) decreased (from 580 to 569). The number of such municipalities remained unchanged for the Hungarian (487) and German (1) national minorities. Although the number of municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority decreased (from 64 to 61), this phenomenon is related to the lower return rate on questionnaires. The number of municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority has increased (from 13 to 14). There has been a decrease in the Romani national minority (from 16 to 6), although it should also be noted that, in line with the above, this is not an obligation.

In the given area, an administrative offences (in 11 cases) in accordance with § 7b (1) letter e) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. may have been committed by failing to secure the designation of the municipality with a road sign at the beginning and end of the municipality in the language of the minority. This refers to 3 municipalities with the Hungarian (4 in the previous survey) and 1 municipality with the Ukrainian national minority (4 in the previous survey), which did not fulfil their obligation, and 5 municipalities with the Hungarian (7 in the previous survey), 2 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (same as in the previous survey), which fulfilled it partially. Subsequently, there has been a slight improvement in this area.

*Table 2: Designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated on the road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality (§ 4 (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not applicable for our municipality	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>638</b>

The results of the survey showed that the number of municipalities, which provide information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in the language of the national minority on additional text tables to traffic signs in accordance with the Decree of the Ministry of Interior. 9/2009 Coll. that implements the Act on Road Traffic and on Amendments to Certain Acts, has increased (from 75 to 110). The most notable increase was in the Hungarian minority (from 70 to 99), but the number also increased in the Ruthenian (from 4 to 9) and Romani (from 0 to 1) minorities. The situation has not changed in the municipalities with the Ukrainian and German national minorities. The number of those municipalities with a Hungarian (from 62 to 64) and a Ruthenian national minority (from 1 to 3) that partly provide this information has also increased slightly.

Table 3: Information on threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic also in the language of the national minority on additional text tables to road signs (§ 4 (6) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not applicable for our municipality	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>638</b>

For the first time ever, the indication of the designation of a municipality in the language of a minority was surveyed when designating a railway station, bus station, airport and riverport. According to the data from the questionnaires, the designation of municipalities in the minority language is indicated at the railway station in 106 municipalities (103 with Hungarian and 3 with Ruthenian), partly in one municipality with Hungarian national minority<sup>50</sup>, at the bus station in 162 municipalities (156 with Hungarian, in 5 with the Ruthenian and one with the Romani national minority), partly in 15 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority. The railway station and bus station are designated in 50 municipalities (49 with the Hungarian national minority, including the municipality of Kalonda, whose name is identical in the national minority language with the name in the state language, and 1 with the Ruthenian), The railway station alone is marked in 56 municipalities (54 with the Hungarian national minority and 2 with the Ruthenian) and the bus station alone in 112 municipalities (107 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority, including the municipality of Pozba, whose name is identical in the language of the national minority with the name in the state language, 4 with the Ruthenian and 1 with the Romani). 281 municipalities stated that the designation of railway and bus stations, airports and riverports is not applicable for them at all, including 7 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, whose name is the same in the language of the national minority and in the state language, and 33 municipalities with a Romani national minority. Municipalities with Ukrainian and German national minorities do not have such designations. 439 municipalities stated that the designation of railway stations is not applicable, and 306 municipalities stated that the designation of bus stations is not applicable for them. No municipality stated that there was an airport or riverport within their cadastre.<sup>51</sup>

In the previous survey, this possibility had been examined by one general question, to which 127 municipalities answered that they have such designations, and 43 municipalities stated that they have them partially. Based on the answers of the survey that had been carried out during the preparation of this report, 218 municipalities have marked at least one of the stations (106 railway, 162 bus and 50 municipalities both railway and bus stations). A comparison

<sup>50</sup>In the case of designating railway stations, the current situation is closely related to the adoption of Act no. 55/2019 Coll. that amends Act no. 513/2009 Coll. on Railways and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, and amending certain acts introducing the obligation to designate railway stations and railway stops at which regular passenger transport is operated – in the language of national minorities in municipalities pursuant to a special regulation (§ 2 (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended by Act no. 204/2011 Coll.) at the expense of the infrastructure manager."

<sup>51</sup>According to our findings, the Danube port/harbour is located, for example, in municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (Štúrovo, Komárno, Vojka and Kyselica).

with the results of the previous survey shows that the number of municipalities with such designations has increased significantly.

*Table 4: Designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated under the name in the state language when designating a railway station (§ 4 (3) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not applicable for our municipality	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	103	20%	1	0%	23	5%	328	65%	48	10%	503
Ruthenian	3	5%	0	0%	2	3%	57	89%	2	3%	64
Romani	0	0%	0	0%	13	24%	39	72%	2	4%	54
Ukrainian	0	0%	0	0%	1	6%	14	88%	1	6%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>638</b>

*Table 5: Designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated under the name in the state language when designating a bus station (§ 4 (3) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not applicable for our municipality	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	156	31%	15	3%	99	20%	209	41%	24	5%	503
Ruthenian	5	8%	0	0%	9	14%	50	78%	0	0%	64
Romani	1	2%	0	0%	18	33%	34	63%	1	2%	54
Ukrainian	0	0%	0	0%	2	13%	13	81%	1	6%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>638</b>

These designations have the same size of the font in 102 municipalities (99 with the Hungarian and 3 with the Ruthenian national minority) when designating railway stations, and in 160 municipalities (in 156 with the Hungarian, 3 with the Ruthenian and 1 with the Romani national minority) when designating bus stations. In the last survey, the designations had the same font in 164 municipalities. Two municipalities with the Hungarian national minority used a smaller font when designating their railway stations, and 14 municipalities (13 with the Hungarian, 1 municipality with the Ruthenian national minority) when designating their bus stations. In the last survey, 23 municipalities used a smaller font in their designations.

*Table 6: Method of designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated under the name in the state language when designating a railway station (§ 4 (3) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)*

	same font	share in %	smaller font	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	99	20%	2	0%	402	80%	503
Ruthenian	3	5%	0	0%	61	95%	64
Romani	0	0%	0	0%	54	100%	54
Ukrainian	0	0%	0	0%	16	100%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>638</b>

*Table 7: Method of designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated under the name in the state language when designating a bus station (§ 4 (3) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)*

	same font	share in %	smaller font	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>638</b>

571 municipalities fulfilled their obligation to state the name of a public administration body<sup>52</sup> (placed on buildings) in the state language and in the language of a national minority (in the previous survey only 554). The number of municipalities that had been fulfilling this obligation has increased for the Hungarian (from 476 to 490) and the Romani minority (from 3 to 8), for the Ruthenian and German minorities this number has not changed, and for the Ukrainian minority – it has decreased slightly (from 12 to 10). In this area, an administrative offence in accordance with § 7b (1) letter c) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. may have been committed by failing to install designations in 60 municipalities (in 11 municipalities with a Hungarian, in 1 with a Ruthenian, in 44 with a Romani, and in 4 with a Ukrainian national minority), while in the previous survey – in 74 municipalities (in 23 with a Hungarian, 3 with a Ruthenian, 44 with the Romani and 4 with the Ukrainian national minority).

*Table 8: Designation of a public administration body placed on buildings in the language of a national minority (§ 4 (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

	only in the state language	share in %	in the state language and in the language of the national minority	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>638</b>

The obligation to indicated the name of a municipality in the language of a national minority in addition to the name of a municipality in the state language on public administration buildings does not apply to municipalities whose designation in the language of a national minority coincides with the name in the state language. Out of 9 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority, 8 municipalities do have these designations, while one municipality has it partially. Eight municipalities with a Romani national minority stated that they do have such

<sup>52</sup>§ 2 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. stipulates that “The designation of a public administration body placed on buildings in the municipality is according to Section 1 also indicated in the language of the minority.” However, the law does not specify to which public administration bodies the cited provision applies to. According to § 10 (1) of Act no. 369/1990 Coll. on the Municipal Establishment, as amended, the bodies of the municipality are the municipal council and the mayor of the municipality, but the law does not regulate whether the municipal office is considered a body of self-government of the municipality or not. However, according to § 16 (1) of the Act, the municipal office deals with organizational and administrative matters of the municipal council, mayor and bodies established by the municipal council and most of the municipal bodies (mayor, municipal/city council, optional bodies, etc.) usually do not have their own buildings and rather use municipal/city office building, the provision of the law applies in practice to the municipal/city office building.

designations. A comparison with the results of the previous survey shows that the number of municipalities fulfilling this obligation has increased (from 530 to 547). Compliance with this obligation has improved for the Hungarian national minority (from 452 to 468), one municipality with a German national minority continues to have such a designation, while the overall situation has slightly deteriorated for the Ruthenian (from 62 to 60) and Ukrainian (from 11 to 10) national minorities. This fact is related to the lower return rate on the questionnaires. 14 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (25 municipalities with the Hungarian minority, 2 with the Ruthenian minority, and in one municipality with the Romani national minority in the last survey) have partially fulfilled their obligation. In this area, an administrative offence in accordance with § 7b (1) letter c) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. may have been committed by failing to install designations in the minority language in 16 municipalities with Hungarian, 2 with Ruthenian, and 4 with Ukrainian national minority (in the previous survey, 21 with Hungarian, 2 with Ruthenian and in 5 with Ukrainian national minority).

*Table 9: Designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated next to the name in the state language when designating public administration bodies (§ 4 (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>638</b>

The designations in 523 municipalities (477 in the previous survey) had the same font, and in 46 municipalities (in the previous survey – 73) a smaller font has been used.

*Table 10: Method of designating public administration bodies (buildings) in the language of the national minority stated under the name in the state language*

	same font	share in %	smaller font	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>638</b>

In accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll., municipalities listed in Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll. may designate streets and other local geographical indications within their territory also in the language of the national minority. The results of the survey showed that the situation has not significantly changed. Bilingual street naming is used by 114 municipalities with a Hungarian minority (same number of municipalities in the previous survey) and one with a Ruthenian national minority<sup>53</sup>. Bilingual local geographical signs are used by 62 municipalities, the same number as in the previous survey (the number has increased from 60 to 61 for the Hungarian minority, decreased from 1 to 0 for the Ukrainian minority, and remained the same (1) for the Ruthenian minority). Municipalities with Ukrainian, Romani and German national

<sup>53</sup>There must have probably been a mistake in filling out the questionnaire, as the municipality in question does not have street signs.

minorities have neither streets nor bilingual local geographical designations. 470 municipalities stated that they have no street names in the given municipality (469 in the previous survey) and 499 municipalities stated that there are no local geographical signs in the given municipality (494 in the previous survey).

Table 11: Street names in the language of a national minority (§ 4 (4) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)

	only in the state language	share in %	in the state language and in the language of the national minority	share in %	not applicable for our municipality	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	29	6%	114	22%	352	70%	8	2%	503
Ruthenian	1	2%	0	0%	62	96%	1	2%	64
Romani	13	24%	0	0%	41	76	0	0%	54
Ukrainian	0	0%	0	0%	14	87%	2	13%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>638</b>

Table 12: Geographical signs in the language of a national minority (§ 4 (4) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)

	only in the state language	share in %	in the state language and in the language of the national minority	share in %	not applicable for our municipality	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	41	8%	61	12%	387	77%	14	3%	503
Ruthenian	2	3%	1	2%	60	93%	1	2%	64
Romani	14	26%	0	0%	40	74%	0	0%	54
Ukrainian	3	19%	0	0%	11	69%	2	12%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>638</b>

### 3.1.2 Official contact (questions 13 – 28)

The questionnaire survey repeatedly surveyed data on the fulfilment of municipalities' obligations regarding the use of languages of national minorities in official contact, which includes several sub-areas. The results of the survey showed that out of 617 municipalities that answered this question, 513 municipalities have an employee who has the command of the minority language in spoken and written form (469 with Hungarian, 21 with Ruthenian, 20 with Romani and 4 with Ukrainian national minority), in 82 municipalities (in 24 with the Hungarian, in 36 with the Ruthenian, in 14 with the Romani and in 8 with the Ukrainian national minority) they have employees who speak the language of the national minority, and in 21 municipalities (in 4 with the Ruthenian, in 15 with the Romani minority, in one with the Ukrainian and one with the German national minority) there is no employee who speaks the language of the national minority.

Out of the total number of approximately 6,500 employees of municipalities, approximately 5,100 employees speak the language of the respective national minority, which is a significant share (79.19%), while the ratio has not changed significantly over the last two years (previously 80%). Currently, in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, 89.4% of employees have a command of the Hungarian language (of which 70.4% have spoken and written language skills, and 19% only spoken language skills). In municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority, 74.8% of the employees of these municipalities have a command of the Ruthenian

language (of which 15.2% have spoken and written language skills, and 59.6% only spoken language skills). 32.4% of employees of municipalities with a Roma national minority have a command of the Romani language (of which 16.3% spoken and writing language skills and 16.1% only spoken language skills). 34.7% of employees of municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority have a command of the Ukrainian language (of which 12.2% spoken and written language skills and 22.5% spoken language skills). In a municipality with a German national minority, not a single municipal employee speaks German.

However, the proportion of employees who do have the command of the minority language in spoken and written form has decreased significantly (from 66% to 59.36%), mainly in Ruthenian (from 25% to 15.17%) and Ukrainian (from 30% to 12.24 %) minorities, but also in the Hungarian minority (from 73% to 70.39%). The increase occurred among employees who have the command of the minority language in written form (from 14% to 19.83%, in case of the Hungarian national minority – from 14% to 19.05%, the Romani national minority from 8% to 16.08%, the Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities report no significant changes).<sup>54</sup>

*Table 13: Number and share of employees with a command of the minority language*

	<b>total number</b>	<b>written and spoken language skills</b>	<b>share in %</b>	<b>spoken language skills</b>	<b>share in %</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>share in %</b>
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>5133</b>	<b>3613</b>	<b>70.39%</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>19.05%</b>	<b>4591</b>	<b>89.44%</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15.15%</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>59.60%</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>74.75%</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>1057</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>16.37%</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>16.08%</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>32.45%</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12.24%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22.45%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>34.69%</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,439</b>	<b>3822</b>	<b>59.36%</b>	<b>1277</b>	<b>19.83%</b>	<b>5099</b>	<b>79.19%</b>

In accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll., municipalities listed in Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll. are obliged to create conditions for the use of the language of a national minority. They are free to do it in a way they consider the best. Currently, 587 municipalities (584 in the previous survey) create conditions for exercising the right to communicate in oral and written communication in the language of the national minority through their own employees, 31 municipalities (12 in the previous survey) via interpreting or translation services<sup>55</sup> and 24 (25 in the previous survey) municipalities provided this possibility in another way.<sup>56</sup>

Based on the information provided in the questionnaires, citizens of 8 municipalities do not have the command of the minority language, and they are not interested in communicating

<sup>54</sup>In this context, it should be noted that for a large part of the respondents, both in the previous and in the current surveys, the question of language skills of the national minority municipal employees was not clearly understood. This goes to prove by the number of requests for methodological assistance in completing this question. The reduction in the number of staff speaking the minority language in written and spoken form may therefore be, to some extent, a consequence of a clearer wording of the given question in the current questionnaire.

<sup>55</sup>This number may have increased due to the explanation that a text in the language of a national minority does not have to be an officially certified translation of a text in the state language – it can be translated by a public administration employee who speaks the national minority language. The given explanation was, for the first time, a part of the current survey.

<sup>56</sup>One municipality with a Hungarian national minority with an employee working on a part-time basis for another entity, and one municipality with a Hungarian national minority stated that the above was not necessary, as everyone communicates in the language of a national minority, and in one municipality with a Ukrainian national minority, everyone communicates in their own language.

in the given language.<sup>57</sup> In accordance with § 7b (1) letter a) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offense could have occurred in 13 municipalities that do not provide conditions for the use of the language of a national minority, as, according to them, the inhabitants of these municipalities belonging to a national minority have the command of the state language both verbally and in writing.<sup>58</sup> In case of the Romani national minority, several respondents stated that the Romani people in their municipality communicate in Hungarian (e.g. Bôrka, Cakov, Rakytník).<sup>59</sup> According to the respondents of the Ruthenian national minority, citizens of some municipalities do not have the command of the standard language of the national minority, but rather its local dialect. They often do not know the Cyrillic alphabet (codified for Ruthenian), and therefore they are not interested in using it in written official communication.<sup>60</sup> Respondents of some municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (e.g. Nová Sedlica) associate this fact with the absence of national education in the Ruthenian language. As for the questions about oral communication, the given municipalities mostly stated that the communication at municipal offices, including municipal council meetings, takes place either in Ruthenian, or in a language, which does not need to be translated, as it is understood by the parties present.

Table 14: Method of using the language of a national minority in official contact

	through employee s of the municipali	share in %	through interpreti ng or translatio n services	share in %	otherwise	share in %	no response	share in %	number of municipali ties
Hungarian	494	97%	14	2%	2	0%	6	1%	503
Ruthenian	54	84%	14	22%	5	8%	3	4%	64
Romani	29	53%	2	3%	15	27%	9	17%	54
Ukrainian	10	62%	0	0%	2	13%	4	25%	16
German	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1
TOTAL	587	91%	31	3%	24	3%	22	3%	638

The municipality may under Act no. 184/1999 Coll. determine office hours to deal with matters in the language of the national minority. The results of the survey showed that the number of municipalities that designated the above office hours has decreased (from 64 to 40), mainly in municipalities with a Hungarian (from 51 to 27) and a German national minority (from 1 to 0). The number of municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority has increased (from 10 to 11), while the number of municipalities with the Ukrainian national minorities has remained the same. Municipalities with a Romani national minority did not specify office hours to handle matters in the language of the national minority. In this context, it should be noted that municipalities whose employees speak the language of a national minority do not need to have

<sup>57</sup>This refers to the following municipalities: Rakytník, Varhaňovce, Nižný Komárnik, Ruská Voľa, Hačava, Drahňov, Žbinca (Romani national minority), Vyšná Jedľová (Ukrainian national minority).

<sup>58</sup>This refers to the following municipalities: Medovarce, Hrabské, Stará Lesná, Lesíček, Mirkovce, Kačanov, Hanková, Markuška (Romani national minority), Brestov nad Laborcom, Jurkova Voľa, Vyšná Pisaná, Vyšný Mirošov (Ruthenian national minority), Ruský Potok (Ukrainian national minority).

<sup>59</sup>Act no. 184/1999 Coll. derives the right to use the language of a national minority from the proportion of citizens who are members of a national minority, not from their mother tongue. The fact that the mother tongue of a relatively large part of the members of the Romani national minority is Hungarian is also proven by the results of the census (e.g. Cakov, Rakytník).

<sup>60</sup>This refers to the following municipalities: Bystrá, Dobroslava, Habura, Jurkova Voľa, Nová Sedlica.

designated office hours to deal with matters in the language of a national minority, as they provide communication in the language of a national minority whenever needed.

*Table 15: Designated office hours to handle matters in the language of a national minority (§ 2 par. (3) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	27	6%	469	93%	7	1%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	11	17%	53	83%	0	0%	64
<b>Romani</b>	0	0%	54	100%	0	0%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	2	13%	13	81%	1	6%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	40	6%	590	93%	8	1%	638

Information on the possibility of using the language of the relevant national minority in oral and written official communication is under § 2 (3) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. shall be published by the public authority, who is obliged to do so on a visible place at its office. Provisions of § 2 (3) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. stipulate that every public administration body in a municipality is, according to § 2 (2) this Act, obliged to create conditions for exercising the right to use the language of a minority in official contact. This relates to a minority or several minorities that meet the conditions in the municipality under § 2 (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

A comparison with the results of the previous survey shows that the fulfilment of this obligation has improved for all national minorities (from 384 to 462 in total): for the Hungarian national minority from 332 to 398, for the Ruthenian national minority from 35 to 41, for the Romani national minority from 7 to 12, for the Ukrainian national minority from 9 to 10, one municipality with a German national minority ensured the awareness of the population in this way. Based on a comparison of data from 2012, the number of municipalities that meet this obligation has been constantly growing. In this area, an administrative offence in accordance with § 7b (1) letter a) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. may have occurred in 165 municipalities (in the previous survey 249), which did not provide information on the possibilities of using the minority language at the office of a public administration body on a visible place.

*Table 16: Publication of information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in oral and written form in official contact (§ 2 (3) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	398	79%	98	20%	7	1%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	41	64%	23	36%	0	0%	64
<b>Romani</b>	12	22%	39	72%	3	6%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	10	63%	5	31%	1	6%	16
<b>German</b>	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	462	72%	165	26%	11	2%	638

Act no. 184/1999 Coll. does not specify in which language the information on the possibility of using the language of the relevant national minority in oral and written form in official contact should be published. The results of the survey showed that this obligation has been fulfilled in both languages by 289 municipalities (206 in the previous survey), 48 municipalities provided it only in the state language, and 124 municipalities only in the language of the national minority. The number of municipalities, where this information has been published in the state language increased (from 275 to 337). The same applies to municipalities,

where this information has been published in the language of a national minority (from 314 to 413).

*Table 17: Language of publication of information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in oral and written form in official contact*

	only in the state language	share in %	in the language of the national minority	share in %	in both languages	share in %	no response	share in %	number of municipalities
Hungarian	284	56%	359	71%	251	50%	111	22%	503
Ruthenian	34	53%	37	58%	26	41%	19	30%	64
Romani	9	17%	9	17%	6	11%	42	78%	54
Ukrainian	9	56%	7	44%	5	31%	5	31%	16
German	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>638</b>

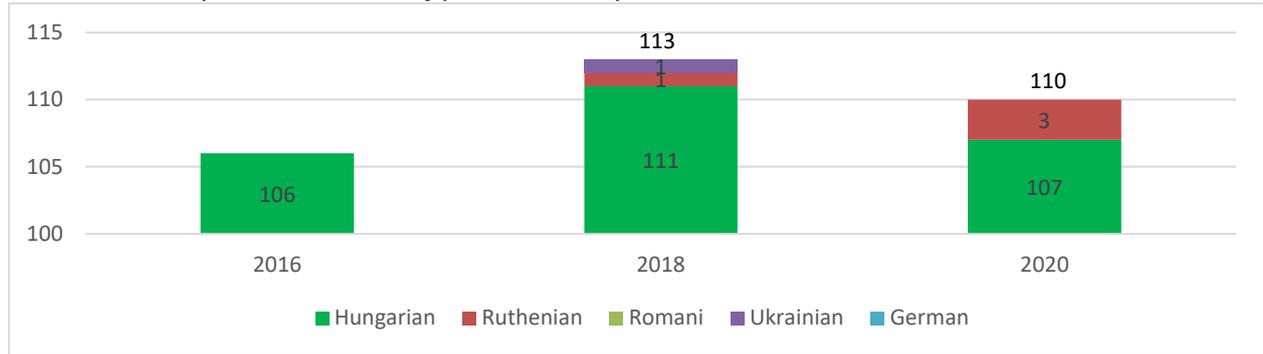
Act no. 184/1999 Coll. does not specify where exactly the mentioned information is to be published, the only condition is a visible place. Among those municipalities that fulfilled this obligation, 309 municipalities published information mainly on the official bulletin board (244 in the previous survey), 172 municipalities on the information board (139 in the previous survey), and 184 municipalities on the Internet (41 in the previous survey). 47 municipalities published this information on the front door (10 in the previous survey), 14 municipalities on the office door or in the office (9 in the previous survey), and 10 municipalities in the municipal office building (5 in the previous survey), one municipality on the information board placed on the building. 4 municipalities considered public radio and oral information to be a visible place (7 in the previous survey).

An important aspect of the surveyed area is the possibility of using the language of a national minority in written official communication. During the monitored period, written submissions from citizens in the language of the national minority were registered in 110 municipalities (in the last survey in 113), mainly in municipalities with the Hungarian national minority. In 101 municipalities where they stated the number of submissions, 980 of them were registered in the language of the national minority, which means a slight decrease (1186 in the previous survey and 1274 in the 2016 survey). In addition to municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, submissions were registered in 3 municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority. These were mainly various requests and complaints on housing issues, subsidies, purchase and lease of municipal property, issuance of certificates of permanent residence or cancellation of residence, environmental issues, requests on job opportunities in the municipality, local taxes and fees. Municipalities with Romani, Ukrainian and German national minorities did not register any written submissions in the language of the national minority (however, some submissions were registered in Ukrainian during the last survey).

*Table 18: Receiving written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority*

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	107	21%	391	78%	6	1%	503
Ruthenian	3	5%	61	95%	0	0%	64
Romani	0	0%	53	98%	1	2%	54
Ukrainian	0	0%	15	94%	1	6%	16
German	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>638</b>

Graph 2: Comparison of data on the receipt of written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority with the results of previous surveys \*

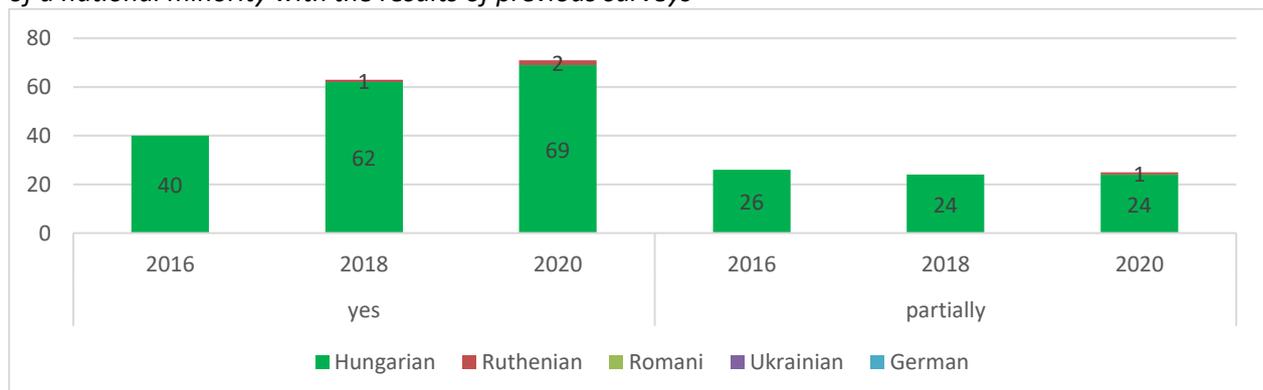


The municipality is obliged to respond to the submission written in the language of the national minority both in the state language and in the language of the national minority. Although the number of municipalities where they registered submissions in the language of the national minority decreased slightly, the number of municipalities that provided a response increased (from 63 to 71), accounting for a total of 803 cases. 25 municipalities managed to fulfil their duties partially (in the previous survey 24), and citizens in 12 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority did not receive an answer in Hungarian to their submission in Hungarian (24 in the previous survey).

Table 19: Provision of written answers to written submissions in the language of a national minority (§ 2 (3) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	69	14%	24	5%	22	4%	388	77%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	2	3%	1	2%	7	11%	54	84%	64
<b>Romani</b>	0	0%	0	0%	5	9%	49	91%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	0	0%	0	0%	1	6%	15	94%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	71	11%	25	4%	35	5%	507	80%	638

Graph 3: Comparison of data on the provision of written answers to written submissions in the language of a national minority with the results of previous surveys \*



Act no. 184/1999 Coll. stipulates the use of the language of a national minority in the official agenda (especially minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information intended for the public and the agenda of churches and religious societies intended for the public, with the exception of registry offices). A comparison with the results of the previous survey

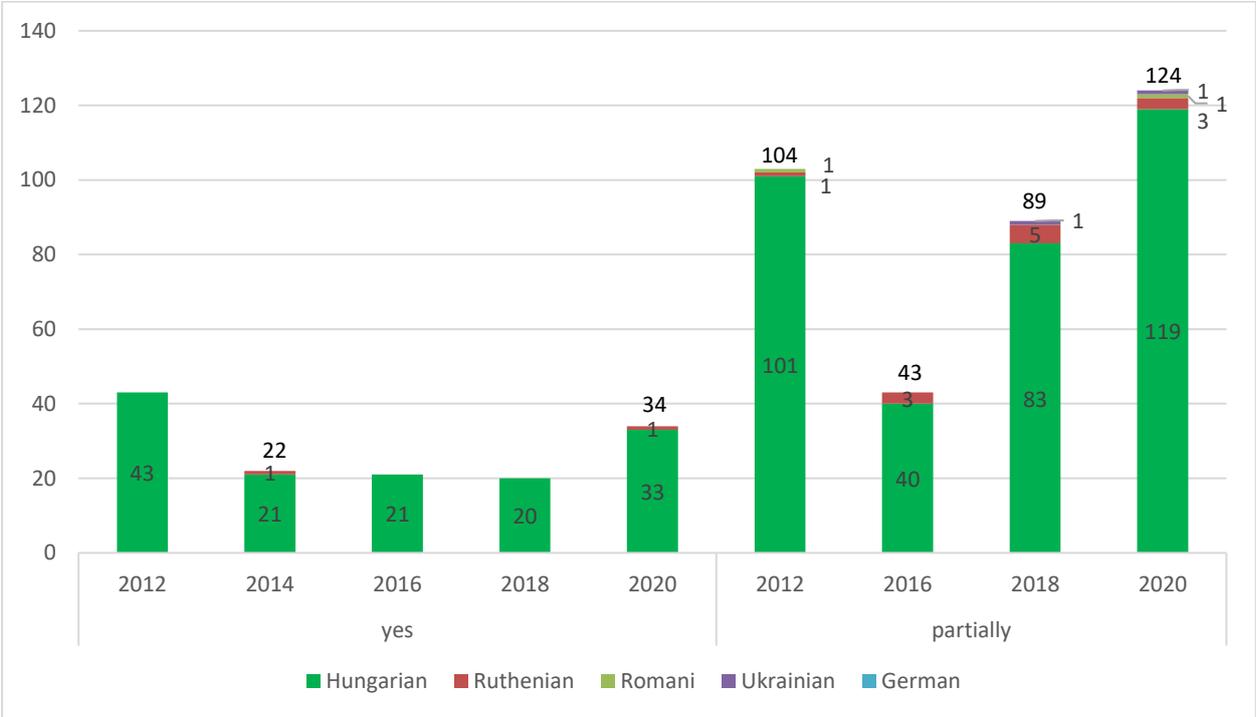
shows that the number of municipalities using the language of a national minority has increased significantly (from 20 to 34), and the first municipality with a Ruthenian national minority has appeared among them. Likewise, the number of municipalities that use this option only partially has increased (from 89 to 124), and the municipality with the Romani national minority has also started to use the language of the national minority at least partially in the official agenda.<sup>61</sup>

According to the information provided in the questionnaires, the language of the national minority is used mainly by these municipalities when dealing with municipal council issues (resolutions, minutes and invitations), records (mainly population registers), statistics, notifications, invitations and raising public awareness. According to a 2012 survey, 43 municipalities used the language of the national minority in the official agenda, and 103 used it partially (besides the state language). This shows some recovery in this area, however, it does not reach the 2012 level.

Table 20: Use of the language of a national minority in the official agenda of a municipal office (§ 3 (4) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	33	7%	119	23%	332	66%	19	4%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	1	2%	3	4%	60	94%	0	0%	64
<b>Romani</b>	0	0%	1	2%	49	91%	4	7%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	0	0%	1	6%	14	88%	1	6%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	34	5%	124	20%	456	71%	24	4%	638

Graph 4: Comparison of data on the use of the language of a national minority in the official agenda of the municipal office with the results of previous surveys \*



\* The 2014 data are not fully compatible due to the partially different wording of the question and the absence of a "partially" as an answer to the question.

<sup>61</sup>This refers to the following municipalities: Závada, which uses the Ruthenian language in the official agenda, and Vladič, Dubová and Vápeník, which use it partially, and the municipality of Lenartov, which partially uses the Romani language in the official agenda.

Under Act no. 184/1999 Coll., municipalities can keep a chronicle also in the language of a national minority. Compared to the previous survey, this option is used to a lesser extent. At the same time, the chronicle is kept by many fewer municipalities (according to the results of this survey, 201 municipalities do not keep a chronicle; according to the results of the previous survey, 166 municipalities did not keep it). The decrease can also be observed in the Hungarian minority (from 178 to 166, partially from 49 to 57), but mainly in the Ruthenian minority (from 2 to 1, partially from 9 to 5). Municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority no longer keep a chronicle in the Ukrainian language (in the last survey there were 2 municipalities that kept it), while one municipality with a German national minority still does not keep a chronicle in the language of the national minority.

*Table 21: Chronicle of a municipality in the language of a national minority (§ 3 (3) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not applicable for our municipality	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	166	33%	57	11%	102	20%	157	32%	21	4%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	1	2%	5	8%	26	41%	31	48%	1	2%	64
<b>Romani</b>	1	2%	1	2%	42	78%	6	11%	4	7%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	0	0%	0	0%	8	50%	6	37%	2	13%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	168	26%	63	10%	178	28%	201	32%	28	4%	638

### 3.1.3 Municipal police (questions 29 – 33)

In addition to the state language, the language of a national minority may also be used when liaising with the municipal police, if those present agree. The municipal police had its office in one municipality with a Ruthenian, in 4 municipalities with a Romani and in 46 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority (same as in the previous survey). The share of members of the municipal police who have the command of the language of the national minority in spoken and written form has decreased (from 51% to 47%), the share of those who speak the language of the national minority has increased (from 72% to 78%).<sup>62</sup> In municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, the Hungarian language was spoken by at least 78% of members of the municipal police (73% in the previous survey), and 49% of the members had a spoken and written language skills (53% in the previous survey). In municipalities with a Romani national minority, 16 out of 21 members can communicate in the Romani language (10 out of 22 in the previous survey), of which 4 members have spoken and written language skills (5 in the previous survey). In one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority 5 members of the municipal police can communicate in the Ruthenian language (orally), which amounts to the same level as in the previous survey. There is no municipal police in municipalities with Ukrainian and German national minorities.

<sup>62</sup>These changes may be related to the refined wording of the questionnaire.

Table 22: Number and share of municipal police officers having a command of the language of a national minority

	total number	written and	share in %	spoken	share in %	total	share in %
Hungarian	339	166	48.97%	98	28.91%	264	77.88%
Ruthenian	5	0	0.00%	5	100.00%	5	100.00%
Romani	21	4	19.05%	12	57.14%	16	76.19%
Ukrainian	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
German	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>46.58%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>31.51%</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>78.08%</b>

The municipal police in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority use the minority language on duty in 35 municipalities, which is three less than in the previous survey, in 7 municipalities they use it partially and is not used at all in one municipality (same as in the previous survey). In 4 municipalities with a Romani national minority, the Romani language is used in this area (in the previous survey in one municipality fully, and in one partially), and in one municipality it is not used (2 municipalities in the previous survey). The situation has not changed in the municipality with the Ruthenian national minority.

Table 23: Use of the language of a national minority by the municipal police at duty (§ 7 (3) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	35	7%	10	2%	1	0%	457	91%	503
Ruthenian	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%	63	98%	64
Romani	4	7%	0	0%	1	2%	49	91%	54
Ukrainian	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	16	100%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>638</b>

In 20 municipalities, the municipal police officers at duty received consent to use the language of the national minority (19 in the previous survey), and in 10 municipalities this consent was only received in some cases (17 in the previous survey). Such a situation did not occur in 16 municipalities (in the last survey the municipalities did not have the opportunity to mark such an answer), and in 6 municipalities those present did not express their consent to the use of the language of the national minority when dealing with the municipal police. A language of the national minority was used in one municipality with a Ruthenian and in one municipality with a Romani national minority, however, such consent was not given in 4 Romani municipalities.

Table 24: Expression of the consent to use the language of a national minority with the municipal police officers at duty (§ 7 (3) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	in some cases	share in %	there was no occasion	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	18	4%	2	0%	10	2%	16	3%	457	91%	503
Ruthenian	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	63	98%	64
Romani	1	2%	4	7%	0	0%	0	0%	49	91%	54
Ukrainian	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	16	100%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>638</b>

Members of the municipal police use the language of the national minority when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the national minority in 42 municipalities (41 in the previous survey), and in 7 municipalities, they use it partially (7 in the previous survey). The language of the national minority is not used in communication between members of the municipal police and citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the national minority in 3 municipalities (4 in the previous survey), namely in 2 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority and in one municipality with the Romani national minority.

*Table 25: Use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal police who speak the language of a national minority when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority (§ 7 (3) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>638</b>

### **3.1.4 Bilingual documents (questions 34 – 54)**

Under Act no. 184/1999 Coll., all municipalities listed in Provision no. 221/1999 Coll. are obliged to provide citizens with bilingual official forms upon request. Municipalities are able to fulfil this obligation when these forms are available. The results of the current survey show that 191 municipalities stated that they provided all forms bilingually (135 municipalities in the previous survey), and in 186 municipalities some of the forms were provided bilingually (172 municipalities in the previous survey). The greatest increase was monitored in municipalities with the Hungarian national minority, where bilingual forms had been provided in 179 municipalities (124 municipalities in the previous survey) and in 169 municipalities (145 municipalities in the previous survey) partially. In case of other national minorities, we can observe a decreasing trend, although the number of municipalities with the Ruthenian minority that provided all forms increased (from 4 to 9), but the number of those that provided bilingual forms partially decreased (from 20 to 10). The number of municipalities that provided all the forms decreased for the Romani minority (from 5 to 3). The Ukrainian and German national minorities do not have such municipalities; in the last survey, each had one.

Bilingual forms are provided mainly in the field of population registration, in the construction business, registry office issues, environmental issues, local taxes and fees, social affairs, and education. Some municipalities also provided bilingual forms during elections.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>63</sup>However, it should be noted that the use of minority languages during elections under Act no. 184/2014 Coll. on the Conditions for the Exercise of the Right to Vote and on the amendment of certain laws, is provided by the district offices.

Table 26: Provision of bilingual official forms issued by a municipality (§ 2 (7) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	179	36%	169	34%	137	27%	18	3%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	9	14%	10	16%	43	67%	2	3%	64
<b>Romani</b>	3	6%	4	7%	45	83%	2	4%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	0	0%	2	13%	12	74%	2	13%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	191	30%	186	29%	237	37%	24	4%	638

Requests for bilingual official forms were received by 38 municipalities (52 municipalities in the previous survey) with the Hungarian national minority. Of this number, 1,016 requests for such forms were received by 31 municipalities. In one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, 3 requests were received (no municipality in the previous survey). For other national minorities, these requests were not registered (such a request was registered in one municipality with a Romani national minority in the previous survey).

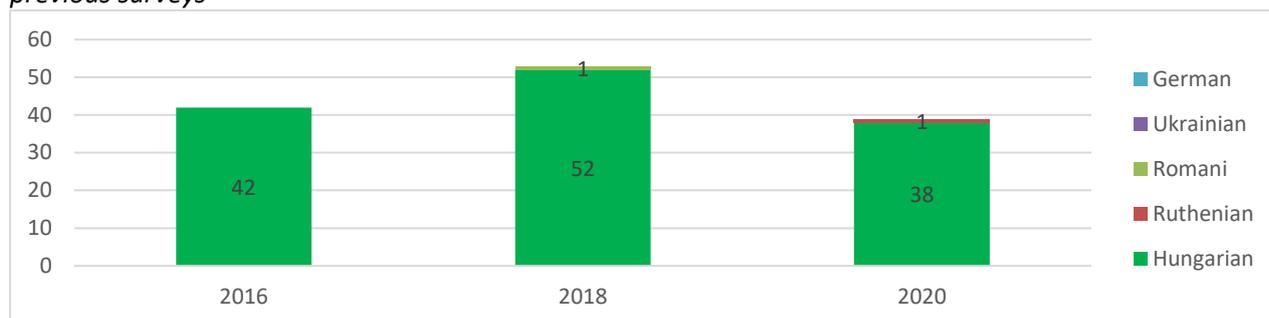
32 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority and one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority fulfilled the obligation to issue such forms upon request (47 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority in the last survey). According to the results of the survey, 28 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority and one municipality with a Romani national minority stated that they had issued bilingual forms, although they had not registered any requests for bilingual forms in the given period. According to the survey, such forms were issued in 44 municipalities in 1219 cases. The difference between the number of registered requests and issued bilingual forms may be related to the fact that some of the bilingual forms had included election announcements and other documents that were not bilingual official forms issued upon request.

In accordance with § 7b (1) letter d) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offense may have occurred in this area by failing to provide an official form issued by the municipality in the minority language on request in 6 cases: 5 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority did not issue bilingual forms, and one municipality with a Hungarian national minority did not issue such a form upon request.

Table 27: Requests received for official bilingual forms (in the state language and in the language of the national minority)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	38	8%	439	87%	26	5%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	1	2%	61	95%	2	3%	64
<b>Romani</b>	0	0%	51	94%	3	6%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	0	0%	15	94%	1	6%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	39	6%	567	89%	32	5%	638

Graph 5: Comparison of data on the number of requests for official bilingual forms with the results of previous surveys \*



Requests for bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, confirmations, statements and declarations) were delivered to 51 municipalities with a Hungarian (63 in the previous survey) and, for the first time, to one with the Ruthenian national minority. Thus, the number of municipalities in which citizens submitted such requests decreased. The number of requests also decreased (from 583 to 455). In the given period, 404 requests for various official documents were submitted (349 in the previous survey), 25 requests for permits (32 in the previous survey), 13 requests for declarations (186 in the previous survey), 8 requests for statements (16 in the previous survey) and 2 requests for authorizations (0 in the previous survey).

Bilingual public documents were issued upon request by 48 municipalities in the given period (55 municipalities in the previous survey). Two municipalities with a Hungarian national minority did not fulfil their obligation, another two municipalities with a Hungarian national minority did not state whether they had issued the bilingual public documents upon request. Municipalities produced a total of 475 responses (506 in the previous survey) to such requests, of which 427 – responses to requests for confirmation (345 in the previous survey), 25 responses to permit requests (45 in the previous survey), 13 responses to declaration requests (100 in the previous survey), 8 responses to requests for statements (16 in the previous survey) and 2 responses to requests for authorizations (0 in the previous survey).

Table 28: Delivery of requests for bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, confirmations, statements and declarations) (§ 2 (5) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>638</b>

Requests for bilingual birth, marriage and death certificates were delivered to 124 municipalities (117 municipalities in the previous survey), of which 122 municipalities with a Hungarian and two municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority. Bilingual registry extracts were issued in 127 municipalities. Four municipalities with the Hungarian national minority issued them, although there had not been any request to do so in the given period. In the given period, municipalities issued a total of 1,387 bilingual birth (1,114 in the previous survey), 616 marriage (543 in the previous survey) and 560 death certificates (426 in the previous survey). No

request for bilingual registry extracts had been registered in municipalities with Romani, Ukrainian and German national minorities. In accordance with § 7b (1) letter e) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offense may have occurred in this area by failing to issue a bilingual birth, marriage or death certificate upon request by a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority in one municipality with a Hungarian national minority.

Table 29: Delivery of requests for bilingual birth, marriage and death certificates (5 § 2 (5) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

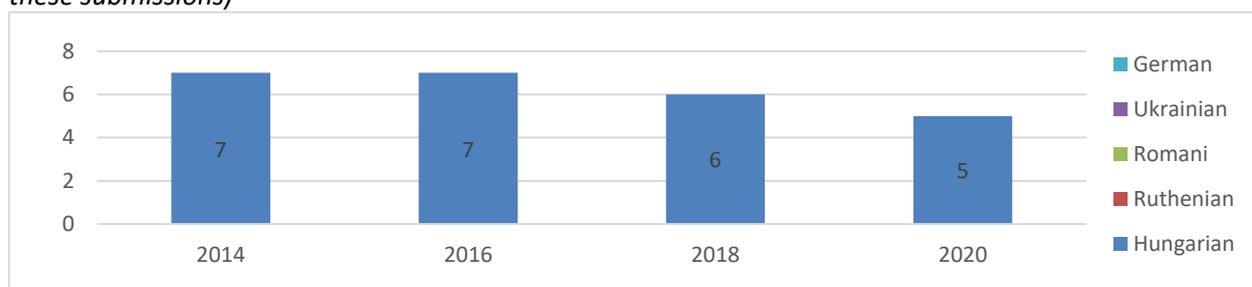
	yes	share in %	no	share in %	not applicable for our municipality	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	122	25%	76	15%	258	51%	47	9%	503
Ruthenian	2	3%	8	13%	48	75%	6	9%	64
Romani	0	0%	12	22%	31	58%	11	20%	54
Ukrainian	0	0%	2	13%	9	56%	5	31%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>638</b>

According to Act no. 184/1999 Coll., the decision of a public administration body in administrative proceedings in a municipality shall be issued (in a copy) both in the language of a national minority and in the state language, supposing the proceedings had been initiated in the language of a national minority, or upon request. During the given period, these submissions were delivered to 5 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority, while 3 municipalities stated that they had received a total of 8 submissions (10 submissions in 6 municipalities in the previous survey). In the municipalities with the Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Romani and German national minorities, no submissions in the language of the national minority were registered to initiate administrative proceedings.

Table 30: Delivery of submissions to initiate administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority (§ 2 (4) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	5	1%	478	95%	20	4%	503
Ruthenian	0	0%	64	100%	0	0%	64
Romani	0	0%	51	94%	3	6%	54
Ukrainian	0	0%	15	94%	1	6%	16
German	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>638</b>

Graph 6: Comparison of data on submissions received to initiate administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority with the results of previous surveys (number of municipalities that received these submissions) \*



\* The graph does not include data for municipalities that did not answer the question; In 2014, the number of submissions to initiate administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority was not surveyed, except for the issuance of decisions on administrative proceedings in the language of the relevant national minority.

In the given period, 4 municipalities received requests for bilingual decisions (7 municipalities in the previous survey), of which 3 municipalities with the Hungarian and, for the first time, also one with the Ruthenian national minority. Three municipalities stated that they received a total of 6 requests (12 in the last survey). No request for bilingual decisions had been registered in municipalities with Ukrainian, Romani and German national minorities.

*Table 31: Delivery of a request for bilingual decisions § 2 (4) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	3	1%	475	94%	25	5%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	1	2%	61	95%	2	3%	64
<b>Romani</b>	0	0%	50	93%	4	7%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	0	0%	14	88%	2	12%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	4	1%	601	94%	33	5%	638

In 14 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority, 15,403 decisions were issued (in a copy) within administrative proceedings both in the state language and the language of the national minority (11 municipalities and 5543 decisions in the last survey). In 9 municipalities, neither submissions to initiate administrative proceedings in the language of the national minority, nor requests for bilingual decisions were submitted during the given period. However, bilingual decisions were issued, though. We can assume that these requests must have been received before the given period, or municipalities must have listed decisions that had been issued without administrative proceedings. The decisions issued mainly dealt with local taxes and fees, social and educational issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In municipalities with the Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Romani and German national minorities, no decisions were issued within administrative proceedings in the state language and the language of the national minority.

In accordance with § 7b (1) letter b) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offense may have occurred in this area by failing to issue a copy of the decision in the minority language upon request of a Slovak citizen belonging to a national minority, in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority (the municipality stated that it had received a request both in the state language and the language of the national minority, but did not state whether it had issued a decision in the same way). The legal obligation was not fulfilled by two municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, where no bilingual decisions were issued, despite the fact that the proceedings were initiated by filing a submission in the language of the minority.

*Table 32: Issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings (in a copy) in the language of a national minority (§ 2 (4) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	14	3%	450	89%	39	8%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	0	0%	55	86%	9	14%	64
<b>Romani</b>	0	0%	48	89%	6	11%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	0	0%	14	88%	2	12%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	14	2%	567	89%	57	9%	638

In accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll., in addition to the name of the municipality in the state language, the designation of the municipality is also stated in the language of the national minority on decisions issued in the language of the national minority. This obligation

does not apply to municipalities whose designation in the language of a national minority coincides with the name in the state language, i.e. municipalities with a Romani national minority. Nine municipalities with a Hungarian national minority (6 of them stated that this does not apply to them, one municipality did not state such designation, one stated, and one municipality did not answer the question). In the answer to the question, whether the municipality issues decisions in the language of a national minority with a designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority, 14 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority stated yes, i.e. that they fulfilled their obligation. 62 municipalities with a Hungarian (in the previous survey, 37 municipalities fulfilled their obligation, or if such decisions were to be issued, they would fulfil it), 4 municipalities with a Ruthenian (3 municipalities in the previous survey), and one municipality with a Ukrainian national minority (this municipality absented in the last survey ) would fulfil this obligation, however, bilingual decisions were not issued during the given period. Other municipalities that would not state or would only partially state the designation of the municipality in the language of the minority on decisions issued also in the language of the minority, did not issue such decisions, according to the above findings.

In accordance with § 7b 1. letter e) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offense may have occurred in this area by failing to ensure the designation of a municipality in the language of a minority in 3 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, as they, despite issuing decisions, did not state the name in the language of a national minority.

*Table 33: Designation of a municipality in the language of a national minority stated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on decisions issued in the language of a national minority (§ 4 (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not applicable for our municipality	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>638</b>

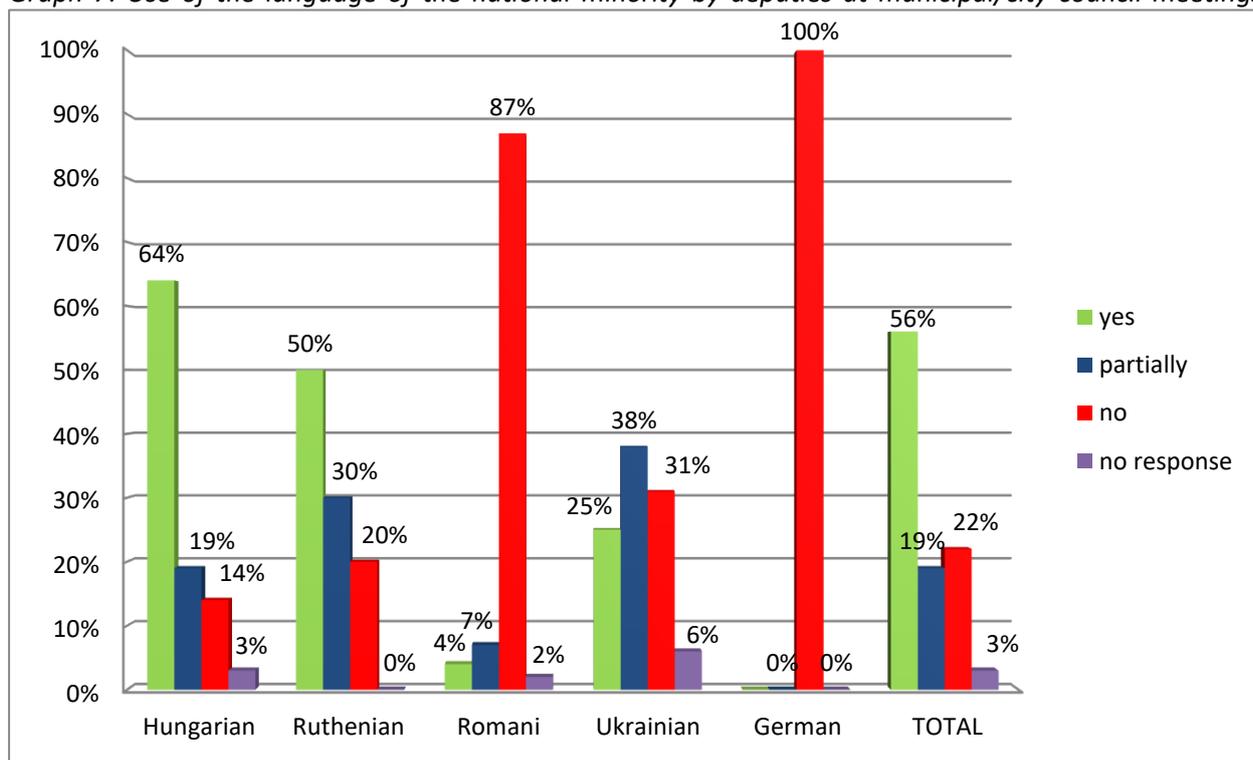
### **3.1.5 Negotiations of local self-governing units (questions 55 – 59)**

In accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll., a member of the municipal council has the right to use the language of a national minority in proceedings of the municipal council. Following the elections to the municipal self-government bodies in 2018, new self-governing units were created. The current results of the survey showed that the number of municipalities where municipal deputies use the language of the national minority decreased in each national minority: in 320 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (339 municipalities in the previous survey), in 32 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (39 municipalities in the last survey), in 4 municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority (6 municipalities in the previous survey), in 2 municipalities with the Romani national minority (3 municipalities in the previous survey). Deputies used the state language and partly also the language of the national minority (122 municipalities in the last survey).

Table 34: Use of the language of the national minority by deputies at municipal/city council meetings (§ 3 (2) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>638</b>

Graph 7: Use of the language of the national minority by deputies at municipal/city council meetings

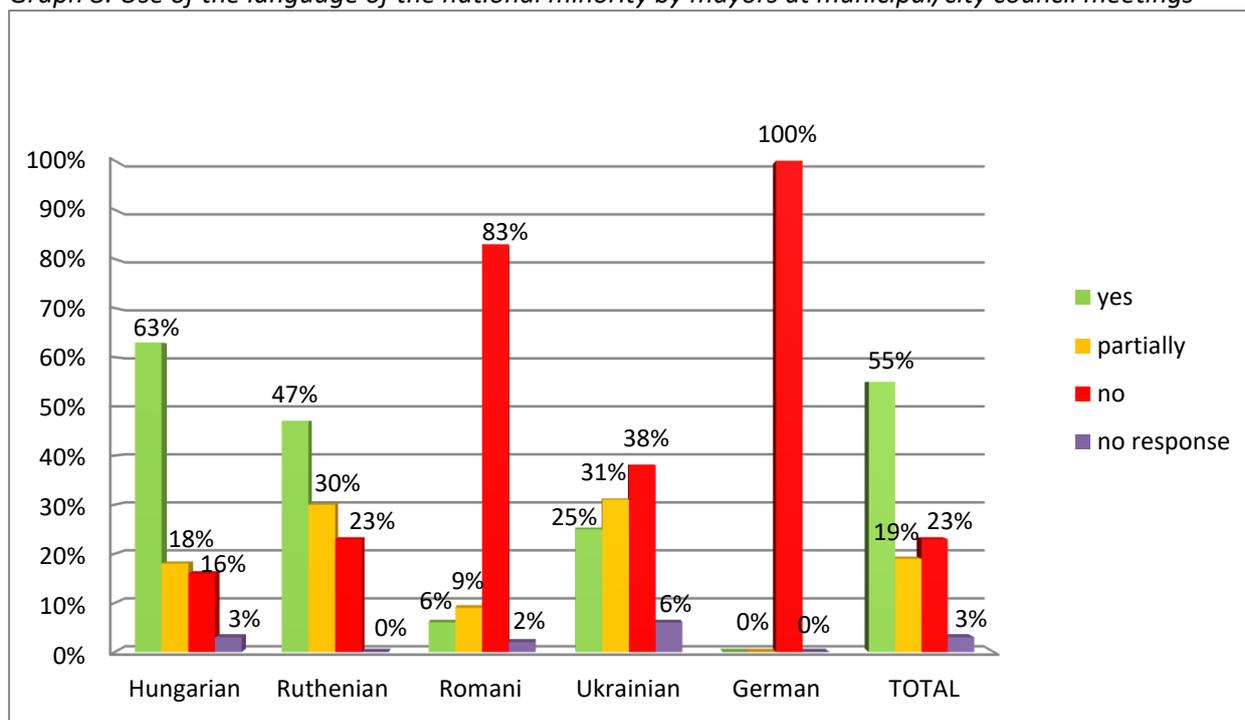


The results of the survey also showed that every national minority, with the exception of the Romani minority, indicated a decreased number of municipalities where mayors also used the language of the national minority at municipal councils meetings: in 317 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (343 municipalities in the previous survey), 30 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (37 municipalities in the previous survey), in 4 municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority ( 5 municipalities in the previous survey), in 3 municipalities with the Romani national minority (3 municipalities in the previous survey). Deputies in 120 municipalities used the state language and partly also the language of the national minority (106 municipalities in the last survey).

Table 35: Use of the language of the national minority by mayors at municipal/city council meetings (§ 3 (2) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>638</b>

Graph 8: Use of the language of the national minority by mayors at municipal/city council meetings

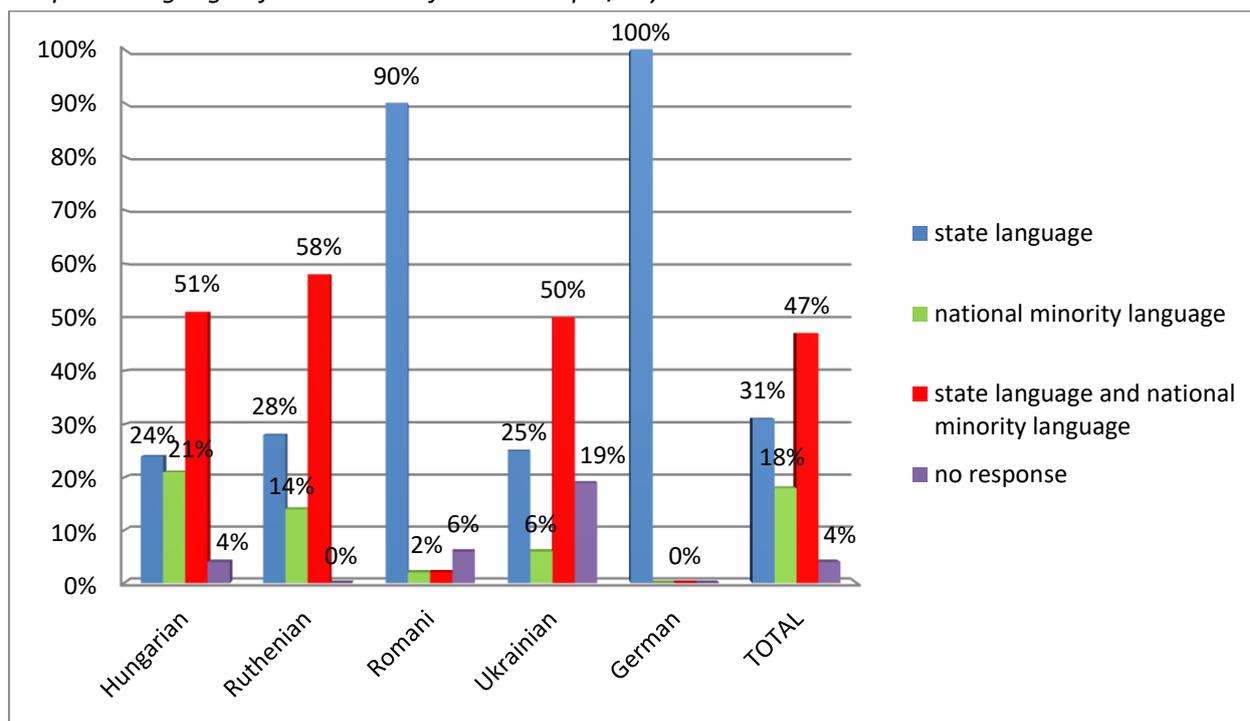


The municipal council meetings may also be held in the language of the national minority, if parties present agree. The results of the survey showed that overall (with the exception of the Romani minority) number of municipalities where negotiations took place in the language of the national minority decreased for all national minorities, and the number of councils that negotiated bilingually increased slightly. In 107 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (127 municipalities in the previous survey), in 9 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (15 municipalities in the previous survey), in one municipality with the Ukrainian national minority (3 municipalities in the previous survey), and in one with the Romani national minority (there was no such municipality in the last survey), the negotiations are held in the language of the national minority. In 255 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (246 municipalities in the previous survey), in 37 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (37 municipalities in the previous survey), in 8 municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority (6 municipalities in the previous survey), and in one municipality with a Romani national minority (4 municipalities in the last survey), the negotiations are held in the state language and in the language of the national minority. A municipality with a German national minority does not use the German language for municipal council meetings.

Table no. 36: Language of negotiations at the municipal/city council (§ 3 (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)

	in the state language	share in %	in the language of the national minority	share in %	in the state language and in the language of the national minority	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	123	24%	107	21%	255	51%	18	4%	503
Ruthenian	18	28%	9	14%	37	58%	0	0%	64
Romani	49	90%	1	2%	1	2%	3	6%	54
Ukrainian	4	25%	1	6%	8	50%	3	19%	16
German	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1
TOTAL	195	31%	118	18%	301	47%	24	4%	638

Graph 9: Language-of-interaction of the municipal/city council



An important factor related to this area is the language in which materials are being prepared for the municipal council meeting. In 40 municipalities, these materials are also being prepared in the language of the national minority (40 municipalities in the previous survey also in), of which 38 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (38 municipalities in the previous survey also), one municipality with the Ruthenian minority (2 municipalities in the previous survey) and one with a Romani national minority (0 municipalities in the previous survey). In 181 municipalities, these materials are partly being prepared in the language of the national minority (151 municipalities in the previous survey), of which 174 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (147 municipalities in the previous survey), in 5 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (4 municipalities in the previous survey) and one municipality with a Ukrainian and one with a Romani national minority (0 municipalities in the previous survey). There are no meeting materials in German language.

Table 37: Materials for the municipal/city council meeting in the language of the national minority (§ 3 (4) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	38	7%	174	35%	276	55%	15	3%	503
Ruthenian	1	2%	5	8%	58	90%	0	0%	64
Romani	1	2%	1	2%	51	94%	1	2%	54
Ukrainian	0	0%	1	6%	14	88%	1	6%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
TOTAL	40	6%	181	28%	400	63%	17	3%	638

According to Act no. 184/1999 Coll., other participants of the municipal council meeting may use the language of the national minority if all deputies present and the mayor of the municipality agree with it, and the interpretation will be outsourced by the municipality. According to the results of the survey, 68 municipalities outsourced interpretation at meetings via interpretation services (22 municipalities in the previous survey), in 391 municipalities – the

interpretation was provided in another way (443 municipalities in the previous survey): 39 municipalities mainly via municipal staff (31 municipalities in the previous survey), in 40 municipalities the interpretation was done by the mayor/deputy who interpreted (24 municipalities in the last survey), in 5 municipalities one of the participants present did the interpretation (one of the municipalities stated that it was a simultaneous interpretation). One municipality with a Ukrainian national minority stated that the citizens of the municipality who speak the Ukrainian language did the interpretation. 228 municipalities with Hungarian and Ruthenian national minorities stated that interpretation was not necessary, as deputies, the mayor and other participants speak the language of the national minority (226 municipalities in the previous survey), in 27 municipalities they used both languages (48 municipalities in the previous survey), and interpreting was provided without outsourcing and with own efforts in 17 municipalities (29 municipalities in the last survey). In 8 municipalities, interpretation was not provided at all (8 municipalities in the last survey), in 12 municipalities they stated that it was not necessary, as there was no such a requirement (16 municipalities in the previous survey). One municipality stated that the interpretation services would be provided if necessary, and in one municipality they used only the state language (7 municipalities in the last survey), and 9 municipalities used only the minority language. One municipality with a Ruthenian national minority stated that the negotiations took place in the local dialect, as the citizens do not speak the standard Ruthenian language, and one municipality with a Ukrainian national minority stated that the Ruthenian language was used.

*Table 38: Method of ensuring the possibility of using the language of a national minority at the municipal/city council meeting (§ 3 (2) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

	through interpretation services	share in %	otherwise	share in %	no response	share in %	number of municipalities
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>503*</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>64**</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>638</b>

\* 2 municipalities marked 2 options

\*\* 1 municipality marked 2 options

### **3.1.6 Informing the public (questions 60 – 71)**

In accordance with the first sentence of § 4 (8) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., in the municipality listed in Provision no. 221/1999 Coll., a public administration body, within its competence, provides, upon request, information on generally binding legal regulations both in the state language and in the language of a national minority. Requests for information on generally binding legal regulations both in the state language and in the language of the national minority were delivered to 4 municipalities with a Hungarian (6 in the previous survey) and in one with the Ruthenian national minority (0 in the previous survey). 4 of the 5 municipalities above stated the number of these requests (1 municipality with a Hungarian national minority did not state the number). According to the data from these 4 municipalities, a total of 13 requests were received (32 requests in the last survey). All municipalities that received the above

requests provided information on generally binding legal regulations both in the state language and in the language of the national minority (only two municipalities fully and one municipality partially in the previous survey). Two municipalities with a Hungarian national minority that did not receive such a request in the given period provided such information and 3 municipalities managed to provide it partially. Municipalities with Ukrainian, Romani and German national minorities did not receive requests for information on generally binding legal regulations in the language of the national minority (only in the state language).

*Table 39: Delivery of requests for information on generally binding legal regulations both in the state language and in the language of the national minority in the given period (§ 4 (8) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	4	1%	484	96%	15	3%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	1	2%	62	96%	1	2%	64
<b>Romani</b>	0	0%	53	98%	1	2%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	0	0%	15	94%	1	6%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	5	1%	615	96%	18	3%	638

*Table 40: Provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority (§ 4 (8) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

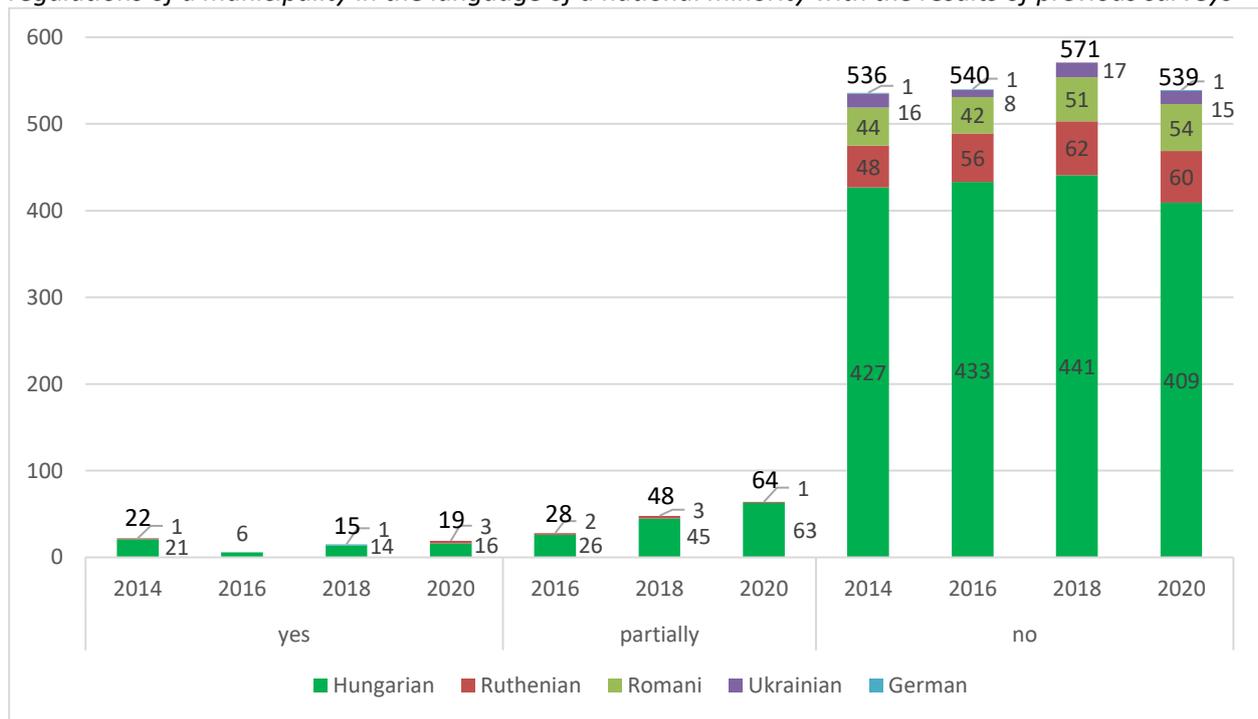
	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	6	1%	3	1%	9	2%	485	96%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	1	2%	0	0%	7	11%	56	87%	64
<b>Romani</b>	0	0%	0	0%	3	6%	51	94%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	0	0%	0	0%	2	12%	14	88%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	7	1%	3	0%	21	4%	607	95%	638

16 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority issued and published generally binding municipal regulations in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority (14 municipalities in the previous survey) and also 3 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (0 in the previous survey). In 64 municipalities, these regulations were issued in the state language and partly also in the language of the national minority (48 municipalities in the previous survey), of which in 63 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (45 municipalities in the previous survey), and in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority (3 municipalities in the last survey). During the previous survey, the municipalities with Ukrainian, Romani and German national minorities neither issued nor published generally binding municipal regulations in the language of the national minority (in the previous survey they were issued and published in a municipality with a German national minority).

*Table 41: Issuance and publication of generally binding regulations of the municipality in the language of the national minority (§ 4 (8) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	16	3%	63	13%	409	81%	15	3%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	3	5%	1	2%	60	93%	0	0%	64
<b>Romani</b>	0	0%	0	0%	54	100%	0	0%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	0	0%	0	0%	15	94%	1	6%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	19	3%	64	10%	539	84%	16	3%	638

Graph 10: Comparison of data on the issuance and publication of generally binding regulations of a municipality in the language of a national minority. Issuance and publication of generally binding regulations of a municipality in the language of a national minority with the results of previous surveys\*



\* The graph does not include data for municipalities that did not answer this question; data for 2014 are not fully compatible due to the difference in the question and the absence of the possibility of answering "partially"

In accordance with the first sentence of § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., the municipality, which is listed in Government Provision no. 221/1999, shall state information on threats to the life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens presented in places accessible to the public – not only in the state language but in the language of a national minority as well. Information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens were provided by 312 municipalities (185 municipalities in the previous survey) in places accessible to the public (under the administration of the municipality) both in the state language and in the language of the national minority: 283 municipalities with the Hungarian minority (179 in the previous survey), 20 municipalities with the Ruthenian minority (4 municipalities in the previous survey), 5 municipalities with the Romani minority (0 in the previous survey) and 4 municipalities with the Ukrainian minority (one in the previous survey). The above means that there is a significant positive move forward in terms of the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

In accordance with § 7b (1) letter f) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offense may have occurred in this area by failing to state an inscription or notice in the minority language containing information on threats to life, health, property or safety of Slovak citizens in 302 cases: 126 municipalities with Hungarian (155 in the last survey), 11 with Ruthenian (6 in the previous survey), 9 with Romani (1 in the previous survey), and one with Ukrainian national minority (0 in the previous survey) provided this information only partially, 73 municipalities with Hungarian (161 in the previous survey), 31 with Ruthenian (54 in the previous survey in the previous survey), 40 with Romani (49 in the last survey), 10 with Ukrainian (16 in the previous survey) national minority, while German national minority did not fulfil this obligation. Overall, the number of municipalities not fulfilling these obligations decreased.

Table 42: Information on threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in the language of the national minority in places accessible to the public that are under the administration of the municipality (§ 4 (6) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	283	56%	126	25%	73	15%	21	4%	503
Ruthenian	20	31%	11	17%	31	48%	2	3%	64
Romani	5	9%	9	17%	40	74%	0	0%	54
Ukrainian	4	25%	1	6%	10	63%	1	6%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>638</b>

Through an active approach, the municipality can significantly and positively influence the level of application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. As an administrative body, the municipality can contribute to the use of information on threats to the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in certain areas in accordance with this Act via its monitoring activities. For the first time, the current questionnaire survey found out, whether municipalities perform control activities and whether they pay attention to the presentation of such information imposed by law.

The municipality is in accordance with Act no. 50/1976 Coll. on Territorial Planning and Building Regulations (Building Act) a building authority, and in accordance with the above, it may carry out inspections of construction site designations also with regard to providing information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens. 237 municipalities stated that they carry out inspections of construction site designations with regard to this information, 141 municipalities did it only partially and 219 municipalities did not perform it at all.

Table 43: The municipality also inspects the designation of construction sites with regard to the information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens. (§ 4 (6) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	no	share in %	partially	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	201	40%	153	30%	117	23%	32	7%	503
Ruthenian	15	23%	35	55%	11	17%	3	5%	64
Romani	17	31%	23	43%	10	19%	4	7%	54
Ukrainian	4	24%	8	50%	2	13%	2	13%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>638</b>

When determining the use of traffic signs on local and special-purpose roads, the municipality, as the administrative road authority, should ensure that information on the threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens is also stated in the language of a national minority on additional text tables to traffic signs. 211 municipalities fulfilled the obligation to state this information on additional text tables to traffic signs, 117 municipalities only partially, and 261 municipalities did not fulfil it.

Table 44: Provision of additional signs to traffic signs (§ 4 (6) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	189	37%	113	22%	164	33%	41	8%	503
Ruthenian	16	25%	5	8%	41	64%	2	3%	64
Romani	3	6%	3	6%	43	79%	5	9%	54
Ukrainian	3	19%	0	0%	12	75%	1	6%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>638</b>

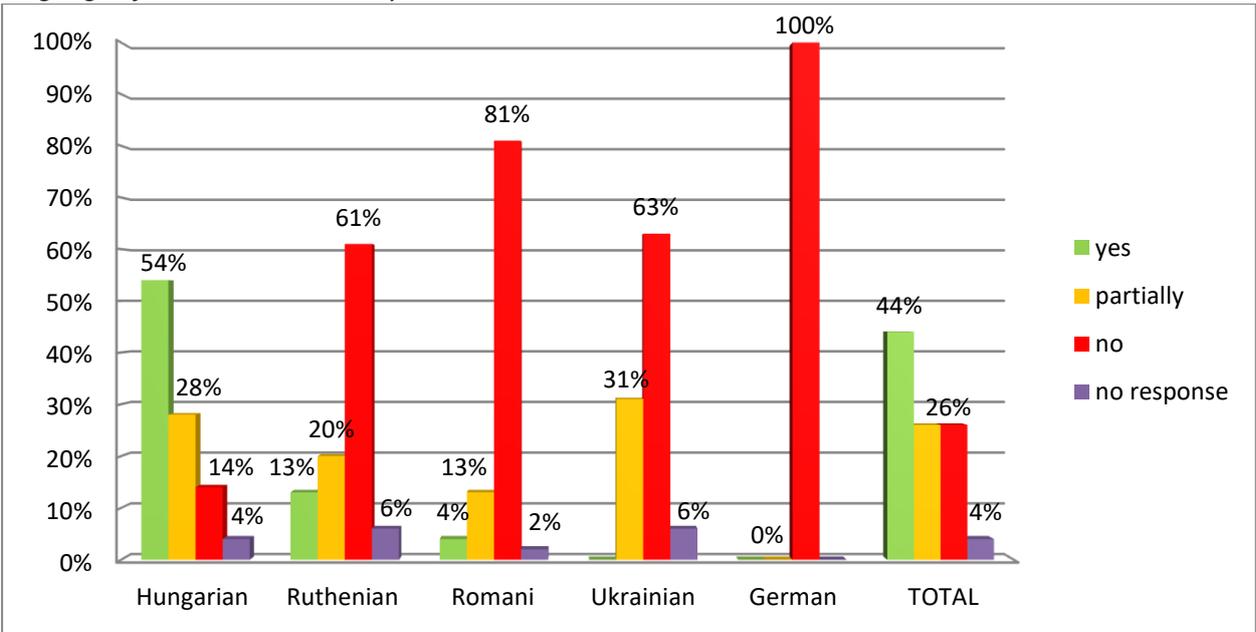
Signs and announcements intended to inform the public in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the municipality, were also indicated in the language of the national minority in 283 municipalities (173 in the previous survey): in 273 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (169 in the previous survey), in 8 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (2 in the previous survey), and in 2 with the Romani national minority (0 in the previous survey). Despite the fact that in the municipalities with the Ukrainian and German national minorities there were no bilingual signs and announcements, the overall number of such signs and announcements increased (one municipality with German and one with Ukrainian national minority in the last survey).

There were partially bilingual signs and announcements in 164 municipalities (200 in the previous survey), of which 139 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (195 in the previous survey), 13 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (4 in the previous survey), 7 municipalities with the Romani national minority (one in the previous survey) and 5 municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority (0 in the previous survey).

Table 45: Signs and announcements to inform the public (e.g. shops, sports facilities, restaurants, streets, roads, airports, bus stations and railway stations) under municipality's administration, stated in the language of the national minority (§ 4 (6) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>638</b>

Graph 11: Signs and announcements to inform the public (e.g. shops, sports facilities, restaurants, streets, roads, airports, bus stations and railway stations) under municipality's administration, stated in the language of the national minority



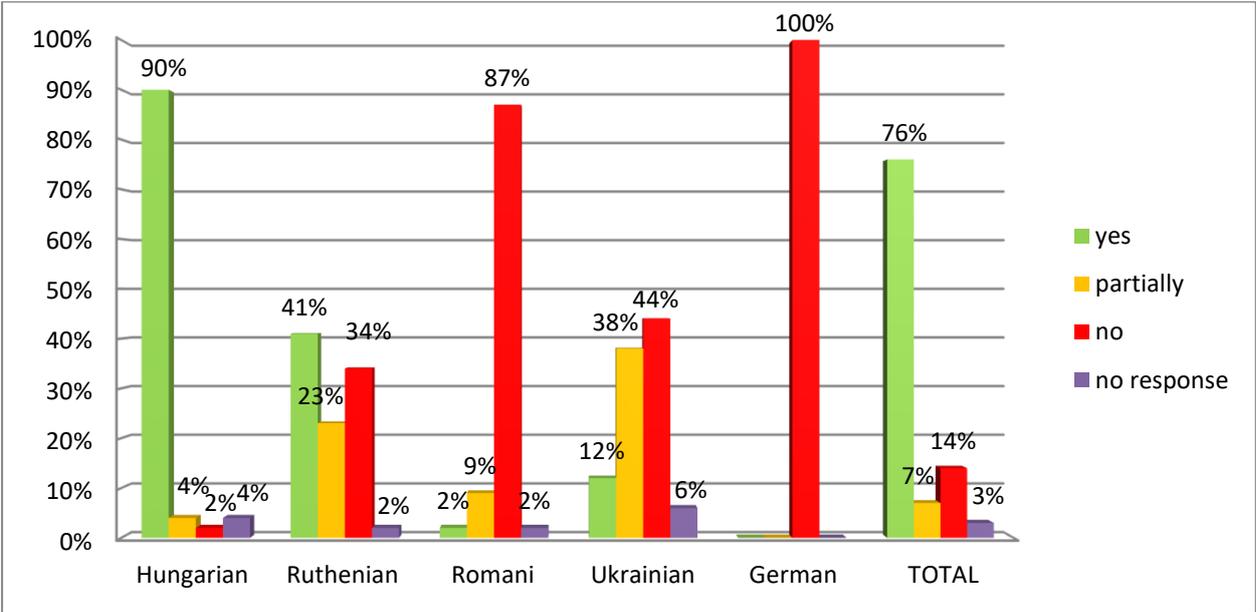
In accordance with § 5a (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., announcements to inform the public by means of local radio or other technical devices shall be located in the municipality that is listed

in Government Provision No. 221/1999 Coll., and they may be made public both in the state language and in the language of the national minority. According to § 5 4 of the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 270/1995 Coll., these notices may also be published in another language after their publication in the state language. This means that this announcement will always be published first in the state language, and afterward it can also be published in the language of the national minority. The possibility of informing the public via local radio or other technical devices in the language of the national minority is mentioned by 484 municipalities (487 in the previous survey): 455 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (456 in the previous survey), 26 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (27 in the previous survey), two municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority (3 in the previous survey) and in one municipality with the Romani national minority (one in the previous survey). 44 municipalities (36 in the previous survey) used this option partially, of which 18 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (21 in the previous survey), 15 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (13 in the previous survey), 6 municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority (2 in the last survey) and 5 municipalities with the Romani national minority (0 in the previous survey). In a municipality with a German national minority, the German language was not used in this area.

*Table 46: Announcements to inform the public via local radio or other technical devices also stated in the language of the national minority (§ 5a (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	455	90%	18	4%	11	2%	19	4%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	26	41%	15	23%	22	34%	1	2%	64
<b>Romani</b>	1	2%	5	9%	47	87%	1	2%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	2	12%	6	38%	7	44%	1	6%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	484	76	44	7%	88	14%	22	3%	638

*Graph 12: Announcements to inform the public via local radio or other technical devices also stated in the language of the national minority*



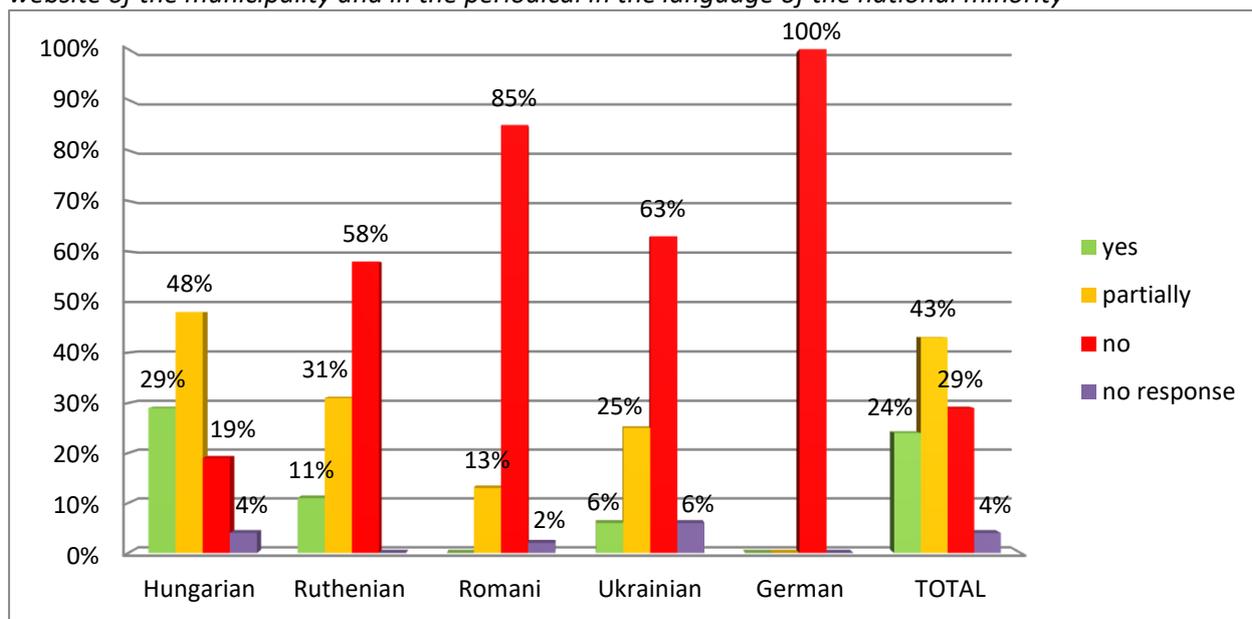
When asked how municipalities publish announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority, 476 municipalities indicated the municipal radio (481 municipalities in the previous survey), 450 municipalities used the municipal notice board (438 municipalities in the previous survey), 335 municipalities used municipal website (282 municipalities in the last survey), 88 municipalities used periodical press (86 municipalities in the previous survey), 30 municipalities used social networks (7 municipalities in the last survey), 19 municipalities municipal used television (23 municipalities in the previous survey), 15 municipalities used the information board (17 municipalities in the previous survey), 7 municipalities used leaflets, 5 municipalities used SMS (3 municipalities in the previous survey), 5 municipalities used mobile phone applications (2 municipalities in the previous survey), 2 municipalities used posters and announcements, and one municipality used e-mails, invitations, questionnaires, website, calendar, non-periodical press, information material, notice boards in the premises of the municipal office, at the municipal office and in the community centre. 4 municipalities stated that they informed the public only in the state language (18 municipalities in the last survey 1) and 1 municipality with the Ruthenian and Ukrainian minorities stated that informing the public in the language of the national minority was not required.

The municipality according to Act no. 184/1999 Coll. publishes important information on the official notice board of the municipality, on the municipality's website and in the periodical press both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority. This obligation was fulfilled by 155 municipalities (92 in the previous survey): 147 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (88 in the previous survey), 7 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (2 in the previous survey), and one municipality with the Ukrainian national minority (one in the previous survey). 272 municipalities publish this information in the state language and partly also in the language of the national minority (240 in the previous survey), of which 241 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (222 in the previous survey) and 20 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (13 in the previous survey), 7 municipalities with the Romani national minority (3 in the previous survey) and 4 municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority (2 in the previous survey). The municipality with the German national minority did not provide this information in the language of the national minority.

*Table 47: Provision of important information on the official notice board of the municipality, on the website of the municipality and in the periodical in the language of the national minority (§ 5a (2) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)*

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Ruthenian</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Romani</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>638</b>

Graph 13: Provision of important information on the official notice board of the municipality, on the website of the municipality and in the periodical in the language of the national minority



The possibility of displaying inscriptions on monuments, memorials and memorial plaques owned by the municipality both in the state language and in the language of the national minority was used by 296 municipalities (267 in the previous survey). In 82 municipalities, these inscriptions are stated in the state language and partly also in the language of the national minority (111 in the previous survey). 175 municipalities stated that this is not applicable for them (152 in the previous survey).

Table 48: The language of the national minority on monuments, memorials and memorial plaques (§ 4 (7) of Act 184/1999 Coll.)

	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	not applicable for our municipality	share in %	no response	share in %	total
Hungarian	280	56%	68	13%	16	3%	120	24%	19	4%	503
Ruthenian	12	19%	13	20%	13	20%	25	39%	1	2%	64
Romani	0	0%	0	0%	31	57%	22	41%	1	2%	54
Ukrainian	4	25%	1	6%	3	19%	7	44%	1	6%	16
German	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
TOTAL	296	46%	82	13%	63	10%	175	28%	22	3%	638

### 3.1.7 Financial costs (questions 72 – 73)

For the first time, the survey also focused on examining information on the financial demands of the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. by including two new questions in the questionnaire: *indicate the approximate amount of funds from the municipality's budget, which the municipality spent in the period under review on the given areas*, and *state the estimated amount of funds from the municipality's budget, which is needed to meet the following legal obligations and possibilities for the calendar year*.

One of the reasons for the mapping was also the evaluation of the results of the final questions of previous reports, which in the framework of creating conditions for the use of

minority languages in official contact also pointed to insufficient funding for translation or interpretation services (162 municipalities in this survey, and 128 municipalities in the previous survey). At the same time, the results of data collection in this area will form a basis for analysing the costs of increasing the availability of services of local state administration bodies, local self-government bodies and local self-government bodies established by legal entities belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the use of minority languages in official contact.

This also creates preconditions for the fulfilment of the recommendation no. XI/S/3/2012 of the Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Minority Affairs, according to which the Parties shall provide a contribution to cover the costs related to the use of minority languages in official contact for state administration bodies and local self-government bodies.

A question concerning funds from the municipal budget, which the municipality spent in the given period to ensure the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., was answered by 336 municipalities (304 with the Hungarian, 4 with the Ukrainian, 24 with the Ruthenian, 4 with the Romani national minority, and the municipality with the German national minority did not answer). A large number of municipalities, including those that answered the questions, stated that they could not quantify the given funds. This is also confirmed by the fact that comparably large municipalities indicated diametrically opposite amounts to provide for the same areas. The answers of those municipalities that stated a round "universal" amount in the responses for all areas, even for an area that they do not provide, also had a low informative value.

The analysis of the municipalities' responses showed that most of them do not offer relevant data. Except for amounts for external services, purchase of materials, which is being recorded separately in the book of accounts. One municipality with a Hungarian national minority stated that it was a member of the Lingua Civis Association of Towns and Municipalities, which provides them with the translation of materials into the language of the national minority. The annual membership fee is 3,154 EUR.

Most of the municipalities that ensure the use of the languages of national minorities do so through their own employees who speak the language of the national minority. Municipalities with staff who speak the language of a national minority report no issues in terms of using it in verbal official contact. In general, however, the use of the language of a national minority in written official contact is an issue. Those employees who make translations into the languages of national minorities do so during working hours, but not on a regular basis and all working day long, and therefore municipalities could not quantify the costs of this part of their activities.

Based on the results of the analysis we can state that not all employees of municipalities who speak the language of a national minority, speak it at a sufficient level, and not all employees who have a command of the language in spoken and written form – can overcome fears that their translation into the language of a national minority is legally and terminologically incorrect. Employees of municipalities with the Hungarian national minority have repeatedly expressed concern that if they make an incorrect translation into the language of the national minority, they risk being sued by applicants for the issuance of a bilingual official document, or by other persons. These concerns are caused by the lack of bilingual documents in many municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, in which municipal employees have the command of the Hungarian language in spoken and written form, despite the wording of provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. (§ 2 par. 3): "in case of doubt, the answer of the public administration body in the state language

is decisive". Therefore, the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. is more effective in those areas where the publication of an already completed translation or a translation of a simple text is sufficient.

Information on the possibility of using the language of the relevant national minority in oral and written form in official contact is often being published. Its translation is published on the Plenipotentiary's website<sup>64</sup> and listed in the language of the national minority by 413 municipalities, of which 359 in Hungarian – although the application level in this field ranks among the one of the highest, there are still municipalities that do not have this information published.

As for the Hungarian language, 513 municipalities have an employee with a command of the Hungarian Language in written and spoken form, and 494 of them ensure the use of this language in official contact through its employees. Concerns about the use of the Hungarian language in written official communication are also reflected in the finding that of the 107 municipalities to which submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority were received, 105 had employees with a command of the Hungarian minority language in spoken and written form, while the other two only in the spoken form. Nevertheless, only 69 of these municipalities also provided answers in Hungarian (one municipality with an employee who has a command of the Hungarian language only in spoken form) and 24 partially (again, one of the municipalities with an employee who has a command of the Hungarian language only in spoken form). This issue is not notable in the verbal official contact, and the municipal employees are not afraid to communicate in the minority language. Language competence training can contribute to the acquisition of knowledge of the official terminology of the Hungarian language, and prompt the employees to use it in written official communication. Application practice of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. is simpler and less expensive in those municipalities that have a sufficient level of staff fluent in the language of the national minority. The questionnaire survey showed that municipalities that actually apply the provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. do it mainly through their own employees (this option was mentioned by 587 municipalities), and not through external services.

National minorities with no education services in the language of the national minority find the use of the languages of national minorities in written official communication through the employees of the municipality much more problematic. A specific case of the above is the German language. There are several schools with German as the language of instruction, but most of them have German as a foreign language, not as a mother tongue. However, there is no such a school near Kunešov, the only municipality listed in the Government Provision of the Slovak Republic Regulation no. 221/1999 Coll. A primary school, where German is taught as the mother tongue, is located in Chmeľnica – in the district of Stará Ľubovňa.

The Romani and Ruthenian national minorities do not have the educational possibilities to teach these languages as a mother tongue. Employees of municipalities have only limited opportunities to acquire language competencies at a relevant level. As for the Ruthenian national minority, the municipality does not register a problem with the use of this language in oral

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<sup>64</sup>Available at: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk//informacia-o-moznosti-pouzivania-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin/>.

communication. In the school year 2020/2021, 2 primary schools with the Ruthenian language of instruction are included in the network of schools and school facilities in the Slovak Republic: Kalná Roztoka primary school with grades 1 to 4 and Klenová primary school with grades 1 to 9. Ruthenian language is taught at the primary schools of Medzilaborce, Duchnovičova 480/2 street and Komenského 135/6 street, at the primary school Radvaň nad Laborcom, at the primary school Pčoliné and the at the United School Svidník. Members of the Ruthenian national minority have the right to use their mother tongue in 68 municipalities. The possibility of education at a secondary school with the Ruthenian language of instruction is not provided. A comparison of data from reports for previous periods shows that there has been a growing interest to use the Ruthenian language also in written official communication. In the given period, a total of 8 written submissions from citizens in the Ruthenian language were registered in 3 municipalities, in the period 2017 – 2018: one submission in one municipality, previously none. There were 3 registered requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms in one municipality, and zero in the previous period. For the first time, requests to issue bilingual public documents were registered in one municipality – 5 requests for confirmation, 2 for a statement, and one request for a declaration. Requests for 4 birth certificates, 2 marriage certificates and one death certificate were registered in two municipalities, while in the period 2017 – 2018, applicants requested 3 birth certificates and 1 marriage certificate in one municipality (zero requests previously). One municipality received a request for a copy of a decision in the language of the national minority, while previously none. One municipality received 3 requests for the issuance of information on generally binding legal regulations both in the state language and also in the language of a national minority – previously none. These requests from citizens were received in 6 different municipalities: Brezovec, Dobroslava, Dubová, Medzilaborce, Ublá and Závada.

The network of schools and school facilities in the Slovak Republic does not include a school with a Romani language of instruction. Romani language is taught at 8 schools.<sup>65</sup> From the academic year 2019/2020, a newly accredited study program with a pedagogical focus has been introduced – Romani language, literature and culture studies in combination with another subject at the University of Prešov in Prešov – within the "Teaching Academic Subjects" field of study. In the school year 2024/2025, the first teachers with Romani language diplomas will be prepared to teach the Romani language at primary and secondary schools. Members of the Romani national minority have the right to use their mother tongue in written official communication in 57 municipalities. According to the data obtained through questionnaires, a total of 173 out of 1,057 employees in 33 municipalities with a Romani national minority have a full command (spoken and written) of the Romani language. However, some municipalities have included employees who speak Hungarian rather than Romani, as some Romani communities consider Hungarian as their mother tongue. Municipalities with the Romani national minority did not register written submissions from citizens in the Romani language or other requests for the issuance of official documents. Similar findings were provided by reports for previous periods.

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<sup>65</sup>This refers to the following municipalities: Kružlová 103 Primary School, Private Music and Drama Conservatory, Požiarnická 1, Košice, Jozef Adamovič Conservatory, Exnárova 8, Košice, Private Music and Drama Conservatory, Školská 31, Rimavská Sobota, Private Pedagogical and Social Academy, Požiarnická 1, Košice, Private united school, Angyalova 417/31, Kremnica, Private primary school, Galaktická 9, Košice, Private secondary vocational school Biela voda 2, Kežmarok.

The use of the languages of national minorities in written official communication is also significantly influenced by the fact that municipal employees are often convinced that a document issued in the language of a national minority is a certified translation of that very document. Their belief is not supported by the wording of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., since the above-cited wording of § 2 (3) refutes this widespread mistake. The register of certified translators of the MJ SR does not currently list a translator for the Romani or Ruthenian language.

A question to find out financial costs necessary for the full provision of language rights was answered by 322 municipalities (255 for the Hungarian, 5 for the Ukrainian, 30 for the Ruthenian, 32 for the Romani and the German national minority). Since the answers to the question on the amount of funds from the municipal budget, which the municipality spent in the given period on the areas in question, were not reliable, it is likely that the data provided in the answer to the question on the amount of funds from the municipality budget necessary to meet legal requirements and obligations for the calendar year are not reliable as well. For example, one municipality with a Romani national minority stated the estimated costs of securing individual areas in the amount of 20,000 – 50,000 EUR for each area, while other municipalities with a Romani national minority estimated the necessary amounts for individual areas at 0 – 1,500 EUR, mostly in range of 20 – 500 EUR. On the other hand, 100 municipalities stated that no funds are needed for the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. Another 9 municipalities stated that a maximum of 20 EUR per year is needed to fully ensure the application of the law, 38 municipalities can fully apply the law for funds not exceeding 200 EUR per year, and 65 municipalities need a maximum of 1,000 EUR per year. A total of 212 municipalities stated a maximum of 1,000 EUR for the full application of the provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., of which 28 municipalities with a Romani national minority, 16 municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority, 5 municipalities with a Ukrainian national minority and 163 municipalities with a Hungarian national minority.

*Table 49: Answering a question on financial costs necessary to ensure language rights*

	replied	share in %	did not reply	share in %	total
<b>Hungarian</b>	255	51%	248	49%	503
<b>Ruthenian</b>	30	47%	34	53%	64
<b>Romani</b>	32	59%	22	31%	54
<b>Ukrainian</b>	5	31%	11	69%	16
<b>German</b>	0	0%	1	100%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	322	46%	316	13%	638

*Table 50: Financial costs indicated by municipalities as necessary to fully ensure language rights*

	0 €	1-50 €	51-200 €	201-500 €	501-1,000 €	1,001-1,500 €	1,501-2,000 €	2,001-3,000 €	3,001-5,000 €	5,001-10,000 €	> 10,000 €
<b>Hungarian</b>	65	11	26	40	21	16	12	11	8	14	24
<b>Ruthenian</b>	6	3	4	1	2	4	0	1	4	0	1
<b>Romani</b>	27	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Ukrainian</b>	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>German</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	100	17	30	41	24	20	12	12	13	12	26

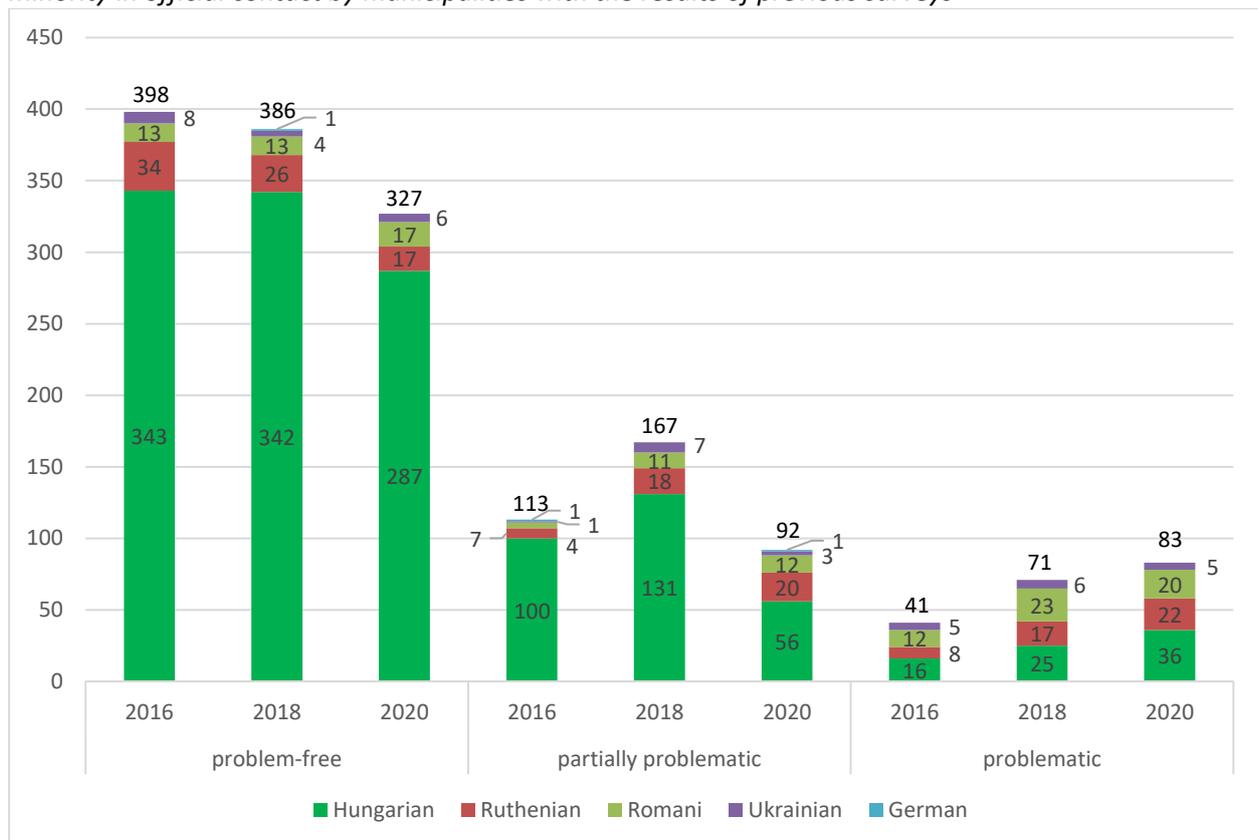
Although the inclusion of questions to determine the costs of the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. did not completely bring the expected results, it represents the first step, which

is a prerequisite for the real fulfilment of this law in practice. Therefore, this analysis needs to be followed up by further efforts, which will also result in the relevant identification of these costs using other methods, not just a questionnaire survey.

### 3.1.8 Final questions (questions 74 – 79)

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact was assessed by 327 municipalities as problem-free (386 in the previous survey), another 192 considered it as partially problematic (167 in the last survey), and 83 municipalities as problematic (71 in the previous survey).

Graph 14: Comparison of perception of creating conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact by municipalities with the results of previous surveys\*



\* The graph does not include data for municipalities that did not answer this question.

Reasons that cause problems in this regard are as follows: 162 municipalities stated lack of financial resources (128 municipalities in the previous survey), 131 municipalities listed lack of professional support (101 municipalities in the previous survey), 142 municipalities stated lack of qualified employees (92 municipalities in the previous survey), 8 municipalities listed lack of time (5 in the last survey), 6 municipalities stated lack of staff (3 in the last survey), 8 municipalities stated difficulties with the translation of official documents (2 in the last survey) one municipality listed bureaucracy and one lack of state support. 3 municipalities stated that central and local authorities and institutions should also communicate bilingually and publish background materials. Two municipalities said they were under forced administration and one said it was too understaffed to handle this matter.

Table 51: Reasons for the problematic creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact

	2016	2018	2020
<b>insufficient funds</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>insufficient professional support</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>insufficient number of qualified employees</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>lack of time</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>lack of staff</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>difficulties with translation of official documents</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>lack of knowledge of the terminology of the language of a national minority</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>

One municipality stated that Romani citizens have spoken Hungarian language skills, and according to 3 municipalities, the inhabitants speak the dialect or colloquial language with no written language skills. According to one municipality, it does not make sense to deal with the use of the Ruthenian language in official contact, as there is no school with the Ruthenian language of instruction<sup>66</sup> in Slovakia and according to the questionnaire, the Ukrainian national minority has stopped existing since 1991.

In 18 municipalities they stated that there is no interest in such services, because everyone communicates in the state language (8 municipalities in the previous survey<sup>67</sup>), and in one municipality there is not enough interest from the inhabitants. One municipality did not consider it necessary to provide services to citizens (2 municipalities in the previous survey<sup>68</sup>), one municipality even stated that the use of the language of the Romani national minority in official contact, in their opinion, disrupted the peaceful coexistence of citizens of all nationalities.

The final questions of the questionnaire dealt with the complaint due to violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. 38 municipalities indicated such complaints (23 in the previous survey): 26 municipalities with the Hungarian national minority (16 in the previous survey), 9 municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (5 in the previous survey) and 3 municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority (none in the previous survey), a total of 53 complaints (according to 33 municipalities that stated the number of complaints). Municipalities with a Romani (2 in the previous survey) and a German national minority did not record such complaints.

According to the general formulations of the complaints, it is probable that the majority of municipalities considered the complaints concerning the violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. to be the information sheets of the Plenipotentiary on the results of the Report on the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period 2017 – 2018. Municipalities with a Hungarian national minority also received complaints in connection with the Hungarian version of the website, street naming, city rules and the publication of announcements and information about the COVID-19 pandemic. Municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority dealt with complaints concerning incorrect identification of the

<sup>66</sup>For the purposes of objectivity, we state that in the school year 2020/2021, 2 primary schools with the Ruthenian language of instruction are included in the network of schools and school facilities in the Slovak Republic: Kalná Roztoka primary school with grades 1 to 4 and Klenová primary school with grades 1 to 9. Ruthenian language is taught at the primary schools of Medzilaborce, Duchnovičova 480/2, and Komenského 135/6, at the primary school Radvaň nad Laborcom, at the primary school Pčoliné and the at the United School Svidník.

<sup>67</sup>This refers to the following municipalities: Ďurkov, Chmiňany (Romani national minority), Medzilaborce (Ruthenian national minority), Parihuzovce (Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minority), Nové Hony, Dubník, Biskupice and Čakanovce (Hungarian national minority).

<sup>68</sup>This refers to the following municipalities: Arnutovce, Ostrovany (Romani national minority).

municipality on the boards, and failure to inform the voters about the time and place of the elections in the language of the national minority. 25 municipalities have eliminated the shortcomings, 2 municipalities have done it partially, and 4 municipalities had been eliminating the shortcomings on an regular basis. One municipality does not consider these shortcomings as important to deal with.

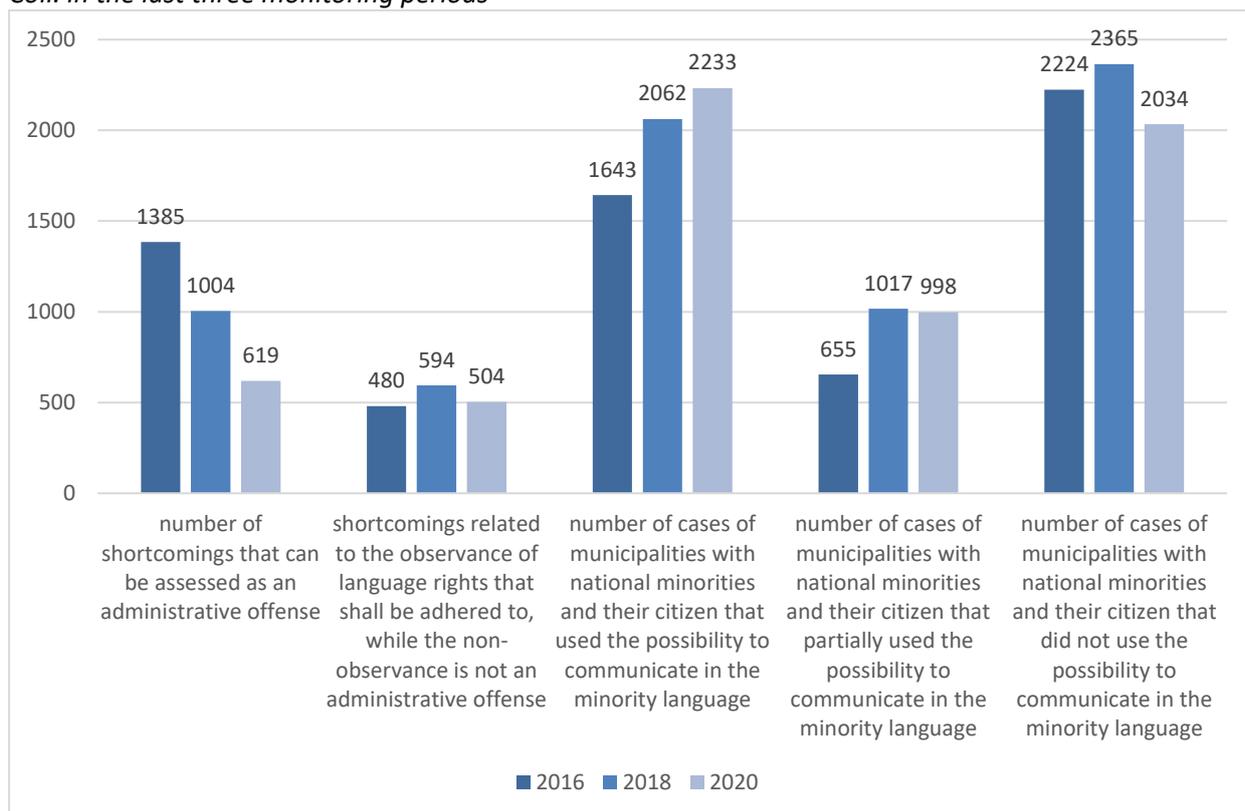
### **Conclusions – comparison of the results of the 2018 and 2020 surveys**

Compared to the results of the previous survey, the conditions for the use of national minority languages in individual areas have generally improved, especially in the area of public information. Most municipalities have created more favourable conditions for the use of the languages of national minorities in official contact, although the interest of the population in official communication in the language of the national minority has slightly decreased, which is reflected in the number of submitted complaints and requests. In some cases, there was also a decrease in the area of bilingual designation and negotiations of self-governing bodies. Some areas of use of the languages of national minorities have remained unused due to the fact that a particular method of communication is no longer used to such an extent (e.g. announcements intended to inform the public via local radio or other technical devices, the chronicle of the municipality).

The general findings also apply to municipalities with a Hungarian national minority. Among municipalities with national minorities, the Hungarian national minority and their inhabitants acted in the most effective way in the given area. For the Ruthenian national minority, the number of requests received has increased significantly and the area of public awareness has improved. Even in the case of the Romani national minority, municipalities have made progress, especially in the area of official communication and public awareness, although citizens practically do not use the possibility of using this language of the national minority. The Ukrainian national minority has not undergone major changes and the demand from citizens has not increased. In one municipality with a German national minority, the situation has worsened, especially in the area of public awareness.

The number of shortcomings that can be considered as an administrative offense has been reduced (from 1007 to 619) and the situation of language rights, which are mandatory to comply with and non-compliance is not an administrative offense, has also improved too (the number of shortcomings has reduced from 593 to 501). The number of cases in which municipalities with national minorities and their inhabitants used the languages of national minorities increased from 2,060 to 2,233. On the other hand, the number of cases in which municipalities with national minorities and their inhabitants used languages of national minorities partially has decreased from 1,017 to 998. The number of cases in which language rights have not been exercised has decreased (from 2,365 to 2,034).

*Graph 15: Overview of compliance with the obligations and possibilities arising from Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in the last three monitoring periods*



**Areas where the situation has generally improved** (numbers for individual national minorities have mostly increased or remained unchanged, with a maximum of one national minority declining):

Designations in the language of a national minority:

- the designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated under the name in the state language when designating a railway station or a bus station;
- designation of a public administration body placed on buildings in the language of a national minority;
- designations of the public administration bodies (buildings) in the language of the national minority stated under the name in the state language with the same font;

Official contact:

- the manner of using the language of the national minority in official contact through the employees of the municipality;
- method of using the language of a national minority in official contact through interpretation or translation services;
- publication of information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in oral and written form in official communication
- publishing information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in oral and written form in official communication in the language of a national minority;
- provision of written answers to written submissions in the language of a national minority
- use of the language of a national minority in the official agenda of a municipal office;
- share of the municipal police officers who have at least a spoken command of the language of the national minority;

#### Bilingual documents:

- provision of bilingual official forms issued by a municipality
- municipalities in which requests for bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates were received, and the number of requests for bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates;
- municipalities in which bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates were issued and the number of issued bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates;
- municipalities in which decisions were issued within an administrative proceedings in a true copy also in the language of the national minority;
- municipalities in which the designation of a municipality in the language of a national minority stated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on decisions issued in the language of a national minority;

#### Self-government body meetings:

- use of the language of the national minority by deputies at municipal/city council meetings;
- language of the municipal/city council meetings, the language of the national minority and the state language;
- materials for the municipal/city council meeting in the language of the national minority;

#### Informing the public:

- information concerning the threat of life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic also in the language of the national minority on additional text tables to road signs;
- provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority;
- issuance and publication of generally binding regulations of the municipality in the language of the national minority;
- providing information concerning the threat to life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in the language of a national minority;
- provision of important information on the official notice board of the municipality, on the website of the municipality and in the periodical in the language of the national minority
- signs and announcements to inform the public (e.g. shops, sports facilities, restaurants, streets, roads, airports, bus stations and railway stations) under municipality's administration, stated in the language of the national minority
- complaints received on the violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll .;
- language of the national minority on monuments, memorials and memorial plaques.

#### ***Areas where the situation has not significantly changed***

##### Designations in the language of a national minority:

- designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated next to the name in the state language when marking public administration bodies
- geographical designation in the language of a national minority;

##### Official contact:

- share of employees who have at least a spoken command of the language of the national minority;

- number of municipalities that do not provide conditions for the use of the language of a national minority;
- use of the language of a national minority by the municipal police at duty significantly
- expression of the consent to use the language of a national minority with the municipal police officers at duty
- use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal police who speak the language of a national minority when communicating with citizens belonging to a national minority;

***Areas where the situation has deteriorated (numbers for individual national minorities have mostly decreased or remained unchanged, with a maximum of one national minority on rise)***

- return rate of questionnaires;

Designations in the language of a national minority:

- designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated on the road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality;
- street markings in the language of a national minority;

Official contact:

- designated office hours to handle matters in the language of a national minority;
- chronicle of a municipality in the language of a national minority
- share of employees who have a written and spoken command of the language of the national minority;
- receiving written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority;
- share of the municipal police officers who have a spoken and written command of the language of the national minority;

Bilingual documents:

- requests received for official bilingual forms in the state language and in the language of the national minority;
- delivery of a request for bilingual decisions;
- municipalities that received requests for bilingual public documents, and the number of requests for bilingual public documents;
- number of municipalities that issued bilingual public documents, and the number of issued bilingual public documents;
- delivery of submissions to initiate administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority
- receiving written submissions from citizens in the language of a national minority;

Self-government body meetings:

- language of the municipal/city council meetings, the language of the national minority;
- use of the language of the national minority by mayors at municipal/city council meetings;

Informing the public:

- delivery of requests for information on generally binding legal regulations both in the state language and in the language of the national minority
- announcements to inform the public via local radio or other technical devices also stated in the language of the national minority

### **3.2 Legal entities established by territorial self-government units**

In accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll., a citizen of the Slovak Republic living in the municipality listed in the Annex to the Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll. as amended by Government Provision no. 534/2011 Coll., shall be entitled to communicate with a legal entity established by territorial self-government unit in oral and written communication in the language of a national minority. As there is no list of legal entities domiciled in these municipalities, the Plenipotentiary's Office addressed all minority municipalities as well as 6 self-governing regions (Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov) in which these municipalities are located, and asked them for cooperation in terms of collecting data on these entities. Completed questionnaires for legal entities established by local self-government bodies were sent by 27 municipalities and 3 self-governing regions, namely the Košice self-governing region, the Prešov self-governing region, and the Trnava self-governing region. Data from the above number of municipalities and regions were processed for 50 relevant legal entities established by municipalities and 24 legal entities established by self-governing regions operating in the field of social services, municipal services, property management, technical services, health care, tourism, recreation and sports, housing administration, public benefit and municipal works, telecommunications, vocational training, forestry and culture. While in the previous survey relevant legal entities sent 65 questionnaires, the current survey encompasses and processes data for a total of 74 subjects.

The survey focused on 8 thematic areas of the use of languages of national minorities within the competence of local self-government bodies. Respondents were asked a total of 58 questions in the following order: designations in the language of the national minority (questions 1 – 7), official contact (questions 8 – 20), bilingual documents (questions 21 – 38), negotiations of legal entities (questions 39 – 42), informing the public (questions 43 – 49), public relations (questions 50 – 52) and final questions (questions 53 – 58). The wording of the questionnaire is shown in Annex no. 2.

#### **3.2.1 Legal entities established by municipalities**

On behalf of legal entities established by municipalities, 27 municipalities (of which 25 with Hungarian, one with Ruthenian, and one with Romani national minority) sent a completed questionnaire with information on 50 relevant legal entities (48 in municipalities with Hungarian, 1 with Ruthenian and 1 with Romani national minority), namely information on 9 social services facilities, 5 entities working in the field of property management, 12 in the field of technical services, 3 in the field of tourism, two in the field of housing administration, one in the field of community service, 3 in the field of telecommunications, one in sport, 10 in culture, one in forestry, two in public services and one leisure centre.

##### **Signs in the language of the national minority (questions 1 – 7)**

Out of the total number of 50 legal entities, 32 (64%) respondents indicated the designation of a legal entity established by a municipality in the language of a national minority<sup>69</sup>.

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<sup>69</sup>For the sake of completeness of the text, wherever the text of this part of the Report uses the term "legal entity established by the municipality", it means a legal entity established by the municipality with the Hungarian national

4 (8%), including a legal entity located in a municipality with a Romani national minority, did not state this designation. The remaining legal entities, including one located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, indicated a designation in the language of the national minority, which is identical to the name in the state language.

The designation of a municipality in the language of a national minority was indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on the buildings of a legal entity established by the municipality in 32 (55%) cases, including one legal entity located in a municipality with a Romani national minority. In one case, the designation of the municipality was partially indicated in the language of the national minority. The designation of a legal entity established by a municipality that is placed on buildings was indicated in 35 (70%) cases in the state language and in the language of a national minority, of which 34 entities state this designation both in the state language and in the language of the national minority (same font), including a legal entity located in a municipality with a Romani minority. In 13 (26%) cases, including a legal entity located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, the designation of the legal entity was stated only in the state language, two legal entities did not comment on the designation.

#### **Official relations (questions 8 – 20)**

Only 156 (12%) employees of legal entities established by the municipality (out of the total number of 1,305), including a legal entity located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, have a spoken command of the language of the minority. 917 (70%) employees have a written and spoken command of the language of the national minority, and this answer was also given by a respondent from a municipality with a Romani national minority. 1,073 (82%) employees in total are fluent in the language of a national minority. 48 (96%) legal entities established by the municipality, including those located in municipalities with Romani and Ruthenian national minorities, ensure the use of the language of the national minority in official contact through its employees communicating in the language of the national minority, while one legal entity ensures communication through external employees, and one of the respondents did not provide an answer.

24 (48%) legal entities established by the municipality provided information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in a visible place. In 8 (16%) cases the information was given in the language of the national minority and in 16 (32%) cases both in the state language and in the language of the national minority. Most of the respondents who provide this information publish it on an information board or website. 25 (50%) respondents, including legal entities established by the municipality with the Ruthenian and Romani national minorities, do not provide this information, while one of the respondents did not answer this question.

In the period under review, 6 (12%) respondents registered written submissions from citizens in the language of the national minority, while all submissions were in the Hungarian

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minority. Information in the text that is related to the legal entity established by a municipality with a Ruthenian or Romani national minority is mentioned separately in the text unless this information coincides with the information relating to the remaining entities.

language. These submissions included requests and complaints concerning the organization of cultural and educational events. 3 (6%) legal entities responded to written submissions both in the state language and in the language of the national minority, and another 3 (6%) provided the answer partly in the state language and in the language of the national minority.

In addition to the state language, 3 (6%) legal entities also used the language of a national minority in the official agenda. Another 6 (12%) respondents stated that they partly use the language of the national minority in the official agenda, especially in registers, resolutions, statistics and announcements.

#### **Bilingual documents** (questions 21 – 38)

In the monitored period, 12 (24%) legal entities provided bilingual official forms fully or partially. The bilingual forms mainly related to requests, registrations and applications. The request for bilingual official forms, bilingual public documents or bilingual decisions was not delivered to any of the respondents. One (2%) of the legal entities issued decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of the national minority, but did not state the total number of such decisions or the areas concerned.

#### **Negotiations of bodies of legal entities** (questions 39 – 42)

In addition to the state language, the language of the national minority, including the Ruthenian language, was used at the meetings of the bodies of 26 (52%) legal entities established by municipalities. In 9 (18%) cases, the state language and partly also the language of the national minority was used. 26 (52%) legal entities conducted negotiations in the state language and in the language of a national minority. 6 (12%) legal entities conducted negotiations partly also in the language of the national minority, including the Ruthenian language, and 16 (32%) legal entities, including a legal entity established by a municipality with a Roma national minority, conducted them in the state language.

Materials for negotiations of legal entities 3 (6%) were also prepared in the language of the national minority, and in the case of 13 (26%) legal entities, the materials were also partially prepared in the language of the national minority. The possibility of using the language of a national minority during the negotiations of legal entities was ensured in 3 (6%) cases through interpreting services, 22 (44%) legal entities ensured this possibility through their employees who speak the language of the national minority. The remaining legal entities did not provide this possibility or did not answer the given question.

#### **Informing the public** (questions 43 – 49)

Two (4%) legal entities received requests for the issuance of information on generally binding legal regulations both in the state language in the language of the national minority, while both legal entities, upon request, released this information also in the language of the national minority. Information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens indicated in the offices of legal entities was provided by 22 (44%) respondents both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority. 9 (18%) legal entities provided this information partly in the language of the national minority. Signs and announcements intended

for informing the public were also indicated in the language of the national minority by 28 (56%) respondents, partially also in the language of the national minority by 8 (16%) legal entities, mainly on the information and official notice board, as well as in other places, e.g. on social networks, billboards, bulletin boards, flyers and so on. 12 (24%) legal entities established by municipalities did not report the given inscriptions and announcements in the language of the national minority, including legal entities from municipalities with the Romani and Ruthenian national minorities. Two (4%) legal entities did not answer this question.

Act no. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information and on Amendments to Certain Acts (Freedom of Information Act) imposes an obligation on legal entities entrusted by law with the power to decide on the rights and obligations of natural or legal entities in the field of public administration, so that important information<sup>70</sup> defined by a special law is published in the affected municipalities also in the language of national minorities. 12 (24%) legal entities published this information in the given municipalities also in the language of national minorities. This information was partially published by 18 (36%) legal entities also in the language of the national minority. 18 (36%) legal entities established by municipalities did not disclose the information in question. Two (4%) respondents did not provide an answer.

#### **Public relations area (questions 50 – 52)**

In accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll., a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority may use the language of a national minority when communicating with the staff of health care facilities and social services facilities or social protection facilities for children and social guardianship in the affected municipalities, and such facilities shall allow the use of the national minority language if the conditions of the facility allow to do it. 8 out of 9 social services facilities ensure the possibility of using the language of a national minority through their staff who is able to communicate in the language of the national minority, including the Ruthenian language, one of the facilities did not answer the question.

#### **Final questions (questions 53 – 58)**

37 (74%) respondents, including legal entities established by municipalities with Ruthenian and Romani national minorities, stated that creating conditions for using the language of a national minority in official communication is problem-free, for 7 (14%) legal entities it is a partial issue, and two (4%) legal entities identified the fulfilment of this obligation as rather problematic. None of the legal entities established by the municipalities received complaints in the given period due to the violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

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<sup>70</sup> § 5 of Act no. 211/2000 Coll.: Method for establishing the liable person, its powers and competencies and a description of the organizational structure, place, time and methods in which the information can be obtained; information on where the request, proposal, complaint, complaint, or other submission can be submitted, place, time and manner of lodging an appeal and the possibility of judicial review of the liable person's decision, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the liable person in processing all applications, requests and other submissions, including relevant time limits to be complied with; regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the liable person acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the liable person, the schedule of administrative fees charged by the liable person for administrative acts and the list of fees for disclosing information.

### 3.2.2 Legal entities established by self-governing regions

In this part, the Report focuses on 24 relevant legal entities established by the Košice, Prešov and Trnava self-governing regions, namely 20 legal entities located in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, and 4 in municipalities with a Ruthenian national minority. 13 of the above operate in the field of social services, 9 in the field of culture, and two in the field of property management.<sup>71</sup>

#### **Signs in the language of the national minority (questions 1 – 7)**

18 (75%) respondents, 6 (25%) respondents, including 4 facilities located in municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority, did not state the designation of a legal entity established by a self-governing region in the language of a national minority or language.

The designation of a municipality in the language of a national minority was stated next to the name of the municipality in the state language – on the buildings of a legal entity established by a self-governing region in 14 (58%) cases. This method of designation was also mentioned by one legal entity located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. 9 (38) respondents did not mention this designation, including 3 entities located in municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority. One entity did not answer this question. 16 (67%) respondents mentioned the designation of a legal entity established by a local government located in buildings both in the state language and in the language of a national minority, of which 14 (58%) indicated it the same font as in the state language, and two (8%) in smaller font.

#### **Official relations (questions 8 – 20)**

Of the total number of 837 employees of legal entities established by self-governing regions, 118 (14%) have only a spoken command of the language of a national minority and 554 (66%) have both written and spoken language skills, with at least two employees working for each legal entity who speak the language of the national minority, except for one legal entity, where employees have a spoken command of the Ruthenian language.

The use of the language of the national minority in official contact was ensured by 21 (88%) legal entities, of which two are based in the municipality with the Ruthenian national minority. The above is ensured through their employees, one (4%) respondent ensured the communication in the Ruthenian language through interpreting or translation services, one legal entity stated that it did not provide this possibility in the Ruthenian language, and another did not comment on the issue in question. The office hours for handling matters in the language of a national minority were determined by 4 (17%) legal entities, two of which are located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority.

Information on the possibility of using the language of a national minority in oral and written form in official communication was provided by 11 (46%) respondents, including two

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<sup>71</sup>For the sake of completeness of the text, wherever the text of this part of the report uses the term "legal entity established by the self-governing region", it means a legal entity established by the self-governing region located in a municipality with the Hungarian national minority. Information in the text that is related to the legal entity established by a self-governing region located in the municipality with a Ruthenian national minority is mentioned separately in the text unless this information coincides with the information relating to the remaining entities.

legal entities located in municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority. Information was provided in 3 (13%) cases exclusively in the state language, in one (4%) case only in the Ruthenian language and in 6 (25%) cases in the state language and in the language of a national minority, mostly indicated on an information board or website .

In the given period, two (8%) legal entities registered a total of 217 written submissions in the language of the national minority, which mainly concerned the financial area and library membership, but none of the legal entities provided an answer to these submissions in the national minority language. At the same time, none of the legal entities used the language of the national minority in the official agenda.

#### **Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 38)**

In the period under review, bilingual official forms were provided partially by two (8%) legal entities established by self-governing regions (project documentation forms). The remaining legal entities did not provide these forms or the given question was not applicable for them.

One (4%) legal entity received 213 requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms, which were subsequently issued in the language of the national minority. No legal entity received requests for the issuance of bilingual public documents or submissions initiating administrative proceedings in the language of the national minority during the period under review. At the same time, 23 (96%) of the respondents stated that they had not received requests for bilingual decisions, while one legal entity did not answer this question. No legal entity has issued administrative decisions in a true copy in the language of a national minority.

#### **Negotiations of bodies of legal entities (questions 39 – 42)**

In addition to the state language, the language of the national minority was used at the negotiations of bodies of 9 (38%) legal entities established by the self-governing region, including two municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority, 5 (21 %) legal entities used the language of the national minority partially (besides the state language).

The negotiation was conducted at 10 (42%) legal entities, of which one was located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority in the state language and in the language of a national minority. 3 (13%) legal entities conducted the negotiation only in the language of the national minority, including the Ruthenian language, and 10 (42%) legal entities, including the legal entity located in the municipality with the Ruthenian national minority, conducted the negotiation in the state language. One of the legal entities did not answer this question. The possibility of using the language of a national minority was provided by 10 (42%) legal entities through its employees, one provided communication in the Ruthenian language through interpreting and translation services, while the remaining respondents either did not provide this possibility or did not comment on this question. One legal entity prepared materials in the language of a national minority and 4 (17%) did it partially in the language of a national minority for the negotiations of their bodies.

### **Informing the public** (questions 43 – 49)

In the given period, 23 (96%) legal entities did not receive requests for the issuance of information on generally binding legal regulations both in the state language and also in the language of a national minority. One legal entity did not answer this question. Information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens indicated in the offices of legal entities was provided by 3 (13%) respondents both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority, and 4 (17%) legal entities indicated it partially also in the language of the national minority.

Signs and announcements intended for informing the public that are under the administration of a legal entity were indicated by 9 (38%) legal entities also in the language of a national minority and 4 (17%) legal entities indicated it partially also in the language of a national minority. This information was provided mainly on the website, notice board and official or information board. Important information is being published by one (4%) legal entity also in the language of the national minority, and 5 (21%) do it partially in the language of the national minority, including one legal entity located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority.

### **Public relations area** (questions 50 – 52)

12 of the 13 social service facilities provide the possibility of using the language of the national minority through their staff that is able to communicate in the language of the national minority, including the Ruthenian language, while one of the facilities located in the municipality with the Ruthenian national minority does not provide this possibility.

### **Final questions** (questions 53 – 58)

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact was described as problem-free by 19 (79%) legal entities, including two legal entities located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. Two (8%) legal entities, one of which is located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, stated that the creation of these conditions is partly problematic. One legal entity described the creation of conditions for the use of the Ruthenian language in official communication as rather problematic. The remaining legal entities did not answer this question.

Legal persons stated lack of qualified employees, insufficient amount of financial resources, as well as lack of professional support as the main reasons for the problematic creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official communication. Complaints due to violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. were not delivered to 22 (92%) legal entities, two (8%) legal entities, of which one is residing in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, did not answer this question.

### **3.3 State administration**

#### **3.3.1 The state and competence of selected state administration bodies in relation to Act no. 184/1999 Coll.**

In the municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll., a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority has the right to communicate in oral and written form with a public administration body, this also applies to the submission of written documents and evidence also in the language of the national minority. Local state administration bodies are considered to be those bodies whose special law stipulates that they shall perform state administration, and they are not central state administration bodies or state administration bodies with nationwide competence. Act no. 184/1999 Coll. does not derive the right of Slovak citizens belonging to a national minority to use the language of a national minority before a local state administration body from the location of the competent body, but from the place of communication. If the place of communication is a municipality listed in the Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll., then a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority has the right in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. to use the language of a national minority in written and oral form, and the local state administration body which is the addressee of the communication is also obliged to proceed in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. This means that if the organizational unit of the local state administration body is located in the municipality listed according to Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll., then it is considered a public administration body according to Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

In accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll., the Office of the Plenipotentiary in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Justice addressed those public administration bodies and their organizational units, in which, in addition to the state language, the language of a national minority is also used in official contact. A total of 89 state administration bodies were contacted, of which 85 state administration bodies in municipalities with the Hungarian national minority and 4 state administration bodies in municipalities with the Ruthenian national minority (two district offices, one customs office and one labour office). These are as follows: 14 district offices, 27 labour, social affairs and family offices, 16 tax offices, 13 customs offices, 8 regional veterinary and food administrations, 6 regional public health offices and 5 state archives.

To preserve textual integrity, wherever the term "state administration body" is used in the text of this part of the Report, it always stands for a state administration body in a municipality with a Hungarian national minority. The "state administration body in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority" is mentioned in 4 cases (two district offices, one customs office and one labour office).

The comparison of data in this part of the Report was based on surveys from the reports for 2012, 2016 and 2018<sup>72</sup>, including all questions that were comparable.

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<sup>72</sup>In connection with the ongoing process of creating a new structure of state administration bodies within the ESO program, the report for 2014 was focused on the results of the inspection of the Government Office's Control and

Through the questionnaires, 7 thematic areas of the use of languages of national minorities within the competence of state administration/local state administration bodies were being ascertained in a way, as they result from Act no. 184/1999 Coll. The thematic areas had the following structure: designations in the language of the national minority (questions 1 – 6), official contact (questions 7 – 24 / 7 – 20), bilingual documents (questions 25 – 41 / 21 – 37), negotiations of the municipal office/workplace (questions 42–44 / 38–40), informing the public (questions 45 – 51 / 41 – 47), the cost of ensuring the use of the languages of national minorities in official contact (52 – 53 / 48 – 49), and final questions (questions 54 – 59 / 50 – 55). Individual respondents were asked 55 to 59 questions. Out of the total number of 89 state administration bodies, all respondents sent a completed questionnaire. The wording of the questionnaires for state administration bodies is included in Annex no. 4, and the List of state administration bodies and their organizational units, which, in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll., shall use both the state language and the language of a national minority in official written communication, is included in Annex no. 8.

### **3.3.2 Signs in the language of a national minority (questions 1 – 6)**

Obligations in the field of designation in the languages of national minorities are implied by Act no. 184/1999 Coll., which lays down obligations to report the designation of a municipality in the language of a national minority, and regulates the designation of a public administration body that is located on buildings. 85 (96%) state administration bodies had the designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on the buildings of state administration bodies in line with Act no. 184/1999 Coll.: 16 (100%) tax offices; 13 (100%) customs offices, including the customs office in the only municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 8 (100%) RVPS ; 26 (96%) labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 13 (93%)<sup>73</sup> district offices; 5 (83%) RPHA and 4 (80%) state archives. A comparison of the results from 2016, 2018 and 2020 shows that significant changes have taken place in this area. The given designation in the state language and in the language of the national minority was applicable in 2016 for 44% of the corresponding authorities, in 2018 for 80% of the corresponding authorities, and in 2020 for 96% of the corresponding authorities.

The obligation to designate a public administration body located on buildings in the state language and in the language of a national minority was fulfilled in the case of all state administration bodies (i.e. 89 state administration bodies). The results from 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2020 show that the fulfilment of this obligation in this area has been continuously growing until it's been fully met by all state administration bodies. Back in 2012, 77% state administration bodies met this obligation, in 2016 (74%), in 2018 (99%) and in 2020 (100%).

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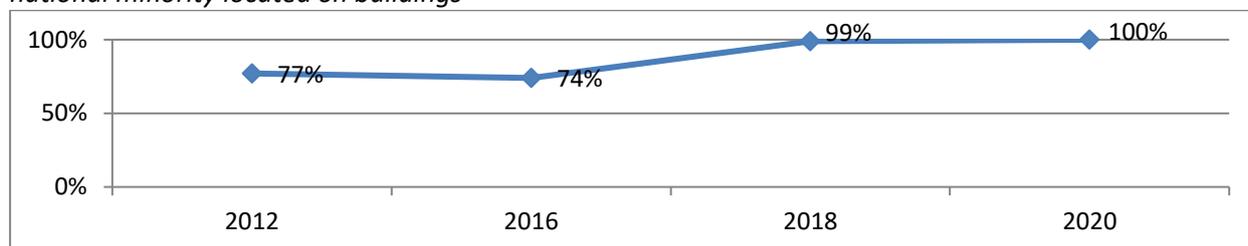
Corruption Prevention Section in selected district offices in the area of minority languages. For this reason, it was not possible to compare the results of the questionnaire surveys with the report for this period.

<sup>73</sup>One district office did not answer this question.

Table 52: Designation of a public administration body in the state language and in the language of a national minority located on buildings

2012 <sup>74</sup>		2016		2018		2020	
number	share in %	number	share in %	number	share in %	number	share
95	77%	61	74%	88	99%	89	100%

Graph 16: Designation of a public administration body in the state language and in the language of a national minority located on buildings



The results showed that state administration bodies in 36 (40%) cases indicated the designation in a smaller font (8 district offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; one RVFA; 4 state archives; 23 labour offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority). In 53 (60%) cases, state administration bodies stated these designations in the same font: 6 district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 16 tax offices; 6 RPHA; 7 RVFA; one state archive; 4 labour offices; 13 customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority.

In 2016, state administration bodies stated these designations in 33 (54%) cases in a smaller font and in 28 (46%) cases in the same font. In 2018, state administration bodies stated these designations in 35 (40%) cases in a smaller and 53 (60%) in the same font. A comparison of the results of the last survey shows that there have been almost no changes in this area.

### 3.3.3 Official relations (questions 7 – 24 / 7 – 20)

The questionnaire survey also focused on the fulfilment of the obligations of state administration bodies in the area of the use of languages of national minorities in official contact. In this context, the survey focused on verifying the number of employees of state administration bodies that have a spoken and written command of the language of the relevant national minority; employee participation and their assessment of language competence training; the manner in which the language of the national minority is used in official contact; providing information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in official contact at the office of a state administration body; registration of written submissions from citizens in the language of the national minority and provided answers to the submissions in question in both in the state language and in the language of the national minority, and use of the language of the national minority in the official agenda.

In the given area, Act no. 184/1999 Coll. stipulates that a public administration body and its employees are obliged to use the state language in official communication and, under the

<sup>74</sup>In connection with state administration bodies, we should note that the program "Effective, reliable and open administration" of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic was implemented in 2012 and created a new structure of local state administration bodies, and abolished the vast majority of specialized local state administration bodies. The results of the questionnaire survey from 2012 reflect the original structure of the state administration before the implementation of the said reform.

conditions established by this Act and special laws, they also use the language of a national minority. At the same time, it also stipulates that employees of a public administration body are not obliged to speak the language of a national minority. That does not mean that they do not have a command of this language. Within the framework of information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in accordance with Government Provision no. 535/2011 Coll., public administration bodies state the way in which they ensure the use of the language of the national minority in official contact. Information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in official contact – both spoken and written – shall be in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. placed in a visible place at the office of the body, while the cited law does not specify in which place the mentioned information shall be published. According to Act no. 184/1999 Coll., public administration bodies in municipalities defined by this Act receive submissions, written documents and evidence from citizens in the languages of national minorities and provide answers to submissions submitted in the languages of national minorities both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority. Act no. 184/1999 Coll. stipulates the use of the language of a national minority in the official agenda (especially minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information intended for the public and the agenda of churches and religious societies intended for the public, with the exception of registry offices).

#### **Ensuring the use of the language of a national minority in official contact**

A questionnaire survey revealed that the total number of employees of the state administration bodies was 3,265. Of this number, 679 were employees of district offices; 1,421 employees of labour offices; 456 employees of tax offices; 329 customs officials; 171 RVFA employees; 183 employees of RPHA and 26 employees of state archives.

Out of the total number of 3,265 employees of state administration bodies, 985 (30%) employees have a spoken and written command of the language of the national minority, and 833 (26%) only spoken form. Of the total number of employees, the number of employees of state administration bodies with a command of the minority language in spoken and written form has increased from 23% (2018) to 30% (2020). There was also an increase in the number of employees who have a spoken command of the language of a national minority, from 22% (2018) to 26% (2020).

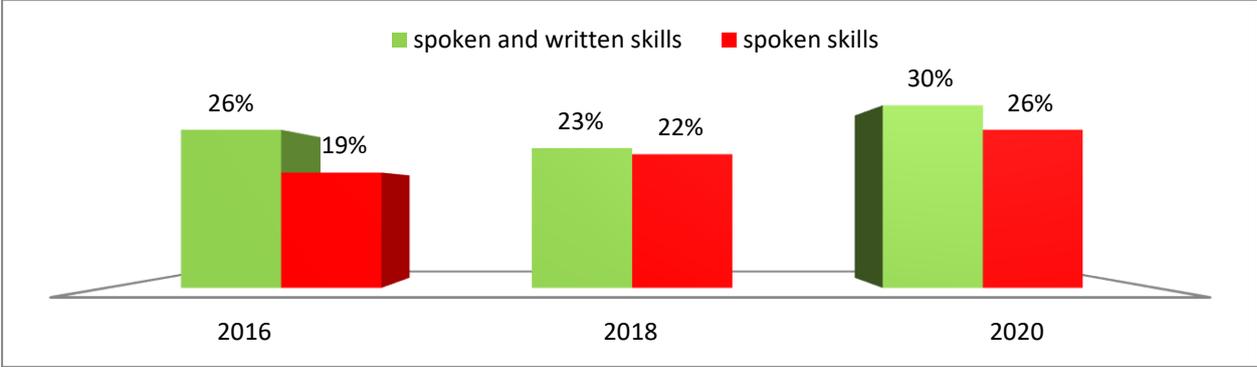
*Table 53: Share of employees who have the command of the language of a national minority in spoken and written form, and employees with spoken language skills only in 2020*

<b>state administration body</b>	<b>total number of employees</b>	<b>written and spoken language skills</b>	<b>share in %</b>	<b>spoken language skills</b>	<b>share in %</b>
<b>district offices</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>18 %</b>
<b>labour offices</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>tax offices</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>customs offices</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>RVFA</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>RPHA</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>state archives</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,265</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>26%</b>

Table 54: Comparison of the number and share of employees who have a command of the language of a national minority in 2016, 2018 and 2020

period	written and spoken language skills	share in %	spoken language skills	share in %
2016	936	26%	681	19%
2018	940	23%	883	22%
2020	985	30%	833	26%

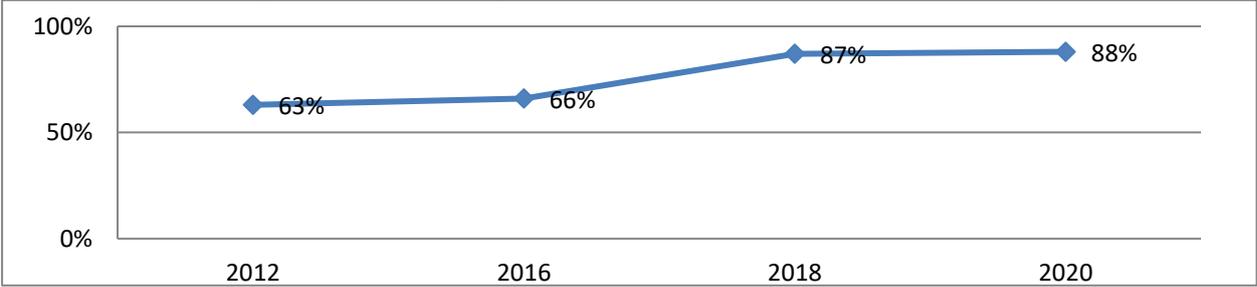
Graph 17: Comparison of the number and share of employees who have a command of the language of a national minority in 2016, 2018 and 2020



The state administration bodies were asked to state the way in which they ensure the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official contact. According to the results of the survey, 78 (88%) state administration bodies ensure this exclusively through their employees who are able to communicate in the minority language, of which: 27 labour offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 9 district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 14 tax offices; 10 customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 7 RVFA; 6 RPHA and 5 state archives. In 4 cases (4%), state administration bodies provided this possibility through interpreting or translation services, of which two tax offices and two customs offices. In 7 cases (8%), state administration bodies ensured this possibility by a combination of the above methods or in another way (5 district offices, of which two district offices based in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; one customs office and one RVFA).

The results for 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2020 show that there has been an increase in the number of state administration bodies that ensure the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official contact through their internal employees. In 2012 (63%), 2016 (66%), 2018 (87%) and 2020 (88%).

Graph 18: Ratio of state administration bodies that ensure the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official contact through their internal employees



The number of state administration bodies that ensured the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official contact through interpretation or translation services increased slightly: in 2016 (2.5%), 2018 (3%) and 2020 (4%). The number of state administration bodies that use a combination of several methods or use another method of providing this option varies significantly every year: in 2012 (15%), 2016 (22%), 2018 (6%) and 2020 (8%).

### **Language competence education**

For the first time, the questionnaire survey examined whether and what number of the employees of district offices participated in language competence training aimed at maintaining and improving the level of language proficiency of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a special regulation. Furthermore, the evaluation of the mentioned education, the reasons for non-participation, and the preliminary interest in participating in such education in the next period were ascertained by the survey. In the case of other state administration bodies, the interest in language competence education was ascertained by the given survey. Language competence education was surveyed in connection with the Decree of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 126/2017 Coll., laying down details on the training of civil servants. The Decree stipulates that language competence training for civil servants is aimed at maintaining and improving the level of command of a national minority language for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a separate regulation<sup>75</sup>.

The results show that 12 (86%) district offices participated in language competence education in the given period, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. Two (14%) district offices did not participate, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. Out of the total number of 1,024 employees of district offices, 74 (7%) employees took part in language competence education. Out of 12 district offices that participated in language competence education, 8 (67%) district offices considered the education in question to be useful and 4 (33%) district offices to be very useful. Of the two district offices which did not take part in that training, one district office stated as a reason that the staff had a sufficient command of the given language, and one district office justified its non-participation by doubting the possibility of learning the language through only one course.

33 (37%) state administration bodies (12 district offices, of which two district offices residing in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 9 labour offices; 3 tax offices; 3 RPHA; 2 customs offices; two RVFA and 2 state archives) expressed interest in language competence education

52 (58%) state administration bodies (15 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 13 tax offices; 11 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 RVFA; 3 RPHA; 3 state archives, 2 district offices did not express their interest in the language competence education. 4 (5%) state administration bodies did not answer this question: 3 labour offices and one RVFA.

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<sup>75</sup>The special provision is, for purposes of this Decree, the Government Provision No. 221/1999 Coll., issuing a list of municipalities, where Slovak citizens belonging to national minorities make up at least 20% of the population, as amended.

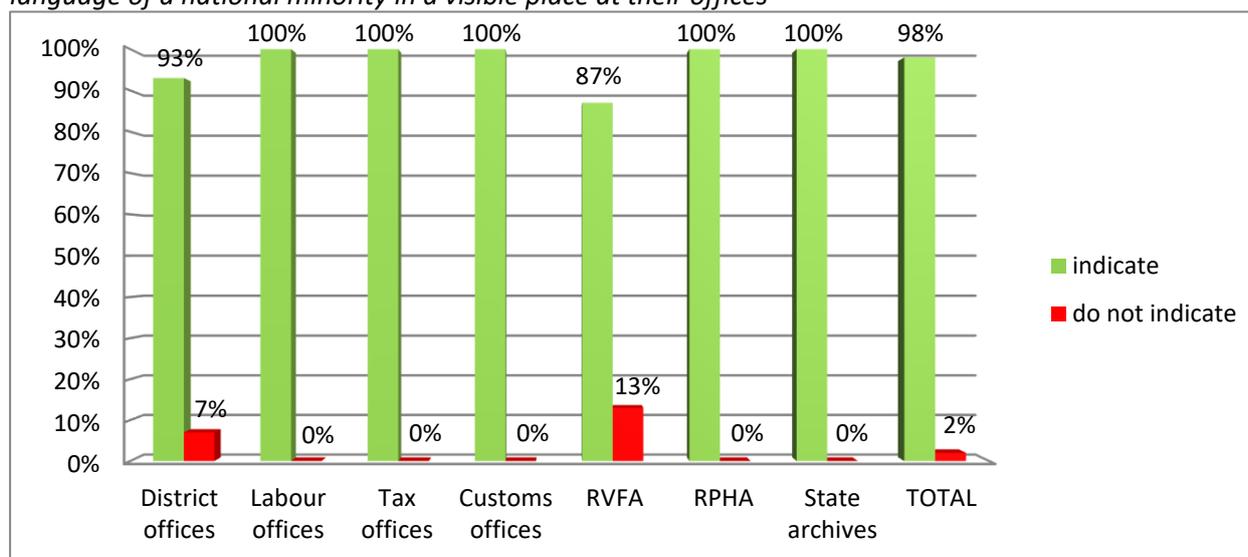
## Information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority

Pursuant to Act no. 184/1999 Coll. and § 1 of the Government Provision of the SR no. 535/2011 Coll. implementing certain provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., the state administration bodies shall be obliged to provide information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in a visible place at each of their offices. The questionnaire survey ascertained whether the state administration bodies ensured the publication of the given information, and in what language and in what way.

Table 55: State administration bodies that report the information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in a visible place at their offices

state administration body	total number	yes	share in %	no	share in %
district offices	14	13	93	1	7%
labour offices	27	27	100%	0	0%
tax offices	16	16	100%	0	0%
customs offices	13	13	100%	0	0%
RVFA	8	7	87%	1	13%
RPHA	6	6	100%	0	0%
state archives	5	5	100%	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2%</b>

Graph 19: State administration bodies that indicate information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in a visible place at their offices



Below are 87 (98%) state administration bodies that stated that they had fulfilled their legal obligation: 27 labour offices, of which one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 13 district offices, of which two district offices based in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 16 tax offices; 7 RVFA; 6 RPHA and 5 state archives. Two (2%) state administration bodies did not fulfil this obligation, of which one district office and one RVFA.<sup>76</sup>

Of the state administration bodies that fulfilled this legal obligation, 77 (89%) provided information in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority (24 labour offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 16 tax offices; 13

<sup>76</sup>The following legal obligation was not fulfilled by: one district office (Trebišov district office, Kráľovský Chlmec branch) and one RVFA (RVFA Šaľa).

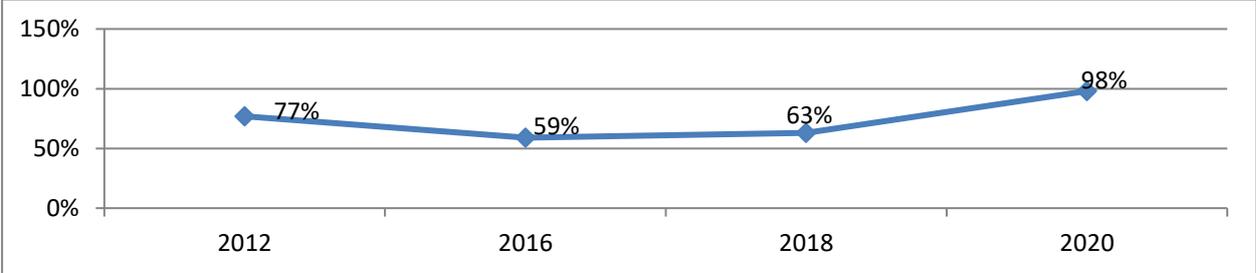
customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, 8 district offices, of which two district offices residing in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, 6 RVFA, 5 RPHA and 5 state archives). 9 (10%) state administration bodies provided information in the state language (5 district offices, two labour offices, one RVFA and one RPHA). One (1%) state administration body (labour office) provided information only in the language of the national minority.

Of the state administration bodies that published this information, 23 (26%) used the official board for this purpose (7 customs offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 6 tax offices; 4 labour offices; 3 district offices and 3 RVFA). 42 (48%) state administration bodies used the information board for this purpose (17 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 7 tax offices; 5 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 4 customs offices, 4 state archives, 3 RPHA and two RVFA). A combination of the above methods or another method (on the website) was used by 20 (23%) state administration bodies (4 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 3 tax offices; 6 labour offices; 3 RPHA; two customs offices and two RVFA). Two (2%) state administration bodies did not answer this question (one district office; one state archive).

Following the results of this section, we can be summarized that 98% of state administration bodies have fulfilled their legal obligation to provide information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in a visible place at the office of the state administration body. Of this number, 89% of state administration bodies provided this information in the state language and in the language of the national minority, 10% provided it in the state language, and 1% in the language of the national minority. 48% of the above-mentioned state administration bodies published this information on the information board and 26% used the official board for this purpose.

Based on the results from 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2020, we can state that the number of state administration bodies that have fulfilled the legal obligation to provide information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority at the office of the state administration body has been rising. For comparison purposes: in 2012<sup>77</sup> (77%), 2016 (59%), 2018 (63%) and 2020 (98%).

*Graph 20: Number of state administration bodies that have fulfilled their legal obligation to provide information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in a visible place at the office of the state administration body*



<sup>77</sup>In 2012, there was a different structure and number of state administration bodies that fulfilled the legal obligation in question, but after the legislative change in 2013, several state administration bodies ceased to exist or transformed into new bodies with different powers and competencies.

### **Designated office hours to handle matters in the language of a national minority**

The questionnaire survey also examined whether the state administration bodies had determined the office hours for handling matters in the language of the national minority. If a state administration body is not able to fully ensure the use of a minority language in official contact through its employees, it may, in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll., determine specific office hours to handle matters in the language of a national minority. Out of the total number of 89 state administration bodies, 6 state administration bodies (7%) determined the office hours to handle matters in the language of a national minority (5 tax offices and one district office). 83 state administration bodies (93%) did not determine these hours (27 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 13 district offices, of which two district offices located in the municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 13 customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, 11 tax offices, 8 RVFA, 6 RPHA and 5 state archives). Comparing the data from the last survey, we can state that there has been a reduction in the number of state administration bodies that have determined these office hours. In 2018, the office hours were determined by (13%) state administration bodies, and in 2020 (7%).

### **Written submissions in the language of a national minority**

The survey found that 12 (13%) state administration bodies registered written submissions in the language of a national minority (6 labour offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 3 district offices; one customs office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; RPHA and one state archive). 77 (87%) state administration bodies did not register such submissions.

A total of 279 written submissions were registered by the state administration bodies in the area of the social system; social protection of children and social guardianship; state social benefits; material need; public administration; business entities; needs of district offices; real estate cadastre; environmental care; registry issues; inheritance proceedings; compliance with sanitary regulations; the possibility of using the Ruthenian language. Of the total number of 279 written submissions, 216 were in Hungarian and 63 in Ruthenian language. Out of these 279 submissions, labour offices received 204 submissions<sup>78</sup>, district offices 63 submissions, state archives 9 submissions, customs offices two submissions and RPHA received 1 submission.

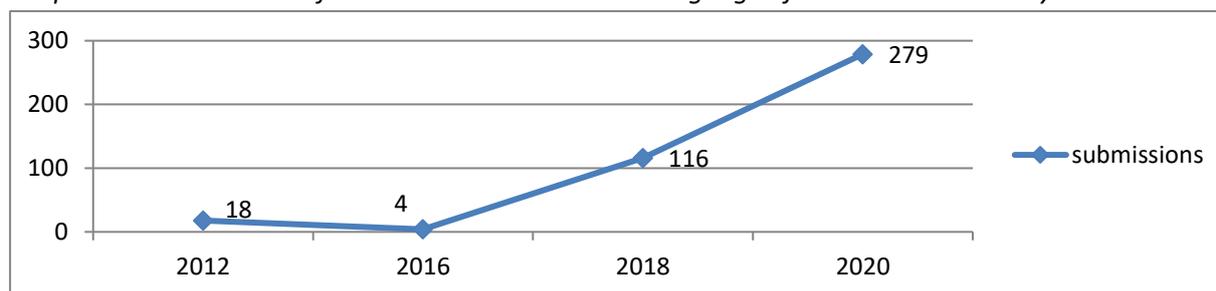
The total number of written submissions in the language of a national minority was in 2012 (18 submissions), 2016 (4 submissions), 2018 (116 submissions) and 2020 (279 submissions). The results show that the total number of submissions in the language of a national minority is constantly growing in the given area. The number of answers provided in the language

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<sup>78</sup>Some labour offices stated that they did not record the exact number of written submissions in the languages of national minorities. The areas covered by these submissions were as follows: registered written submissions from citizens in the language of the national minority in the area of social protection of children and social guardianship; social assistance, alternative maintenance obligation and state social benefits; cash contributions to compensate the disabled.

of a national minority and the number of state administration bodies that have received written submissions in the language of a national minority remains unchanged.<sup>79</sup>

Graph 21: Total number of written submissions in the language of the national minority



### Official agenda

The official agenda (especially minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information intended for the public, and the agenda of churches and religious societies) intended for the public, with the exception of the registry office, is permitted by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. to be kept<sup>80</sup> in municipalities both in the state language also in the language of the national minority. Of all the relevant state administration bodies, as many as 5 (6%) state administration bodies (2 district offices; 2 state archives and one RPHA) partially used this opportunity. 83 (93%) state administration bodies (11 district offices, of which two district offices residing in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 27 labour offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, 16 tax offices, 13 customs authorities, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority, 8 RVFA, 5 RPHA and 3 state archives) did not use this option. One (1%) state administration body (district office) did not answer this question. State administration bodies have seldomly used this possibility within infringement proceedings; when organizing exhibitions and conferences; in the statements; in the research agenda; in the field of educational and consulting activities; in professional competence for epidemiologically serious activities; in the performance of state health supervision and official food control.

A comparison of the results from 2018 and 2020 shows that there was a slight improvement in the given area. This option was partially used in 2018 (2 state administration bodies) and in 2020 (5 state administration bodies).

### 3.3.4 Bilingual documents (questions 25 – 41 / 21 – 37)

In accordance with § 2 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., the questionnaire survey also monitored the area of issuing bilingual official forms and public documents (permits, authorizations, confirmations, statements and declarations) by state administration bodies on request, both in the state language and in the language of the national minority. State administration bodies are

<sup>79</sup>The number of state administration bodies that received written submissions in the language of a national minority was as follows: in 2012 (6), 2016 (4), 2018 (5) and 2020 (12). The number of state administration bodies that provided answers to written submissions also in the language of the national minority was in 2012 (6), 2016 (4), 2018 (two) and 2020 (5).

<sup>80</sup>Municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority and having permanent residence in the given municipality make up at least 15% of the population in the municipality according to two consecutive censuses.

able to fulfil this obligation if they have at their disposal the above-mentioned forms and professional terminology in the languages of national minorities. At the same time, issuing decisions of a state administration body in administrative proceedings was being ascertained, both in the state language in a true copy as well as in the language of a national minority.

### Official forms

The results show that the issuance of bilingual official forms was provided by 24 (27%) state administration bodies (6 RVFA; 6 customs offices; 5 tax offices; 3 RPHA; 2 district offices and 2 state archives). Bilingual forms were partially issued by 26 (29%) state administration bodies (11 tax offices; 7 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 3 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 1 RPHA; 2 RVFA and 2 state archives). 38 (43%) state administration bodies did not provide their citizens with bilingual official forms within the scope of their competence (27 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 9 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority and 2 RPHA) . One (1%) state administration body (state archive) did not answer this question. The bilingual forms covered the following areas: land and forestry; licenses for the self-employed; change of name and surname; taxes and finance – guidelines for tax forms; general tax guidelines; cash declaration; excise duty documents; public health – requests and tests to obtain professional competence; a request for a decision and a legally binding statement; food hygiene and animal health; at-home hog slaughter; registration of plant and animal products; providing information; archiving – research regulations; research letter; requests for administrative information and administrative agenda forms.

Table 56: Issuance of bilingual official forms

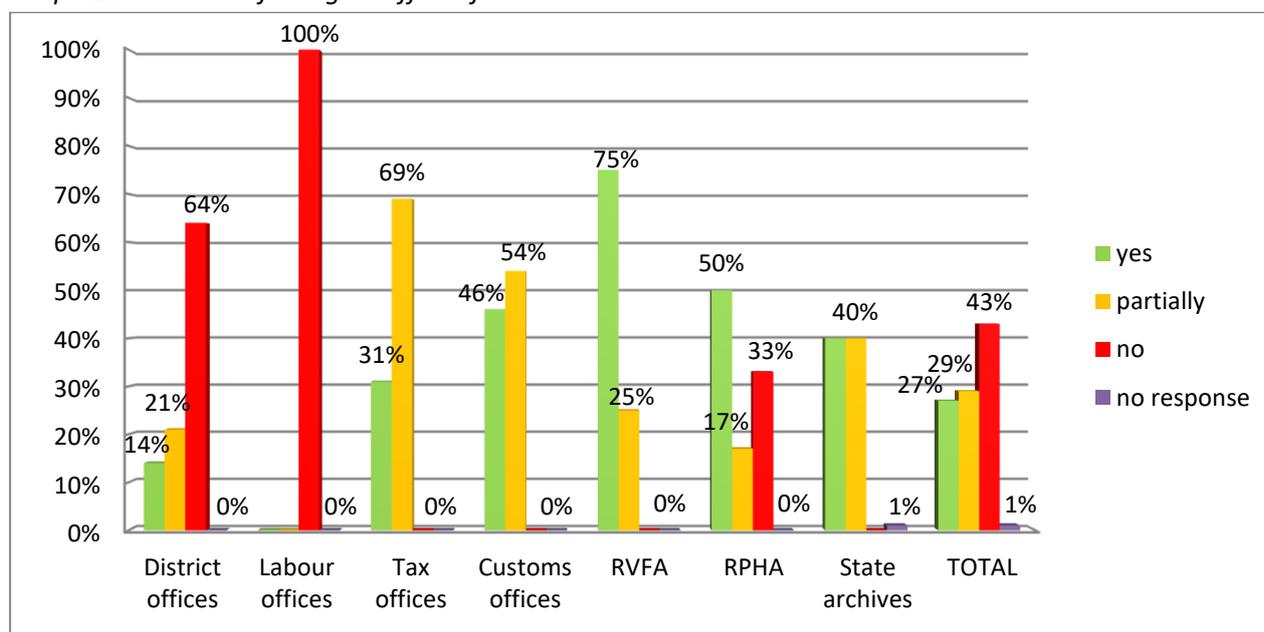
state administration body	total number	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %
district offices	14	2	14%	3	21%	9	64%	0	0%
labour offices	27	0	0%	0	0%	27	100%	0	0%
tax offices	16	5	31%	11	69%	0	0%	0	0%
customs offices	13	6	46%	7	54%	0	0%	0	0%
RVFA	8	6	75%	2	25%	0	0%	0	0%
RPHA	6	3	50%	1	17%	2	33%	0	0%
state archives	5	2	40%	2	40%	0	0%	1	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1%</b>

A comparison of the results from 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2020 shows that the number of state administration bodies that have provided bilingual official forms for citizens is constantly increasing, and at the same time, the number of state administration bodies that have not provided these forms is decreasing. For comparison, in 2012 they were provided by (7%) state administration bodies, in 2016 (5%), in 2018 (3%) and in 2020 (27%). On the other hand, in 2012 the forms were not provided by (90%) state administration bodies, in 2016 (91%), in 2018 (71%) and in 2020 (43%).

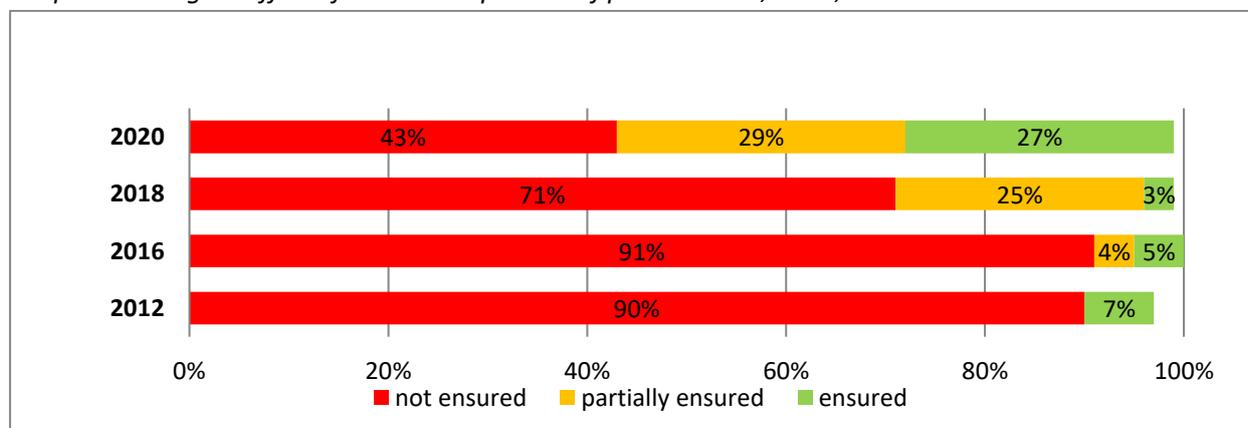
Table 57: Bilingual official forms – comparison of periods 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2020<sup>81</sup>

period	did not ensure	share in %	partially ensured	share in %	ensured	share in %
2012	112	90%	-	-	9	7%
2016	75	91%	3	4%	4	5%
2018	63	71%	22	25%	3	3%
2020	38	43%	26	29%	24	27%

Graph 22: Issuance of bilingual official forms



Graph 23: Bilingual official forms – comparison of periods 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2020



In the given period, requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms 4 (5%) were received by the state administration bodies (two district offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; one state archive; one RVFA). All these state administration bodies issued bilingual official forms upon request. In this connection, 275 bilingual official forms were issued (270 by state archives; 4 by district offices and 1 by RVFA).

### Public documents

The results show that in the given period no state administration body received requests for the issuance of bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements

<sup>81</sup>The remaining percentage of state administration bodies did not answer the given question.

and declarations), i.e. in the state language and in the language of the national minority<sup>82</sup>. No state administration body has also issued any bilingual public documents. A comparison of the results from 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2020 shows that there were no changes in this area.

### **Administrative Procedure**

During the period under review, no state administration body received submissions in the language of a national minority, in which it would initiate administrative proceedings, and no state administration body received requests for issuing bilingual decisions. In the given period, no state administration body issued a decision in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority.

Decisions in the language of a national minority with the designation of a municipality both in the language of a national minority and in the state language were issued by one (1%) state administration body (RPHA). The given decisions were not issued or were not applicable for 71 (80%) state administration bodies. 17 (19%) state administration bodies did not provide answers to this question. A comparison of the results from 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2020 shows that there were no significant changes in this area. Decisions made in a true copy also in the language of the national minority were issued as follows: in 2012 (3 decisions); 2016 (0 decisions), 2018 (0 decisions) and 2020 (one decision).

#### **3.3.5 Negotiations at the office/workplace (questions 42 – 44 / 38 – 40)**

Public administration body negotiations in a municipality defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. may be according to § 3 of this Act also be carried out in the language of a national minority, if all present agree. The results show that 8 (9%) state administration bodies (4 labour offices; two district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; one customs office and one state archive) also used the language of the national minority for negotiations. 17 (19%) state administration bodies also used the language of the national minority for negotiations (4 district offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 4 tax offices; two customs offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 3 RPHA, 3 labour offices and one RVFA. 64 (72%) state administration bodies did not use the language of the national minority for negotiations (20 labour offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 12 tax offices; 10 customs offices; 8 district offices; 7 RVFA; 4 state archives and 3 RPHA ).

Negotiations in the state language were conducted by 66 (74%) state administration bodies (19 labour offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 12 tax offices; 11 customs offices; 9 district offices; 7 RVFA; 4 RPHA and 4 state archives) . Negotiations in the state language and in the language of a national minority were conducted by 23 (26%) state administration bodies (8 labour offices; 5 district offices, of which two district offices based in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 4 tax offices; two customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, two RPHA, one RVFA and 1 state archive). A comparison of the results from 2016, 2018 and 2020 shows that there has been a slight improvement in the use of minority languages in this area, an increase by 10%.

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<sup>82</sup>One labour office (Labour Office Stropkov, Medzilaborce branch) did not answer this question.

Negotiations in the state language were conducted in 2016 (79%) by state administration bodies, in 2018 (76%) and in 2020 (74%). Negotiations in the language of a national minority were also conducted in 2016 (20%) by state administration bodies, in 2018 (16%) and in 2020 (26%).

An important factor related to this area is the language in which materials are being prepared for the negotiations. In this context, the survey found that 3 (3%) state administration bodies (one district office; one RPHA and one state archive) partially prepared materials for the negotiations also in the language of the national minority. 86 (97%) state administration bodies (27 labour offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 16 tax offices; 13 district offices, of which two district offices based in the municipality with the Ruthenian national minority, prepared the given materials, 13 customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, 8 RVFA, 5 RPHA and 4 state archives).

### **3.3.6 Informing the public (questions 45 – 51 / 41 – 47)**

State administration bodies in municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. are obliged to provide information within their competence on generally binding legal regulations on request both in the state language and in the language of the national minority. The survey revealed that no state administration body received requests for the provision of this information during the period under review.

Act no. 184/1999 Coll. it also regulates the obligation to report information, signs and announcements concerning the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public in municipalities that are defined by this Act, both in the state language and in the language of the national minority. This legal obligation applies to everyone, regardless of the nature of the entity (public administration bodies, natural persons-entrepreneurs and legal entities). In this connection, the state administration bodies were asked whether the information, signs and announcements in question were also provided in the language of the national minority in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the state administration body. The results showed that 50 (56%) state administration bodies did not fulfil this legal obligation (15 tax offices; 11 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 10 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 district offices, 4 state archives, 3 RVFA and one RPHA). In this context, it should be noted that some public administration bodies, which did not provide this information, stated that the information in question was published in the form of pictograms (5 customs offices and 3 tax offices). Information, signs and announcements were provided by 30 (34%) state administration bodies (15 labour offices; 5 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 RPHA; 3 RVFA and two customs offices) and partially provided by 8 (9% ) state administration bodies (3 district offices, of which two district offices with a seat in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; two RVFA; one tax office; one customs office; one state archive and one labour office). One district office (1%) did not answer this question.<sup>83</sup>

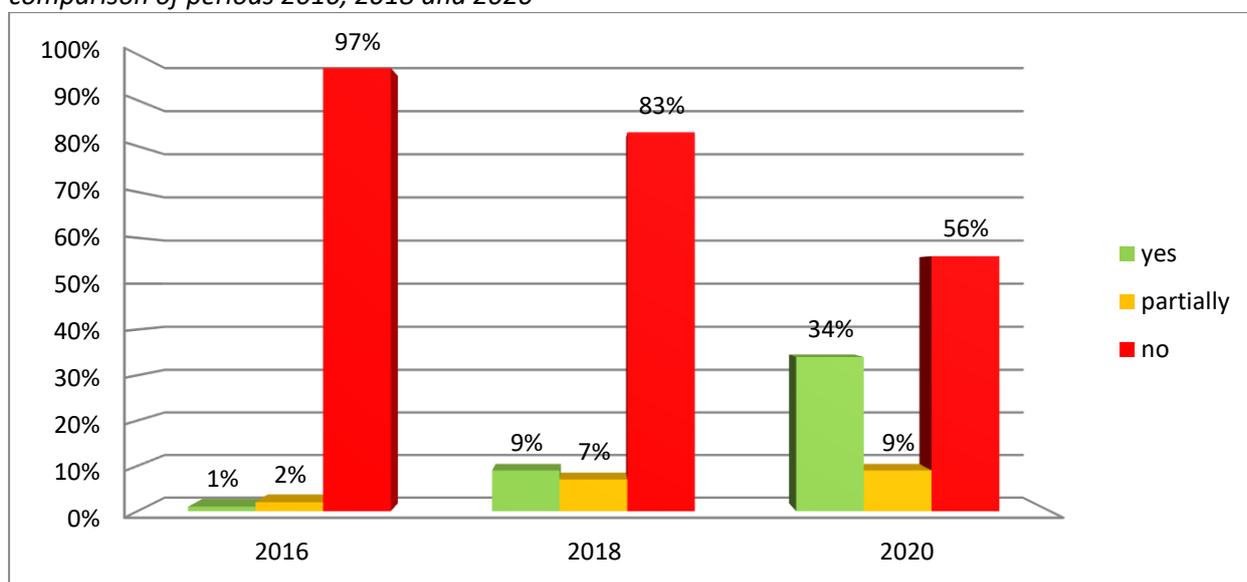
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<sup>83</sup>One district office stated that it has all important information published in the language of the national minority at the district office, which is the superior department.

Table 58: Provision of information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority

state administration body	total number	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %	no response	share in %
district offices	14	5	36%	2	14%	6	43%	1	7%
labour offices	27	15	56%	1	4%	11	41%	0	0%
tax offices	16	0	0%	1	6%	15	94%	0	0%
customs offices	13	2	15%	1	7%	10	77%	0	0%
RVFA	8	3	37.5%	2	25%	3	37.5%	0	0%
RPHA	6	5	83%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%
state archives	5	0	0%	1	20%	4	80%	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1%</b>

Graph 24: Provision of information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority – comparison of periods 2016, 2018 and 2020

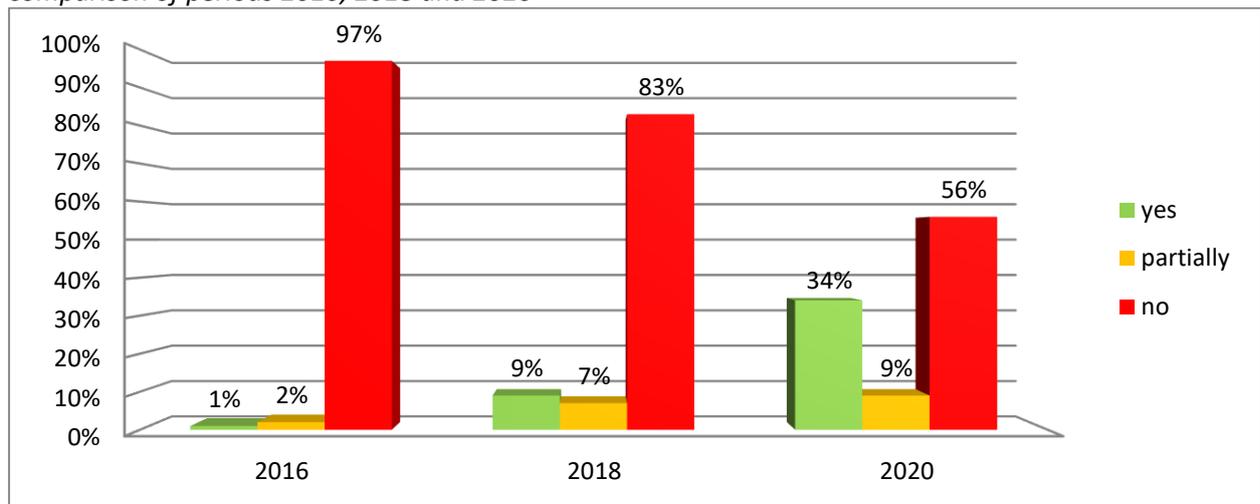


A comparison of the results from 2016, 2018 and 2020 shows that there has been a significant change in this area. The number of state administration bodies that provided this has increased continuously. For comparison, in 2016 (1%) of state administration bodies fulfilled the legal obligation to provide the given information in question, in 2018 (9%) and in 2020 (34%). On the other hand, in 2016 (97%) of state administration bodies did not fulfil this legal obligation, in 2018 (83%) and in 2020 (56%).

Table 59: Provision of information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority – comparison of periods 2016, 2018 and 2020

period	yes	share in %	partially	share in %	no	share in %
<b>2016</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56%</b>

Graph 25: Provision of information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority – comparison of periods 2016, 2018 and 2020



Pursuant to § 4 (6) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., the municipalities defined by this Act have the possibility to report all signs and announcements intended for informing the public<sup>84</sup> also in the language of the national minority. In this connection, the state administration bodies were asked whether the signs and announcements in question are also indicated in the language of the national minority, and what places they are placed in. The results show that 41 (46%) state administration bodies (13 labour offices; 9 district offices, including two district offices based in a municipality with a Ruthenian minority; 5 state archives; 5 RVFA; 4 customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, 3 RPHA and two tax offices). 39 (44%) state administration bodies (3 district offices; 13 tax offices; 8 customs offices; 3 RPHA; 2 RVFA; 10 labour offices) partly indicated them in the language of the national minority. 9 state administration bodies (10%) did not report the given signs and announcements in the language of the national minority (4 labour offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; two district offices; one tax office; one customs office; one RVFA). The results show that there was an increase in the number of state administration bodies that report the signs and announcements in the language of the national minority, and, on the contrary, the number of state administration bodies that did not report them in the language of the national minority decreased. For comparison, in 2018 they were indicated (19%) by state administration bodies and in 2020 (46%). On the contrary, the given signs and announcements were not indicated in 2018 by (48%) state administration bodies and in 2020 by (10%) state administration bodies. The state administration bodies indicated the given inscriptions and announcements as follows: In approximately 25 cases (31%)<sup>85</sup>, these signs and announcements were published in several ways (on a website; on an official bulletin board, on an information board or elsewhere); in 17 cases<sup>86</sup> (21%) on the information board; in 11 cases<sup>87</sup> (14%) elsewhere – e.g. entrance halls,

<sup>84</sup>Especially in shops, sports grounds, restaurants, on the streets, by and over roads, at airports, bus stations, and railway stations.

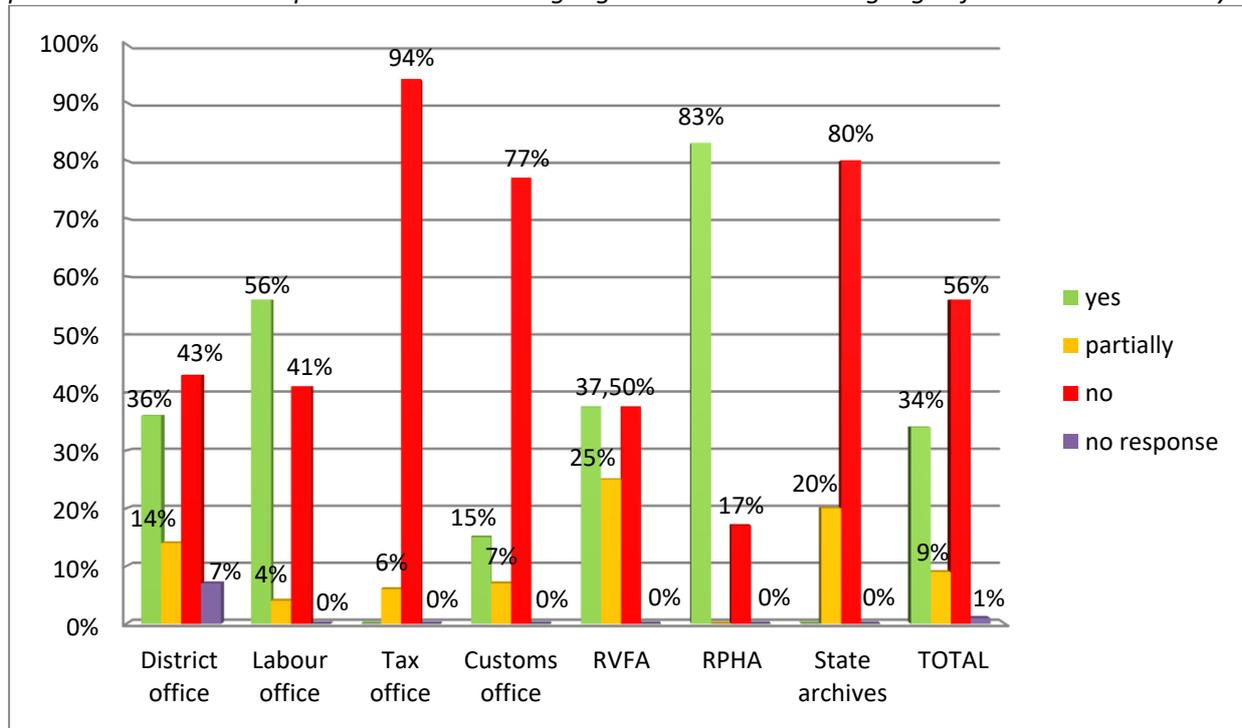
<sup>85</sup>8 district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 5 customs offices; 4 RPHA; 3 tax offices; 3 state archives, and two RVFA.

<sup>86</sup>6 employment offices; 4 tax offices; two district offices; two customs offices; 2 state archives and one RVFA.

<sup>87</sup>7 employment offices; two tax offices and two RVFA.

entrance doors in the corridors; at the doors in the client centre or on the walls; in 5 cases<sup>88</sup> (approx. 6%) on the official notice board and in one case<sup>89</sup> (approx. 1%) on the website. 21 (26%) state administration bodies<sup>90</sup> did not provide answers to this question.

*Graph 26: Provision of information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority*



Act no. 184/1999 Coll. stipulates relevant information (method for establishing the liable person, its powers and competencies and a description of the organizational structure, place, time and methods in which the information can be obtained; information on where the request, proposal, complaint, complaint, or other submission can be submitted, place, time and manner of lodging an appeal and the possibility of judicial review of the liable person's decision, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the liable person in processing all applications, requests and other submissions, including relevant time limits to be complied with; regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the liable person acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the liable person, the schedule of administrative fees charged by the liable person for administrative acts and the list of fees for disclosing information) that are also being published in the language of the national minority. A questionnaire survey mapped this area to find out whether important information is published both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority. The results showed that the information in question was not published by 60 (approximately 67%) state administration bodies (17 labour offices, of which one located in the municipality with Ruthenian national

<sup>88</sup>Two customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; one district office; one tax office, and one RVFA.

<sup>89</sup>One customs office.

<sup>90</sup>10 employment offices; 5 tax offices; two customs offices; two RPHA; one district office, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority and one RVFA.

minority; 14 tax offices; 10 customs offices; 9 district offices; 6 RVFA; 3 state archives and one RPHA). The information was published by 19 (21%) state administration bodies (7 labour offices; 4 district offices, of which is located in a municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 3 customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, two RPHA; two RVFA; one tax office). The information was partially published by 9 (10%) state administration bodies (3 labour offices; 3 RPHA; 2 state archives and 1 tax office). One district office (1%) in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority did not provide an answer to this question. The results show that there has been a slight improvement in this area. Important information both in the state language and in the language of the national minority was not published in 2016 by (77%) state administration bodies, in 2018 (79%) and in 2020 (67%).

### **3.3.7 Financial costs (questions 52 – 53 / 48 – 49)**

For the first time, the Report mapped the area of financial support of the use of languages of national minorities in official contact by state administration bodies. The mapping was done through 9 thematic questions focused on the funds spent in the given period. One of the reasons for the mapping was also the evaluation of the results of the final questions of previous reports, which in the framework of creating conditions for the use of minority languages in official contact also pointed to insufficient funding for translation or interpretation services. The results show that 49 (55%) state administration bodies did not spend any funds on any thematic area (16 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 6 district offices; 5 RPHA and 2 RVFA). Some public administration bodies failed to spend the funds for given areas, and they justified it as follows: no funds at disposal; the areas in question are not applicable to them; these cases did not occur; translations are provided by their own employees in a quality corresponding to their capabilities. 10 (11%) state administration bodies partially spent funds to support the use of languages of national minorities in official contact (4 RVFA; 3 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 2 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian minority national minority and one RPHA) in the total amount of EUR 1,361.50. 30 (34%) state administration bodies did not provide answers to any questions (8 labour offices; 6 district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs offices and 2 RVFA).<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>91</sup>Specifically, these were the following state administration bodies: Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Dunajská Streda; Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Dunajská Streda, Šamorín branch; Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Dunajská Streda, Veľký Meder branch; Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Komárno; Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Komárno, Hurbanovo branch; Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Komárno, Kolárovo branch; Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Trebišov, Streda nad Bodrogom branch; Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Trebišov, Čierna nad Tisou branch; Dunajská Streda District Office; Galanta District Office; Levice District Office, Šahy branch and Želiezovce branch; Šaľa District Office; Rimavská Sobota District Office; Humenné District Office, Medzilaborce branch; Bratislava Tax Office, Senec branch; Trnava Tax Office, Dunajská Streda branch; Trnava Tax Office, Galanta branch; Trnava Tax Office, Šamorín contact centre; Banská Bystrica Tax Office, Rimavská Sobota branch; State Archive in Banská Bystrica, branch of the archive Rimavská Sobota; State Archive in Košice, branch of the archive Rožňava; State Archive in Nitra, branch of archive Komárno; State Archive in Nitra, branch of archive Nové Zámky; State Archive in Nitra, branch of the archive Šaľa; Trnava Customs Office, Dunajská Streda branch; Trnava Customs Office, Veľký Meder branch; Nitra Customs Office, Štúrovo branch; Košice Customs Office, Rožňava branch; Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Dunajská Streda; Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Galanta

The results of the survey for individual thematic areas in relation to the funds spent are as follows.

A total of EUR 422.82 was used for two by (2%) state administration bodies for the preparation of translations of responses to submissions written in the language of a national minority (both in the state language and also in the language of a national minority), of which EUR 117.89 in one district office in a village national minority, and EUR 304.93 by one RVFA. The question was not answered by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 3 RVFA). No funds were spent by 54 (61%) state administration bodies (17 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 7 district offices; 6 RPHA and 4 RVFA).

No funds were used in the area of using the language of a national minority in the official agenda (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.). The question was not answered by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 3 RVFA). No funds were spent by 56 (63%) state administration bodies (17 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 8 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 RPHA and 5 RVFA).

In the area of providing bilingual official forms (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language), a total of EUR 144.41 was used at one district office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. The question was not answered by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 3 RVFA). No funds were spent by 55 (62%) entities (17 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 7 district offices; 6 RPHA and 5 RVFA).

No funds were used in the area of issuing bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations). The question was not answered by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 3 RVFA). No funds were spent by 56 (63%) state administration bodies (17 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 8 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 RPHA and 5 RVFA).

No funds were used in the area of issuing decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of the national minority. The question was not answered by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 3 RVFA). No funds were spent by 56 (63%) state administration bodies (17 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one

municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 8 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 RPHA and 5 RVFA).

No funds were used in the area of providing information on generally binding legal regulations both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority. The question was not answered by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 3 RVFA). No funds were spent by 56 (63%) state administration bodies (17 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 8 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 RPHA and 5 RVFA).

A total of EUR 153.43 was used by 2 (2%) state administration bodies – 2 RVFA – in the area of presenting information (both in the language of the minority and in the state language) on the threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public that are under the administration of the office. The question was not answered by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 3 RVFA). No funds were spent by 54 (61%) state administration bodies (17 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 8 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 RPHA and 3 RVFA).

For the signs and announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority, a total of EUR 1,135.92 was used by 8 (9%) state administration bodies (EUR 682.96 by 4 RVPS; EUR 398.96 by 3 labour offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, and EUR 54 by one RPHA). 30 (34%) state administration bodies did not provide answers (8 labour offices; 6 district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs offices and 2 RVFA). No funds were spent by 51 (57%) state administration bodies (16 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 8 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 RPHA and 2 RVFA).

In the area of publishing important information<sup>92</sup> also in the language of the national minority on the official notice board, on the website and in periodicals, a total of EUR 225.58 was used by two (2%) state administration bodies (two district offices, of which one municipality with Ruthenian national minority). The question was not answered by 34 (38%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 6 district

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<sup>92</sup>Information on the composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, instructions, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, the time and manner in which information and information on where natural or legal persons may submit an application, proposal, complaint, grievance or other submissions may be obtained, the procedure to be followed by the municipality in processing all applications, proposals and other submissions, including relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for acts and actions of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for making information and information on the management of public funds and the management of the municipal property.

offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 4 RVFA). No funds were spent by 53 (60%) entities (17 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 6 district offices; 6 RPHA and 4 RVFA).

### **Estimated amount of funds**

Another set of questions in 9 thematic areas focused on determining the estimated amount of funds needed to fulfil legal obligations and possibilities in the field of using the languages of national minorities in official contact by state administration bodies for a calendar year.

The results show that 41 (46%) state administration bodies did not quantify funds for any thematic area of the use of national minority languages in official contact (12 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 5 district offices, 3 RVFA and one RPHA). Some public administration bodies justified the non-quantification of funds by not being able to estimate the amount of funds; they have no funds available; they do not issue the documents in question; so far no client has filed a submission in the language of a national minority or there has been a reason for interpretation or translation services. 17 (19%) state administration bodies partially quantified financial resources to ensure the use of languages of national minorities in official contact (6 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian nationality; 5 district offices, of which two district offices based in a municipality with Ruthenian nationality). 4 RPHA and two RVFA) in the total amount of EUR 53,370.99. The given funds would be used in 62 cases. 31 (35%) state administration bodies did not provide answers to any of the questions (9 labour offices; 4 district offices; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs offices; 3 RVFA and one RPHA).

The results of the survey for individual thematic areas in relation to the estimated funds are as follows.

A total of EUR 1,475 was estimated for translations of responses to submissions written in the language of the national minority and in the state language by 6 (7%) state administration bodies (EUR 525 for 3 RPHA; EUR 450 for two employment offices one RVFA). Funds were not quantified by 50 (56%) state administration bodies (15 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 10 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 3 RVFA and 2 RPHA). 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices; 4 district offices; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs offices; 4 RVFA and one RPHA) did not answer this question.

In the area of using the language of a national minority in the official agenda (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.), a total of EUR 6,382 was estimated for 4 (5%) state administration bodies (EUR 5,282 for one district office in a municipality with Ruthenian national minority, EUR 800 for two RPHA and EUR 300 for one labour office). No funds were spent by 51 (57%) state administration bodies (16 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 8 district offices; 4 RVFA and 3 RPHA). The question was not answered by 34 (38%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices; 5 district offices, of which in one

municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 4 RVFA and 1 RPHA).

In the area of providing bilingual official forms (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language), a total of EUR 3,580,25 was quantified for 7 (8%) state administration bodies (EUR 1,980.25 for one district office in a municipality with Ruthenian national minority, EUR 600 for 4 RPHA, EUR 500 for one RVFA and EUR 500 for 1 labour office). Funds were not quantified by 49 (55%) state administration bodies (16 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 9 district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, 3 RVFA and one RPHA). The answer was not provided by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 district offices; 4 customs offices; 4 RVFA and 1 RPHA).

In the area of issuing bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, confirmations, statements and declarations), a total of EUR 11,420.50 was quantified for 5 (6%) state administration bodies (EUR 8,920.50 for one district office; EUR 1,000 for two RPHA; EUR 1,000 for RVFA and EUR 500 for labour office). Funds were not quantified by 51 (57%) state administration bodies (16 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 9 district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, 3 RVFA and 3 RPHA). The answer was not provided by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 district offices; 4 customs offices; 4 RVFA and 1 RPHA).

In the area of issuing decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority, a total of EUR 7,960.15 was quantified for 8 (9%) state administration bodies (EUR 3,200 for 3 RPHA; EUR 3,060.15 for one district office in a municipality with Ruthenian minority, EUR 1,000 for one RVFA and EUR 700 for 3 labour offices). Funds were not quantified by 51 (57%) state administration bodies (14 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 9 district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, 3 RVFA and 2 RPHA). The answer was not provided by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 district offices; 4 customs offices; 4 RVFA and 1 RPHA).

In the area of providing information on generally binding legal regulations both in the state language and in the language of a national minority, a total of EUR 8,544.35 was quantified for 5 (6%) state administration bodies (EUR 4,944.35 for one district office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; EUR 2,300 for two RPHA and EUR 1,300 for 2 labour offices). Funds were not quantified by 51 (57%) state administration bodies (16 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 8 district offices; 4 RVFA and 3 RPHA). The question was not answered by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (9 labour offices; 5 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 4 RVFA and 1 RPHA).

A total of EUR 3,621.45 was quantified by 6 (7%) state administration bodies (EUR 2,631.45 for one district office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; EUR 600 for

two labour offices; EUR 200 for one RVFA and EUR 190 for two RPHA) in the area of presenting information (both in the language of the minority and in the state language) on the threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public that are under the administration of the office. No funds were spent by 50 (56%) state administration bodies (15 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 8 district offices; 4 RVFA and 3 RPHA). The question was not answered by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices; 5 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 3 RVFA and 1 RPHA).

For the signs and announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority, a total of EUR 3,482.64 was used by 11 (12%) state administration bodies (EUR 1,536.39 for 5 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian nationality, EUR 310 for 3 RPHA, EUR 1,536.25 for two district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority and EUR 100 for one RVFA). Funds were not quantified by 45 (51%) state administration bodies (12 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; 7 district offices; 4 RVFA and 2 RPHA). The question was not answered by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices; 5 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 3 RVFA and 1 RPHA).

In the area of publishing important information<sup>93</sup> also in the language of the national minority on the official notice board, on the website and in periodicals, a total of EUR 6,854,65 was used by 10 (11%) state administration bodies (EUR 5,454.65 for 4 district offices; EUR 700 for 2 RPHA; EUR 600 for 3 labour offices and EUR 100 for 1 RVFA). No funds were spent by 46 (52%) state administration bodies (14 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 11 tax offices; 9 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 district offices; 4 RVFA and 3 RPHA). The question was not answered by 33 (37%) state administration bodies (10 labour offices; 5 district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 5 tax offices; 5 state archives; 4 customs authorities and 3 RVFA and 1 RPHA).

Conclusion: The intention of the newly included range of questions in the current survey was to determine the financial complexity of supporting tasks arising from the use of Hungarian and Ruthenian languages in official contact. However, this intention cannot be fulfilled on the basis of the collected data, as the surveyed subjects did not respond to the questions in the survey or did not provide relevant data in the area of spent and estimated funds. Out of the total number of 89 state administration bodies, 10 (11%) state administration bodies partially

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<sup>93</sup>Information on the composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, instructions, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, the time and manner in which information and information on where natural or legal persons may submit an application, proposal, complaint, grievance or other submissions may be obtained, the procedure to be followed by the municipality in processing all applications, proposals and other submissions, including relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for acts and actions of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for making information and information on the management of public funds and the management of the municipal property.

indicated the amount of funds spent on supporting the use of languages of national minorities in official contact for the calendar year in the total amount of EUR 1,361.50. 55% of state administration bodies did not quantify these costs and 34% of state administration bodies did not answer the questions asked. 10 entities that provided partial data do not correspond to the whole spectrum of state administration bodies because it does not include state archives, tax offices and customs offices. Out of the total number of 89 state administration bodies, 17 (19%) state administration bodies partially indicated the amount of estimated funds for supporting the use of languages of national minorities in official contact for the calendar year in the total amount of EUR 53,370.99. 46% of state administration bodies did not quantify these costs and 35% of state administration bodies did not answer the questions asked. 17 entities that provided partial data do not correspond to the whole spectrum of state administration bodies because it repeatedly does not include state archives, tax offices and customs offices. It is therefore not possible to quantify the average annual expenditures of all the state administration bodies from the above-mentioned data. The data provided show that, for example, one district office (District office in Medzilaborce) quantified funding in the areas in question in the total amount of EUR 32,059.60. Despite the above, the given findings represent the first step towards the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in practice by state administration bodies. It's highly desirable to carry on monitoring this area and the specific ministries shall approach this issue responsibly.

### **3.3.8 Final questions (questions 54 – 59/50 – 55)**

The creation of conditions for the use of Hungarian and Ruthenian languages in official contact was assessed by 56 (63%) state administration bodies as problem-free (18 labour offices; 11 tax offices; 10 customs offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; 7 district offices, in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, 5 RVFA and 5 state archives). 26 (29%) state administration bodies assessed the creation of conditions as partially problematic (8 labour offices; 5 district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; 5 RPHA; 4 tax offices; 3 RVFA and one customs office). 7 (8%) state administration bodies considered them to be problematic (two district offices; two customs offices; one tax office; one RPHA and one labour office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority). The above means that there has been a slight increase in the number of state administration bodies that assess the area in question as problem-free, and at the same time there has been a slight decrease in the number of state administration bodies that assess the area in question as problematic. For comparison, in 2016 (55%) state administration bodies assessed the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact as problem-free, in 2018 (48%) and in 2020 (63%). On the other hand, in 2016 (13%) state administration bodies assessed the creation of these conditions as problematic, in 2018 (14%) and in 2020 (8%).

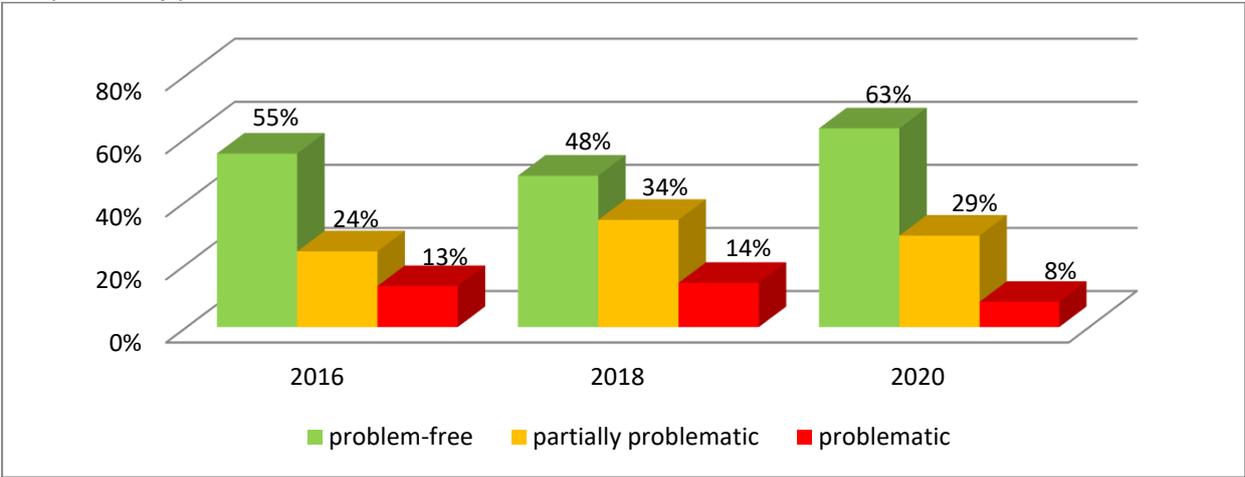
Out of the total number of 33 (37%) state administration bodies, 17 (52%) state administration bodies (5 RPHA; 4 labour offices; 3 tax offices; 3 RVFA and two district offices) indicated a combination of factors as the main causes of the problems: insufficient number of qualified employees; lack of funding and technical support. Other factors (absence of forms in minority languages; compliance with deadlines for issuing bilingual documents; complex terminology of translations from the legal point of view; absence of professional literature; most

laws are not translated into the language of the national minority; time-consuming factor) were indicated by 9 (27 %) state administration bodies (4 labour offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority; two district offices, of which one in a municipality with Ruthenian national minority; one tax office; one customs office and one RPHA). Lack of professional support was indicated by 4 (12%) state administration bodies (two district offices; one customs office and one labour office). Lack of qualified staff was indicated by 3 (9%) state administration bodies (one district office; one tax office and one customs office).

Table 60: Creating conditions for the use of Hungarian and Ruthenian languages in official contact – comparison of periods 2016, 2018 and 2020<sup>94</sup>

period	problem-free	share in %	partially problematic	share in %	problematic	share in %
2016	45	55%	20	24%	11	13%
2018	43	48%	30	34%	12	14%
2020	56	63%	26	29%	7	8%

Graph 27: Creating conditions for the use of Hungarian and Ruthenian languages in official contact – comparison of periods 2016, 2018 and 2020



Discussing administrative offenses in the area of using the languages of national minorities falls under the competence of the Government Office. The questionnaire survey monitored complaints received by state administration bodies on the violations of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. Out of the total number of 89 entities, two complaints were delivered to two (2%) state administration bodies (one district office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority; one customs office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority). One call for the elimination of shortcomings was delivered by the Plenipotentiary's office to the district office upon the initiative of a natural entity that had been drawing attention to compliance with § 2 (3) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. to publish information on the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official contact both in the state language and in the language of a national minority. The complaint was resolved without delay. The second complaint was addressed to the customs office regarding the use of the language of national minorities. The complaint in question was dealt with by sending a reply to the complainant in the state language by the customs office. A comparison of the results from 2016, 2018 and 2020 shows that there were no changes in this area.

<sup>94</sup>The remaining percentage of state administration bodies did not answer the question.

### 3.3.3 Information of individual state administration bodies

#### 3.3.3.1 District offices

Of the total number of 14 district offices, 12 were in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, and two district offices were located in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority.

##### **Signs in the language of the national minority (questions 1 – 6)**

The designation of a municipality in the language of a national minority was indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on the buildings of a public administration body (under Act no. 184/1999 Coll.) in 13 (93%) district offices, of which 2 residing in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. One (7%) district office did not fulfil this obligation.<sup>95</sup> The obligation to designate a public administration body with a sign located on buildings in the state language and in the language of a national minority is stipulated by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. This obligation was fulfilled by all 14 district offices. 8 (57%) district offices, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian national minority, indicated these designations in the language of the national minority with an equivalent in the state language in smaller font, and 6 (43%) district offices indicated it in the same font, of which in one municipality with Ruthenian nationality minority.

##### **Official contact (questions 7 – 24)**

The obtained results show that the total number of employees of district offices was 679, of which 41 employees work at the so-called external workplaces located outside the headquarters of district offices. Of the total number of employees of district offices, 209 (31%) had a command of the language of the national minority in spoken and written form and 127 (18%) in spoken form.

The results show that 12 (86%) district offices participated in language competence education in the given period, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. Two (14%) district offices did not participate, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. 74 employees took part in language competence training. Out of 12 district offices that participated in language competence education, 8 (67%) district offices considered the education in question to be useful and 4 (33%) district offices to be very useful. Of the two district offices which did not take part in that training, one district office stated as a reason that the staff had a sufficient command of the given language, and one district office justified its non-participation by doubting the possibility of learning the language through only one course. Interest in language competence training was expressed by 12 (86%) district offices, of which in 11 municipalities with Hungarian and two district offices based in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. Two (14%) district offices were not interested in this training.

As part of the questionnaire survey, 9 district offices (64%) stated that they had provided the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official contact through their

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<sup>95</sup>This refers to Rožňava District Office.

employees communicating in the language of a national minority, of which 8 municipalities with Hungarian minority and one municipality with Ruthenian minority. The combination of methods (through its own employees and through interpreting or translation services) was used by 5 district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. One district office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority provided this possibility in another way (through employees from another department).

The legal obligation to provide information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in a visible place at the office was fulfilled by 13 (93%) district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. One district office in a municipality with a Hungarian national minority did not fulfil this obligation.<sup>96</sup> 5 (39%) district offices provided the information in question in the state language. 8 (61%) district offices, of which two with a seat in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, stated the information in question in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority. 5 (39%) district offices published the above information on an information board, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. 3 (23%) district offices published information on the official notice board, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. The combination of the above methods was used by 4 (31%) district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. One district office (7%) did not answer this question.

Office hours to handle matters in the language of a national minority were designated by one (7 %) district office.<sup>97</sup> 13 (93%) district offices did not designate these hours, of which two district offices in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. Written submissions in the language of the national minority were received by 3 district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. A total number of 63 submissions were related to environmental issues; real estate cadastre; public administration; business or district office issues. 62 submissions were responded to in Hungarian and Ruthenian language. One (7%) district office partially used the opportunity to handle its official agenda (defined by law) both in the state language and in the language of the national minority (notes of the minutes while discussing an offense). One district office (7%) did not answer this question.

### **Bilingual documents (questions 25 – 41)**

The results of the questionnaire survey show that bilingual forms were fully issued at two (14%) district offices, partially issued at 3 (21%) district offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority. Within the scope of their competence, 9 (64%) district offices did not provide bilingual official forms for citizens. Two (14%) district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, received requests for bilingual official forms in the given period. One district office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority issued 4 bilingual official forms upon request. No district office received requests for bilingual public documents. No district office received submissions in the language of a national minority, which would initiate administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority. In the given

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<sup>96</sup>This refers to Trebišov District Office, Kráľovský Chlmec branch.

<sup>97</sup> This refers to Senec District Office.

period, no district office issued a decision in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority.

#### **Negotiations at the office/workplace (questions 42 – 44)**

The data from the survey showed that two (14%) district offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority, used the language of the national minority during negotiations of the district office and 4 (29%) district offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority, used it partially. In the case of 9 (64%) district offices, the language of the national minority was not used at the negotiations. The negotiations were conducted in the state language and in the language of the national minority at 5 (36%) district offices, of which two district offices residing in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. The materials for the negotiations were partly prepared in the state language and in the language of the minority at one district office.

#### **Informing the public (questions 45 – 51)**

Information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and in the language of the national minority was not indicated at all by 6 (43%) district offices.<sup>98</sup> The information in question was indicated by 5 (36%) district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority and at two (14%) district offices indicated it partially. One (7%) district office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority did not answer this question.

Signs and announcements intended to inform the public in the language of the national minority were indicated by 9 (approximately 64%) district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. The above information was partially indicated by two (14%) district offices. In two (14%) cases, the district offices did not report the signs and announcements in question in the language of the national minority. One (7%) district office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority did not answer this question. Out of the 11 district offices that fully or partially published the given signs and announcements, two (18%) indicated them on the information board; one (9%) on the official notice board and 8 (73%), of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority used a combination of options for publication (on the website; on the official notice board on the information board; in the entrance areas; entrance doors in the corridors; at the door in the client center).

Important information was not published at 9 (64%) district offices and was partially published at 4 (29%) district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national

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<sup>98</sup>This refers to the following district offices: Dunajská Streda District Office\*; Komárno District Office\*; Nové Zámky District Office, Štúrovo branch; Rimavská Sobota District Office; Košice-okolie District Office, Moldava nad Bodvou branch; Trebišov District Office, Kráľovský Chlmec branch.

\* Note! In these two cases, the district offices stated that the information was issued by another professional body, not a local state administration body. The Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic is not the owner of the district office building, while the building administrator uses the combined designations of pictograms + text in Slovak. The DO requested in 2018 the provision of specific text tables in the Hungarian language but these were not delivered. They are being procured centrally.

minority. One (7%) district office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority did not answer this question.

### **Costs of supporting the use of languages of national minorities in official contact (questions 52 – 53)**

In the area of the use of the Hungarian language in official contact, 6 (43%) district districts did not spend any funds on 9 monitored thematic areas in the calendar year. Two (14%) district offices partially spent funds, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority in the total amount of EUR 487.88. 6 (43%) district offices did not provide an answer, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. 5 district offices did not quantify funds in the area of estimated financial costs. 5 district offices, of which two district offices based in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, partially quantified the funds for supporting the use of the languages of national minorities in official contact. No answers were provided by 4 district offices.

### **Final questions (questions 54 – 59)**

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact was assessed as problem-free by 7 (50%) district offices, of which one district office based in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. 5 (36%) district offices, of which one district office based in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, assessed the creation of conditions as partially problematic. Two (14%) district offices considered them as problematic.<sup>99</sup> 7 district offices that assessed these conditions as problematic or partially problematic indicated lack of professional support as a reason; other factors (meeting the deadlines; absence of forms in minority languages); lack of qualified staff or a combination of the above.

One complaint on the violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. was delivered to one (7%) district office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. The complaint was delivered on the basis of a submission by a natural person that had been drawing attention to compliance with § 2 (3) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. to publish information on the possibility of using the language of a national minority in official contact both in the state language and in the language of a national minority. The complaint was resolved without delay.

### **3.3.3.2 Labour, social affairs and family offices**

Of the total number of 27 labour offices, 26 were in municipalities with the Hungarian national minority and one in the municipality with the Ruthenian national minority.

### **Signs in the language of the national minority (questions 1 – 6)**

The designation of a municipality in the language of a national minority was indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on the buildings of a public administration body (under Act no. 184/1999 Coll.) in 26 (96%) labour offices, of which 1 residing

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<sup>99</sup>This refers to the following district offices: Rimavská Sobota District Office; Košice-okolie District Office, Moldava nad Bodvou branch.

in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. One (4%) labour office did not fulfill this obligation.<sup>100</sup> The obligation to designate a public administration body with a sign located on buildings in the state language and in the language of a national minority was fulfilled by all labor offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. In 23 (85%) cases, labour offices indicated these designations in the same font, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, and in 4 (15%) cases in smaller font.

#### **Official contact (questions 7 – 20)**

The total number of employees of labour offices and their workplaces equals to 1,421, as the survey found in the given period. Of the total number of employees of labour offices, 444 (31%) had a command of the language of the national minority in spoken and written form and 371 (27%) in spoken form. 15 (56%) labour offices did not show interest in language competence training, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. On the contrary, 9 (33%) labour offices expressed their interest and 3 (11%) labour offices did not answer this question. All 27 (100%) labour offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority, supported the use of the language of the national minority in official contact through their employees that are able to communicate in the language of the national minority.

The legal obligation to provide information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority in a visible place at the office was fulfilled by 27 (100%) labour offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. 24 (89%) labour offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority, indicated this information in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority, two (7%) labour offices did it in the state language and one (4%) labour office in the language of a national minority. The information in question was published in the following places: in 17 (63%) cases, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority, on the information board, and in 4 (15%) cases on the official board. A combination of the above methods or another method (at the entrance door, corridors, or reception of the office) was used by 6 (22%) labour offices.

The office hours for handling issues in the language of a national minority were not determined by 27 (100%) labour offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. A total of 204 written submissions in the language of the national minority were received by 6 (22%) labour offices<sup>101</sup>. The given submissions were related to the area of the social system; social protection of children and social guardianship; state social benefits and social assistance benefits. Some labour offices considered registered written submissions from citizens in the language of the national minority in the area of social protection of children and social guardianship; social assistance, alternative maintenance obligation and state social benefits; cash contributions to compensate the disabled as unregistered data. In addition to the state language, the answers to the submissions in question were also provided in the language of the national minority by one labour office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. In 27 cases (100%), labor offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, did not

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<sup>100</sup>This refers to Revúca Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Tornaľa branch

<sup>101</sup>Out of the total number of 6 labour offices to which written submissions were sent, one labour office was sent an anonymous submission.

use the possibility of keeping an official agenda defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority.

#### **Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 37)**

The results of the questionnaire survey show that bilingual forms for the citizens were not provided by all 27 (100%) labour offices. According to the responses, no labour office received requests for bilingual official forms and public documents during the period under review. No labour office has issued bilingual public documents. No labour office received submissions in the language of a national minority, which would initiate administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority. In the given period, no labour office issued a decision in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority.

#### **Negotiations at the Office / Workplace (questions 38 – 40)**

The results of the survey showed that 4 (15%) labour offices also used the language of the national minority for negotiations. In the case of 20 (74%) labour offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, the language of the national minority was not used. At 3 (11%) labour offices, the language of the national minority was partially used during the negotiations.

When asked in which language do 19 (70%) labour offices conduct negotiations, one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority stated that the negotiations had been conducted in the state language, and 8 (30%) labour offices negotiated in the state language and in the language of the national minority.

Materials for the negotiations were prepared in the state language at all 27 labour offices, including one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority.

#### **Informing the public (questions 41 – 47)**

Information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and in the language of the national minority was indicated by 15 (55%) labour offices, while one (4%) labour office indicated this information partially. The information in question was not provided by 11 (41%) labour offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority.

Signs and announcements intended to inform the public in the language of a national minority were indicated by 13 (48%) labour offices and partly by 10 (37%) labour offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. 4 (15%) labour offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority did not indicate the given signs and announcements. Out of the total number of 23 labour offices that indicated or partially indicated the information, 6 (26%) of them indicated it on the information board and in 7 (30%) cases elsewhere. 10 (44%) labour offices did not provide answers to this question.

Important information was not published at 17 (63%) labour offices. Information was fully published at 7 (26%) labour offices and partially at 3 (11%) labour offices.

### **Costs of supporting the use of languages of national minorities** (questions 48 – 49)

In the area of the use of languages of national minorities in official contact, 16 (59%) labour offices did not spend any funds in the calendar year. 3 (11%) labour offices partially spent funds, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority in the total amount of EUR 398.96. 8 (30%) labour offices did not provide an answer. 12 (approximately 44 %) labour offices did not quantify funds in the area of estimated financial costs. 6 (22 %) labour offices, of which one labour office based in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, partially quantified the funds for supporting the use of the languages of national minorities in official contact in the total amount of EUR 6,536.39 9 (33%) labour offices did not provide answers.

### **Final questions** (questions 50 – 55)

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact was assessed by 18 (67%) labour offices as problem-free. 8 (30%) labour offices assessed the creation of conditions as partially problematic. One (approximately 4%) labour office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority considered them to be problematic. Out of the total number of 9 labour offices that assessed these conditions as problematic or partially problematic, 8 (89%) labour offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, were referring to the lack of qualified staff; insufficient funding, insufficient technical support and other factors. Lack of professional support was indicated by one (11%) labour office.

The labour offices did not receive any complaints on the violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

### **3.3.3.3 Tax offices**

The questionnaire survey involved a total of 16 tax offices in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority.

### **Signs in the language of the national minority** (questions 1 – 6)

The designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on the buildings of state administration bodies was in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. at all 16 tax offices. The obligation to designate a public administration body located on buildings and written in the state language and in the Hungarian language was also fulfilled by all 16 tax offices, all signs written in the same font.

### **Official contact** (questions 7 – 20)

The total number of tax office employees (branches/contact points) amounted to 456. Out of the total number of employees, 102 (22%) had the command of the language of the national minority in the spoken and written form, 163 (36%) in the written form. 13 (81%) tax offices did not show interest in language competence education and 3 (19%) tax offices did show interest.

14 (88%) tax offices stated in the questionnaire survey that the use of the Hungarian language in official contact was being provided through their employees. Two (12%) tax offices provided this possibility through interpretation or translation services.<sup>102</sup>

The obligation to have the information (in a visible place) on the use of the Hungarian language at the office was fulfilled by all 16 tax offices, while this information was indicated in the state language and in the language of the national minority. In 7 (44%) cases, the tax offices published this information on the information board, 6 (37%) tax offices used the official board, and 3 tax offices (19%) used a combination of the above methods or another method. 5 (31%) tax offices determined the office hours to handle matters in the language of the national minority and 11 (69%) did not specify such office hours. No tax office registered a written submission from citizens in the Hungarian language, nor used the opportunity to keep the official agenda as defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority.

#### **Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 37)**

The results of the questionnaire survey show that bilingual forms were partially issued at 11 (69%) tax offices and fully issued at 5 (31%) tax offices. The bilingual forms covered the following areas: taxes and finance – instructions on tax forms; general tax guidelines; cash declarations and excise duty documents. No tax office received requests for bilingual official forms and public documents during the period under review. No tax office has issued bilingual public documents. No tax office received submissions in the Hungarian language, which would initiate administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority. In the given period, no tax office issued a decision in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the Hungarian language.

#### **Negotiations at the office/workplace (questions 38 – 40)**

The survey data showed that 12 (75%) tax offices did not use the Hungarian language for negotiations. 4 (25%) tax offices partially used the language of the national minority as a language for the negotiations. The negotiation was conducted by 12 (75%) tax offices in the state language and 4 (25%) tax offices in the state language and in the language of the national minority. Materials for the negotiations were prepared in the state language at all 16 (100%) tax offices.

#### **Informing the public (questions 41 – 47)**

Information on threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and in the language of the national minority was not indicated at all by 15 (94%) tax offices. One (6%) tax office partially provided this information.<sup>103</sup> In this context, we should note that this information was published via pictograms at 3 tax offices.

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<sup>102</sup>This refers to Nitra Tax Office, Komárno branch, and Nitra Tax Office, Nové Zámky branch.

<sup>103</sup>This refers to Nitra Tax Office, Komárno branch

Signs and announcements intended to inform the public in the Hungarian language were partly indicated at 13 (81%) tax offices and fully indicated at two (13%) tax offices. In one (6%) case, the tax office did not indicate the given signs and announcements in the language of the national minority. The total number of tax offices that indicated or partially indicated the information in question amounted to 15. Of this number, in 3 (20%) cases they indicated the given information using several methods (on the website; on the official notice board, on the information board or elsewhere); in 4 (27%) cases on the information board; in two (13%) cases elsewhere (e.g. entrance hall, entrance doors in corridors or corridor walls) and in one (7%) case on the official notice board. 5 (33%) tax offices did not answer the question where the signs and announcements in question were indicated.<sup>104</sup>

Important information on the official bulletin board, on the website and in the published periodicals (both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority) was not published at 14 (88%) tax offices. The information in question was published in one (6%) case and partially published in one (6%) case.

#### **Costs of supporting the use of languages of national minorities (questions 48 – 49)**

In the area of the use of the Hungarian language in official contact, 11 (69%) tax offices did not spend any funds in the calendar year. 5 (31%) tax offices did not provide an answer. 11 (69 %) tax offices did not quantify funds in the area of estimated financial costs. 5 (31%) tax offices did not provide an answer.

#### **Final questions (questions 50 – 55)**

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact was assessed by 11 (69%) tax offices as problem-free. 4 (25%) tax offices assessed the creation of conditions as partially problematic. One (6%) tax office in the municipality considered them problematic. Out of the total number of 5 tax offices that assessed these conditions as problematic or partially problematic, 3 (60%) tax offices were referring to the combination of factors (lack of qualified staff; insufficient amount of funds, and lack of professional support); in one (20%) case – other factors and in another one (20%) – an insufficient number of qualified staff. The tax offices did not receive any complaints on the violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

#### **3.3.3.4 Customs offices**

The questionnaire surveyed 13 customs offices, of which 12 in municipalities with the Hungarian national minority, and one customs office in the municipality with the Ruthenian national minority.

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<sup>104</sup>This refers to Trnava Tax Office, Dunajská Streda branch; Trnava Tax Office, Galanta branch; Trnava Tax Office, Šamorín contact centre; Košice Tax Office, Veľké Kapušany contact centre; Košice Tax Office, Kráľovský Chlmec contact centre.

### **Signs in the language of the national minority (questions 1 – 6)**

The designation of a municipality in the language of a national minority was indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on the buildings of a public administration body (under Act no. 184/1999 Coll.) in 13 customs offices, of which 1 residing in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. The obligation to designate a public administration body with a sign located on buildings in the state language and in the language of a national minority was fulfilled by customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. All customs offices indicated this designation in the same font.

### **Official contact (questions 7 – 20)**

The survey found that in the period under review, the total number of employees in branches and duty stations of customs offices amounted to 329. Out of the total number of employees, 117 (36%) had the command of the language of the national minority in the spoken and written form, 95 (29%) in the written form. 11 (85%) customs offices did not show interest in language competence training, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. On the contrary, two (15%) customs offices expressed interest.<sup>105</sup>

In the questionnaire survey, 10 (77%) customs offices stated that they used the language of the national minority in official contact through their employees communicating in the language of the national minority, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority; two (15%) customs offices used interpretation or translation services and one (8%) customs office used a combination of the above methods or otherwise.

All 13 (100%) customs offices fulfilled the legal obligation to provide information in a visible place on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority at the offices of the authority. 7 (54%) customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, provided information on the official notice board; 4 (31%) customs offices on the information board and two customs offices (15%) used a combination of the above methods or otherwise.

Designated office hours to handle matters in the language of a national minority were not determined by any customs office. In the given period, one (8%) customs office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority registered two written submissions in the language of a national minority from citizens in the area of using the Ruthenian language. Responses were provided to these submissions. No customs office kept the official agenda defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority.

### **Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 37)**

The results of the questionnaire survey show that bilingual official forms were issued at 6 (46%) customs offices and partially provided at 7 (54%) customs offices. The forms in question concerned excise duties, cash declarations, customs forms or general instructions. No customs office received requests for bilingual official forms and public documents during the period under review. No customs office has issued bilingual public documents. No customs office received

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<sup>105</sup>This refers to Nitra Customs Office, Komárno branch, and Michalovce Customs Office, Veľké Slemence branch.

submissions in the language of a national minority, which would initiate administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority. In the given period, no customs office issued a decision in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority.

#### **Negotiations at the Office / Workplace (questions 38 – 40)**

Survey data showed that 10 (77%) customs offices did not use the Hungarian language for negotiations; two (15%) customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, used it partially, and one (8%) customs office did use it for negotiations. Materials for the negotiations were prepared in the state language at all 13 customs offices, including one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority.

#### **Informing the public (questions 41 – 47)**

Information on threats to life, health, safety or property of citizens in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and in the language of the national minority was not indicated at all by 10<sup>106</sup> (77%) customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. The information was fully provided by two (15%) customs offices and partially by one (8%) customs office.

Signs and announcements intended to inform the public in the language of the national minority were indicated by 4 (31%) customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, and partially by 8 (61%) customs offices. One (8%) customs office did not provide the information in question. Two (15%) customs offices indicated the given announcements on the information board; two (15%) customs offices on the official board and one (8%) customs office on the website. 5 (39%) customs offices indicated the given signs and announcements using a combination of the above methods. Two (15%) customs offices did not answer this question. Important information was not published at 10 (77%) customs offices and partially published at 3 (23%) district offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority.

#### **Costs of supporting the use of languages of national minorities (questions 48 – 49)**

In the area of using the languages of national minorities in official contact, 9 (69%) customs offices, of which in one municipality with the Ruthenian national minority, did not spend any funds. 4 (31%) customs offices did not provide an answer. In the area of estimated financial costs, 9 (69%) customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, did not quantify funds. 4 (31%) customs offices did not provide an answer.

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<sup>106</sup>In this context, we should note that out of the 10 customs offices that did not provide the information in question, 5 (50%) customs offices published this information in the form of pictograms. This refers to the following customs offices: Banská Bystrica Customs Office, Rimavská Sobota branch; Košice Customs Office, Rožňava branch; Michalovce Customs Office, Ubl'a branch; Michalovce Customs Office, Veľké Slemence branch; Michalovce Customs Office, Dobrá branch.

### **Final questions (questions 50 – 55)**

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact was assessed by 10 (77%) customs offices, of which in one municipality with a Ruthenian national minority, as problem-free. One (8%) customs office considered the creation of conditions to be partially problematic. Two (15%) customs offices considered them problematic. The total number of customs offices that assessed these conditions as problematic or partially problematic was 3.<sup>107</sup> One customs office justified these conditions as insufficient knowledge of the language of a national minority; in one case it was a lack of professional support and in one case lack of qualified employees. In the area of complaints delivered to state administration bodies on violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., two complaints were received by one customs office in a municipality with a Ruthenian national minority. The complaints in question were dealt with by sending a reply to the complainant in the state language through the superior customs office.

#### **3.3.3.5 Regional veterinary and food administrations**

The questionnaire survey covered 8 RVFA in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority.

#### **Signs in the language of the national minority (questions 1 – 6)**

The designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on the buildings of state administration bodies was in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. at all 8 RVFA. The obligation to designate a public administration body located on buildings and written in the state language and in the Hungarian language was also fulfilled by all 8 RVFA, of which 7 (88 %) RVFA indicated them in the same font, and one (12 %) RVFA used a smaller font.

#### **Official contact (questions 7 – 20)**

The survey found that in the period under review, the total number of employees of RVFA amounted to 171. Out of the total number of RVFA employees, 45 (26%) had the command of the language of the national minority in the spoken and written form, 25 (14%) in the spoken form. 5 (63%) RVFA did not show interest in language competence education. On the contrary, two (25%) RVFA did show interest. One (12%) RVFA did not answer this question. The questionnaire survey shows that the use of the Hungarian language in official contact was provided by 7 RVFA (88%) through their employees communicating in the language of a national minority and one (12%) RVFA used a combination of the above method with the use of interpreting or translation services.

7 (88%) RVFA fulfilled their legal obligation to provide information (a visible place) on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority at their offices. One (12%) RVFA did not fulfil this obligation.<sup>108</sup> Out of the total number of 7 RVFA, 6 (86%) provided this information also

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<sup>108</sup>This refers to the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Šaľa.

in the state language and in the language of the national minority, while one (14%) RVFA only in the state language. The given information was published on the official notice board by 3 (43%) RVFA, and two (28.5%) RVFA published it on the information board. Two (28.5%) RVFA used a combination of these methods.

Designated office hours to handle matters in the language of a national minority were not determined by any RVFA. No RVFA registered written submissions in the language of a national minority during the period under review. No RVFA kept the official agenda defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority.

#### **Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 37)**

The results of the questionnaire survey show that 6 (75%) RVFA provided bilingual official forms for citizens within the scope of their competence, and two (25%) RVFA provided them partially. The forms covered the following areas: food hygiene and animal health; at-home hog slaughter or registration of plant and animal products. One request for the issuance of bilingual official forms was received by one RVFA during the period under review. RVFA did not issue the required forms upon the above request. No requests for the issuance of public documents were received by any RVFA during the period under review. No RVFA issued bilingual public documents. No RVFA received submissions in the Hungarian language, which would initiate administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority. In the given period, no RVFA issued a decision in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority.

#### **Negotiations at the office/workplace (questions 38 – 40)**

The data from the survey showed that 7 (88%) RVFA used the state language at the negotiations, and one (12%) RVFA partially used the state language and the Hungarian language. Negotiations in the state language were held by 7 (88%) RVFA, and negotiations in the state language and in the language of the national minority were held by one (12%) RVFA. Materials for the negotiations were prepared in the state language by all 8 (100%) RVFA.

#### **Informing the public (questions 41 – 47)**

Information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. was indicated both in the state language and in the Hungarian language by 3 (37.5%) RVFA, partially by two (25%) RVFA, and not indicated by 3 (37.5%) RVFA.<sup>109</sup>

Signs and announcements intended to inform the public in the Hungarian language were indicated by 5 (63%) RVFA, partially by two (25%) RVFA, and not indicated by one (12%) RVFA. Out of the total number of 7 RVFA, which indicated the given signs and announcements, two (29%) RVFA published them on the walls and doors of their offices and on the information board; one (14%) RVFA on the official board; one (14%) RVFA on the information board and two (29%)

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<sup>109</sup>This refers to the following RVFA: Galanta Regional Veterinary and Food Administration; Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Šaľa and Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in Rožňava.

RVFA used a combination of the above methods. One (14%) RVFA did not answer this question. Important information was not published at 6 (75%) RVFA, while two (25%) RVFA published it both in the state language and in the language of the national minority.

#### **Costs of supporting the use of languages of national minorities** (questions 48 – 49)

In the area of the use of the Hungarian language in official contact, 4 (50%) RVFA partially spent funds on supporting the use of languages of national minorities in official contact in the total amount of EUR 1,142.32, and two (25%) RVFA did not spend any funds. Two (25%) RVFA did not answer this question. In the area of estimated financial costs, 3 (37.5%) RVFA did not quantify funds, and two (25%) RVFA partially quantified funds in the total amount of EUR 3,400. 3 (37.5%) RVFA did not answer this question.

#### **Final questions** (questions 50 – 55)

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact was assessed by 5 (63%) RVFA as problem-free. 3 (38%) RVFA assessed these conditions as partially problematic due to a combination of several factors: lack of qualified staff; insufficient funding; insufficient professional support and lack of command of the Hungarian language at a professional level. No RVFA received a complaint on the use of the Hungarian language.

#### **3.3.3.6 Regional public health authorities**

The questionnaire survey covered 6 RPHA in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority.

#### **Signs in the language of the national minority** (questions 1 – 6)

The designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on the buildings of state administration bodies was in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. at 5 (83 %) RPHA. The obligation to designate a public administration body located on buildings and written in the state language and in the language of a national minority was also fulfilled by all 6 RPHA, all signs written in the same font.

#### **Official contact** (questions 7 – 20)

The survey found that in the period under review, the total number of employees of RPHA amounted to 183. Out of the total number of RPHA employees, 52 (28%) had the command of the language of the national minority in the spoken and written form, 47 (26%) in the spoken form. 3 (50%) RPHA were interested in language competence education, while other 3 (50%) RPHA did not show interest. According to the results of a questionnaire survey, all 6 (100%) RPHA ensured the use of the Hungarian language in official contact through its employees.

All 6 (100%) RPHA fulfilled their legal obligation to provide information (a visible place) on the possibilities of using the Hungarian language in official contact. 5 (83%) RPHA indicated the information in question in the state language and one (17%) RPHA in the state language as well

as in the language of the national minority. 3 (50%) RPHA published this information on the information board and 3 (50%) used several options (on the information board, official board). No RPHA determined the designated office hours to handle matters in the language of a national minority. One written submission in Hungarian in the field of hygienic conditions was registered at one RPHA. A reply to that submission was provided. The official agenda in the Hungarian language was partly held by one RPHA in the field of educational and consulting activities; in professional competence for epidemiologically serious activities; in the performance of state health supervision and official food control.

#### **Bilingual documents (questions 21 – 37)**

The results of the questionnaire survey show that 3 (50%) RPHA provided bilingual official forms for citizens within the scope of their competence, one (17%) RPHA did it partially, and two (33%) RPHA did not provide these forms. No RPHA received requests for bilingual official forms and public documents during the period under review. No RPHA has issued bilingual public documents. No RPHA received submissions in the Hungarian language, which would initiate administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority. In the period under review, one RPHA issued a decision in the language of a national minority with the designation of a municipality both in the language of a national minority and in the state language.

#### **Negotiations at the office/workplace (questions 38 – 40)**

The data from the survey showed that 3 (50%) RPHA also partially used the Hungarian language at the negotiations, and 3 (50%) RPHA did not use the language of the national minority at the negotiations. 4 (67%) RPHA conducted negotiations in the state language and two (33%) RPHA conducted negotiations both in the state language and in the language of the national minority. Materials for the negotiations were prepared in the state language at 5 (83%) RPHA, and partially in the state language, and in the language of the national minority at one (17%) RPHA.

#### **Informing the public (questions 41 – 47)**

Information, signs and announcements on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority were indicated at 5 (83%) RPHA, and not indicated at one (17%) RPHA.<sup>110</sup> Signs and announcements intended to inform the public in the language of a national minority were indicated at 3 (50%) RPHA and partially at 3 (50%) RPHA. Out of the total number of 6 RPHA, 4 (67%) RPHA indicated the given signs and announcements using a combination of the following options: on the website, on the official board, on the information board, or on the doors and walls of their offices. Two (33%) RPHA did not answer this question. Important information was also published in the language of the national minority at two (33%) RPHA, partially at 3 (50%) RPHA, and not published at one (17%) RPHA.

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<sup>110</sup>This refers to the Regional Office of Public Authority in Nové Zámky

### **Costs of supporting the use of languages of national minorities** (questions 48 – 49)

In the area of the use of the Hungarian language in official contact, 5 RPHA did not spend any funds to ensure the use of the languages of national minorities in official contact, and one RPHA partially spent a total of EUR 54. In the area of estimated financial costs, one (17%) RPHA did not quantify them, and 4 (67%) RPHA partially quantified funds in the total amount of EUR 9,625. One RPHA did not provide answers.

### **Final questions** (questions 50 – 55)

The creation of conditions for the use of the Hungarian language in official communication was assessed by 5 (83%) RPHA as partially problematic, and one RPHA (17%) assessed them as problematic. The given assessments were justified by RPHA as a combination of several factors, such as lack of qualified employees; insufficient funding and lack of technical support or high complexity of translations. No RPHA received a complaint on the use of the Hungarian language.

#### **3.3.3.7 State archives**

The questionnaire survey covered 5 branches of state archives in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority.

### **Signs in the language of the national minority** (questions 1 – 6)

The designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority stated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on the buildings of state administration bodies was in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. at 4 (80%) state archives, while one state (20%) archive did not answer this question. The obligation to designate a public administration body located on buildings and written in the state language and in the Hungarian language was also fulfilled by all state archives, of which 1 (20%) state archive indicated them in the same font, and 4 (80 %) state archives used a smaller font.

### **Official contact** (questions 7 – 20)

The survey found that in the period under review, the total number of employees of state archives amounted to 26. Out of the total number of state archives employees, 16 (62%) had the command of the language of the national minority in the spoken and written form, 5 (19%) in the spoken form. Two (40%) state archives were interested in language competence education, while other 3 (60%) state archives did not show interest.

According to the results of the survey, all state archives ensured the possibility of using the Hungarian language in official contact through their employees. All 5 state archives fulfilled their legal obligation to provide information (a visible place) on the possibilities of using the Hungarian language in official contact. The given state archives published the information in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority. In 4 (80%) cases, the state archives published this information on an information board. One (20%) state archives did not answer this question. No state archives determined the designated office hours to handle matters in the language of a national minority. 9 written submissions in the Hungarian language

were registered by one state archives. The above submissions covered the following areas: extracts from the register, inheritance proceedings (court files). Two responses were provided to these submissions. 3 (60%) state archives did not keep their official agenda both in the state language and in the language of the national minority, and two (40%) state archives did it partially.

#### **Bilingual documents** (questions 21 – 37)

The results of the questionnaire survey show that bilingual official forms within the scope of their competence were provided for citizens in two (40%) state archives, partially provided in two (40%) state archives and one (20%) state archives did not answer this question. The forms in question covered the following areas of archiving: research regulations; research letters; requests for administrative information and administrative agenda forms. During the period under review, one state archives received requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms that were issued in the number of 270 pcs. No state archives received requests for bilingual public documents. No state archives have issued bilingual public documents. No state archive received submissions in the Hungarian language, which would initiate administrative proceedings in the language of a national minority. In the given period, no state archives issued a decision in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority.

#### **Negotiations at the office/workplace** (questions 38 – 40)

Data from the survey showed that 4 (80%) state archives used the state language for negotiations, and one (20%) state archives also used the Hungarian language. Negotiations in the state language were conducted by 4 (80%) state archives, while the negotiations in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority were conducted by one (20%) state archives. Materials for the negotiations were prepared in the state language by 4 (80%) state archives. One (20%) state archive prepared the materials in question partly in the state language and partly in the language of the national minority.

#### **Informing the public** (questions 41 – 47)

Information, signs and announcements on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public in municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority were indicated at 4 (80%) state archives, and partially indicated at one (20%) state archive. Signs and announcements intended to inform the public in the language of a national minority were indicated by all 5 state archives (100%), while 3 (60%) state archives used a combination of options for publication: website; official board; information board or other place and two (40%) state archives used the information board. Important information indicated both in the state language and in the language of the national minority was not published by 3 (60%) state archives and partially by two (40%) state archives.

### **Costs of supporting the use of languages of national minorities (questions 48 – 49)**

All 5 (100%) state archives did not provide answers in the area of spent and estimated funds required to fulfil legal obligations and possibilities in the area of using the languages of national minorities in official contact.

### **Final questions (questions 50 – 55)**

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact was assessed by 5 state archives as problem-free. No state archives received a complaint on the use of the Hungarian language

## **3.4 Organizational units of the Armed Security Forces and Rescue Services**

Section 3 (1) of the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 270/1995 Coll. determines that government bodies, local self-government bodies, other public administration bodies, legal entities established by them, and legal entities established by the law, use the state language in the official contact and their employees, civil servants, members of the municipal police, members of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, Armed Security Forces, other Armed Corps and the Fire and Rescue Services are obliged to speak and use the state language in official contact; this does not affect the use of languages of national minorities in official contact according to a special regulation (Act no. 184/1999 Coll.). Pursuant to § 7 (4) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., if members of the Armed Forces, Armed Security Forces, other Armed Corps, the Fire and Rescue Service and the municipal police speak the language of a national minority, then in the municipality according to § 2 (1) may use the language of a national minority in communication with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority. Pursuant to § 7a of the cited Act, the Government Office provides professional and methodological assistance to public administration bodies and organizational units of security and rescue services in terms of implementing this Act. A list of organizational units of the Fire and Rescue Service, the Armed Security Corps, the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, and other armed corps communicate in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority, and this list is included in the Annex no. 9.

### **3.4.1 Organizational units of the Police Force**

As part of the preparation of the Report for the period 2019 – 2020, and also for previous periods (following the previous reports for the periods 2015 – 2016 and 2017 – 2018), the Government Office continuously carried on updating the questionnaire for the DD PF and the list of DD PF in municipalities listed in the Government Decree no. 221/1999 Coll.

Within the survey (also in the two previous reports), the Office of the Plenipotentiary focused on mapping the situation in the Police Force in the municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. The questionnaire was (as in the case of other entities) slightly optimized and adjusted. The questionnaire consisted of 42 questions broken down as follows: official contact, bilingual documents, administrative proceedings, informing the public, costs of ensuring the use of the languages of national minorities in official contact and final questions. The wording of the

questionnaire for the DD PF is part of Annex no. 5 and the list of relevant organizational units of the Police Force is in Annex no. 9. In this connection, the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities also addressed this year a letter no. 3616/2020/SVNM as of 1 July 2020 to the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic to cooperate in terms of distribution and collection of the given questionnaire. Following the above request, the Directorate-General of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic sent a letter no. PPZ-ODE3-2020/048194-002 as of 27 August 2020 with a following statement:

"The DG of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic received, through a contact person, your request for co-operation in terms of distributing the questionnaire of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities in order to ascertain the state of use of national minority languages.

Referring to the letter of the members of the extra-ministerial working group for the coordination of the issuance of bilingual forms within the competence of municipalities and state administration bodies dated 19 September 2019 and also to the valid legislation, we hereby inform you that the determination of the state of use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 and 2020 by the Police Force of the Slovak Republic is, in our opinion, irrelevant and has no support in the current legislation.

In accordance with Article 2 (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, state authorities may act only on the basis of the Constitution, within its limits and to the extent and in the manner stipulated by law.

According to § 3 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, a citizen of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities"), who is a person belonging to a national minority, has the right, under paragraph 1, to communicate in the municipality with self-government body, territorial self-government body and territorial self-government bodies established by legal entities (hereinafter referred to as the "public administration body"). This includes submitting written documents and evidence also in the minority language with the exception of issuing public documents, while the given exception does not apply to public documents under paragraphs 4 and 5. In case of any doubt, the wording of the answer of the public administration body in the state language shall prevail. The public administration body shall create the conditions to exercise rights under the first sentence in an appropriate manner, while it may determine designated office hours to handle matters in the language of the national minority. The public administration body shall provide information on the possibilities of using the minority language at the offices of the public administration body, and in a visible place.

The units of the Police Force are not included in the areas defined by law, and therefore they cannot perform tasks under to the above-cited provision. The Police Force cannot be subsumed under the term "public administration body" according to § 3 of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities. Under this Act, a public administration body is a local state administration body, a territorial self-government body, and a legal entity established by territorial self-government body.

Under § 1 (1) of Act no. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language of the Slovak Republic, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "State Language Act"), the Slovak language is the official state language in the Slovak Republic.

Pursuant to Section 3 of the Act on the State Language, state bodies, local self-government bodies, other public administration bodies, legal entities established by them and legal entities established by law use the state language and their employees, civil servants, members of the municipal police, members of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, armed security forces, other armed corps and the Fire and Rescue Corps are obliged to speak and use the state language in official communication; this does not affect the use of languages of national minorities in official communication according to special regulation and the use of other languages in official communication with a foreign country in accordance with the usual practice in international communication.

Pursuant to § 6 (1) of the Act on the State Language, the Armed Forces, the Police Force, the Slovak Information Service, the National Security Office, the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps of the Slovak Republic, the Railway Police, and in the Fire and Rescue Service use the state language in the official contact.

Pursuant to § 6 (2) of the Act on the State Language, the entire agenda and documentation of the Armed Forces, Armed Security Forces, other Armed Forces and Fire Brigades are kept in the state language.

Despite all the above provisions, a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority has the opportunity to communicate in the language of the national minority in cases under § 7 (4) of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, supposing the members of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, Armed Security Forces, other Armed Forces, the Fire and Rescue Service, and the Municipal Police speak the language of the minority, and in the municipality according to § 2 (1) of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities may use the language of a minority in communication with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority.

We should note that in regions where the language of the national minority is increasingly used, the units of the Police Force are staffed by personnel who do speak the language. If necessary, these staff shall be competent to provide the information needed in the minority language."

Following the content of the statement, which questioned the inclusion of organizational units of the Police Force in the municipalities defined by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. among the mandatory entities, the DG of the Police Force did not send the prepared questionnaire to the affected organizational units of the PF. This means that the Office of the Plenipotentiary did not have any information to process and include in the content of the submitted report.

The Office of the Plenipotentiary considers that the interpretation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., which is part of the statement of the DB of the Police Force, is restrictive. The assessment of the issue in question, which is related to the understanding of the tasks of the Police Force, must be perceived in a broader context – in accordance with the Constitution, constitutional laws, laws, and other generally binding legal regulations and international treaties.

Pursuant to Article 7 (5) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic "International treaties on human rights and fundamental freedoms, international treaties for the implementation of which no law is required, and international treaties which directly establish the rights or obligations of natural or legal persons and which have been ratified and declared in the manner prescribed by law, shall take precedence over the law." According to § 1 (3) of Act no. 171/1993

Coll. on the Police Force, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Act No. 171/1993 Coll.”), the Police Force, while performing its duties, shall follow the provisions of the Constitution, constitutional laws, laws, and other generally binding legal regulations and international treaties that the Slovak Republic is bound with. And therefore one must take into account international treaties in the field of protection of the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities, such as the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Pursuant to Article 10 of the Framework Convention, the Slovak Republic shall be obliged to strive to create conditions in areas traditionally or in larger numbers inhabited by the citizens belonging to national minorities that would enable the use of a minority language in the official contact with administrative bodies<sup>111</sup>. Pursuant to Article 10 of the Charter, the Slovak Republic shall be obliged to make sure that in the administrative units where the number of users of regional or minority languages living on this territory justifies the adoption of the measures listed below, the administrative bodies use regional or minority languages or the officials liaising with the public use regional or minority languages with persons who address them in those languages.

The Constitution in its Article 6 stipulates that the Slovak language is the official language on the territory of the Slovak Republic. The use of languages other than the state language in official contact shall be established by law. The law in question is actually Act no. 184/1999 Coll., which shall under the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language, as amended, apply in the event when the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 270/1995 Coll. does not stipulate otherwise. Pursuant to § 3 of the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 270/1995 Coll., state bodies, local self-government bodies, other public administration bodies, legal entities established by them and legal entities established by law use the state language and their employees, civil servants, members of the municipal police, members of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, armed security forces, other armed corps and the Fire and Rescue Corps are obliged to speak and use the state language in official communication; this does not affect the use of languages of national minorities in official communication according to special regulation and the use of other languages in official communication with a foreign country in accordance with the usual practice in international communication. The explanatory memorandum to Act no. 35/2011 Coll., amending the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language, as amended, stipulates the relationship between the state language and the languages of national minorities within the legal system of the Slovak Republic, which is ensured in a way that the obligatory use of the state language does not preclude the use of national minority languages, and that, in addition to the state language, the national minority members inhabiting territories in sufficient quantity may use their mother tongue in official contact.

Methodological guidelines to Act no. 184/1999 Coll. are in accordance with § 7a (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. serving as a practical guide in solving specific questions from application practice. According to the above-mentioned Methodological guidelines, the Office of the

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<sup>111</sup>Under Article 10 (3) of the Framework Convention: “The Parties undertake to guarantee every person belonging to a national minority the right to be informed without delay in a language s/he understands, the reasons for which s/he has been remanded in custody and about any charges against him or her; as well as informed about the rights to defence in the minority language and, if necessary, the right to a free assistance of an interpreter.”

Government provides expert and methodological assistance to public authorities and organizational units of security forces and rescue services with regard to the implementation of this Act. According to the cited guideline, the official contact stands for a summary of activities and acts of state bodies, territorial self-government bodies, legal entities established by territorial self-government bodies, employees and state employees of these bodies and legal entities, members of the Slovak Armed Forces, armed security forces, other armed forces, and fire brigades while performing their duties, verbally or in a written form, communicating with citizens, and in the handling official matters.

According to § 2 (2) of Act no. 171/1993 Coll., the Police Force shall be obliged to perform the tasks of state administration and other tasks, providing it is stipulated by special regulations. While at duty, the Police Force is governed, inter alia, by Act no. 71/1967 Coll. on Administrative Procedure (Administrative Procedural Code). This refers to proceedings where the public administration bodies decide on the rights, legally protected interests or obligations of natural and legal entities unless a special act stipulates otherwise. Pursuant to § 2 of Act no. 71/1967 Coll., an administrative body is a state body, a body of territorial self-government, interest self-government body, natural or legal entity to which the law has imposed to decide on the rights, legally protected interests or obligations of natural and legal entities within public administration. The basic rules of procedure are laid down in § 3 (3) of the Act, according to which a citizen of the Slovak Republic who is a person belonging to a national minority and who has the right to use the language of a national minority under a special regulation (Act No. 184/1999 Coll.) has the right to act in municipalities defined by a special regulation when liaising with an administrative body in the language of a national minority. The administrative bodies referred to in the first sentence are obliged to provide him with equal opportunities to exercise his rights.

The above means that the framework of performing the state administration tasks and other tasks, which also apply to the Police Force at duty, also includes official contact. The tasks of the Police Force show that it also affects the level of communication with citizens, which cannot be conducted otherwise, solely in official contact.

### **3.4.2 Organizational units of the Fire and Rescue Service**

The Creation, state, tasks, organization, and management of the Fire and Rescue Service are regulated by Act no. 315/2001 Coll. on the Fire and Rescue Service, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 315/2001 Coll. "). Pursuant to § 4 (1) of Act no. 315/2001 Coll., the Police Force consists of the following units and departments: Directorate-General, regional directorates, district directorates, Fire and Rescue Department of Bratislava, departments and units. Section 3 (1) of Act no. 315/2001 Coll. stipulates that the Police Force performs duties of the state administration in the field of fire protection, as well as other tasks according to special regulations. Based on the request of the Office of the Plenipotentiary, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic identified relevant district directorates of the Fire and Rescue Service that use both the state language and the language of the national minority in official contact. The completed questionnaire was sent by all 6 addressed entities, which represents a 100% return rate. District directorates of the Fire and Rescue Service were asked a total of 56 questions, broken down into the following topics: designations in the language of a national minority, official contact, bilingual documents, negotiations at the organizational unit of the rescue corps,

informing the public, costs of ensuring the use of national minority languages in official contact and final questions. The wording of the questionnaire for the organizational units of the Fire and Rescue Service is part of Annex no. 6.

#### **Signs in the language of the national minority** (questions 1 – 6)

Of the 6 DD FaRS based in municipalities with a Hungarian national minority, all (100%) stated that the designation of their organizational unit located on the buildings is indicated both in the state language and in the language of the national minority, while two (33%) DD FaRS stated that the given designation is indicated both in the state language and in the language of the national minority, located on a building and written in a smaller font.

#### **Official contact** (questions 7 – 21)

The addressed DD FaRS have a total of 349 members, of which 68 (19%) speak Hungarian in verbal and written form and 126 (36%) only in verbal form. There are at least two members of each organizational unit who command the language of the national minority in written and spoken form. Members of one (17%) DD FaRS use Hungarian when communicating with citizens, members of 5 (83%) DD FaRS use it partially, while two out of 5 DD FaRS stated that they use Hungarian only if the citizens are interested in it. The possibility of using the Hungarian language in official contact is provided by 5 (83%) DD FaRS through its members, one (17%) DD FaRS stated that it does not provide this possibility, as it was not necessary yet. No DD FaRS has designated office hours to handle matters in the language of a national minority. 6 (100%) DD FaRS indicate information (in a visible place) on the possibilities of using the Hungarian language in oral and written form in official contact at the office of the directorate. This information is provided by all units both in the state language as well as in the language of the national minority. 3 (50%) of the surveyed DD FaRS state this information on the information board, and two (33%) on the entrance door of the building. One DD FaRS (17%) did not answer the question on how this information was indicated. No DD FaRS registered written submissions from citizens in Hungarian and did not use this language in the official agenda, e.g. in minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.

#### **Bilingual documents** (questions 22 – 37)

No DD FaRS had bilingual official forms. All DD FaRS agreed that they had not received requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms, public documents or decisions, or submissions that would initiate proceedings in the language of a national minority.

#### **Negotiations of the Rescue corps' organizational unit** (questions 38 – 41)

Two (33%) of the surveyed DD FaRS stated that they partially negotiate in the Hungarian language, while all DD FaRS stated that they do not prepare materials in the language of the national minority for the negotiations.

### **Informing the public (questions 42 – 48)**

No DD FaRS received requests for information on generally binding legal regulations both in the state language and in the language of the national minority. 5 (83%) DD FaRS indicate signs and announcements intended for informing the public and general important information on the threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens also in the Hungarian language. Half of DD FaRS lists announcements intended to inform the public and general important information in the language of the national minority, and indicates them on the official notice board, while the other DD FaRS either do not provide them or do not list them.

### **Costs of supporting the use of languages of national minorities in official contact (questions 48 – 49)**

3 DD FaRS (50%) stated that during the period under review they did not spend any funds on ensuring the use of the languages of national minorities in official contact in the 9 thematic areas<sup>112</sup> that were the subject of the questionnaire survey. Two (33%) DD FaRS did not answer this question. One (17%) DD FaRS stated that it had partially spent € 50 in the period under review on publishing important information on the official board, on the website, and in periodicals, while not spending any money on the remaining thematic areas.

Two (33%) DD FaRS stated that they would not have to spend funds on any of the 9 thematic areas when asked about the estimated amount of funding needed to ensure the use of the Hungarian language in official contact. Within this question, the remaining 4 (67%) DD FaRS quantified funding in the total amount of EUR 3,600.(EUR 900 per one DD FaRS). With regard to the costs of ensuring the use of the languages of national minorities in official contact, it should be emphasized that the sums reported by the entities are only estimated amounts, as in most cases DD FaRS did not ensure the use of minority languages in any of the 9 thematic areas.<sup>113</sup> Despite the above, the given findings represent the first step towards the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in practice by state administration bodies. It's highly desirable to carry on monitoring the given area.

### **Final questions (questions 51 – 56)**

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact was perceived by all DD FaRS as partially problematic, mainly due to a lack of qualified members, financial resources and professional support. In the given period, no DD FaRS received a complaint about a violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

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<sup>112</sup>Responses to submissions, use of the language of the national minority (besides the state language) in the official agenda, provision of bilingual official forms, issuance of bilingual public documents, issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings, provision of information on generally binding legal regulations, information on threats to life, health, safety or property, indicating signs and announcements intended to inform the public and publishing important information on the official notice board, on the website and in periodicals.

<sup>113</sup>In the given period, the DD FaRS ensured the use of the language of national minorities in two areas within 9 thematic areas: Five DD FaRS ensured it when presenting information on threats to life, health, safety or property, and 3 DD FaRS when presenting signs and notices intended to inform the public.

### 3.4.3 Organizational units of the Prison and Court Guard Corps

Act no. 4/2001 Coll. on the Prison and Court Guard Corps characterizes the Prison and Court Guard Corps as an armed corps that performs tasks related to the execution of detention, imprisonment, protection and guarding of corps facilities, and the protection of order and security in court buildings. PCGC organizationally consists of the Directorate-General, detention facilities, prisons, youth detention centres, hospital for the accused and convicted persons and members of the corps. The Directorate-General and detention centres act as independent budgetary organizations under the competence (establish or dismiss) of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. For the first time, the questionnaire survey also examined the use of languages of national minorities by members of the corps, and in this connection, one Detention centre (hereinafter referred to as the "Centre") located in a municipality with a Hungarian minority has been addressed and later sent a filled-in survey. The wording of the questionnaire for the organizational units of the PCGC is part of Annex no. 7.

#### **Official contact** (questions 2 – 4)

The results of the survey showed that out of the total number of 250 members of the Centre, 117 (47%) had a command of the Hungarian language in spoken and written form, and 32 (13%) only in spoken form. Detention centre staff who spoke the language of the national minority partially communicated in it with the citizens belonging to the Hungarian national minority.

#### **Informing the public** (questions 5 – 7)

Information, signs and announcements on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens located in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the centre, are also provided in the language of the national minority. The surveyed centre<sup>114</sup> further stated that it also provides announcements intended for informing the public in Hungarian, while it also publishes important information in this language<sup>115</sup>.

#### **Final questions** (questions 8 – 11)

The addressed centre did not receive complaints in the given period on to the violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

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<sup>114</sup>Detention facility Želiezovce.

<sup>115</sup>Method for establishing the liable person, its powers and competencies and a description of the organizational structure, place, time and methods in which the information can be obtained; information on where the request, proposal, complaint, complaint, or other submission can be submitted, place, time and manner of lodging an appeal and the possibility of judicial review of the liable person's decision, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the liable person in processing all applications, requests and other submissions, including relevant time limits to be complied with; regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the liable person acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the liable person, the schedule of administrative fees charged by the liable person for administrative acts and the list of fees for disclosing information.

### **3.4.4 Organizational units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic**

Pursuant to Act no. 321/2002 Coll. on the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, the military personnel composition of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and their organizational composition in peace, in times of war, during the state of war, state of emergency and emergency situation is regulated by the Constitutional Act. Civil servants and employees (both civil and military) also participate in the performance of the tasks of the armed forces. The internal organizational division of units, departments, small units, offices and facilities of the Armed Forces and their logistical support is determined by the Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic upon the proposal of the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic consist of Ground Force and Air Force. As part of the survey, a total of 6 military units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic were addressed, of which 4 military units of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and two military units of the Ground Force of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic. All these military units are located in municipalities with the Hungarian national minority. The completed questionnaire was sent by all respondents, which represents a 100% return rate. The wording of the questionnaire for the organizational units of the Armed Forces is part of Annex no. 7.

#### **Official contact** (questions 2 – 4)

The results of the survey showed that out of the total number of 6 military units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, consisting of 848 members of the military units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, 51 (6%) had the command of the Hungarian language in spoken and written form and 120 (14%) only spoken form. Members of the military units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic who spoke the Hungarian language used it when communicating with citizens of Hungarian nationality in two units, and in the other two they spoke it only partially, and in remaining two they did not use the language of the national minority.

#### **Informing the public** (questions 5 – 7)

Information, signs and announcements on the threats to life, health, security or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit of the Armed Forces, are provided by 4 (67%) military units of the Slovak Armed Forces in the language of national minorities, while two (33%) military units stated that they did not provide this information in the language of the national minority. One (17%) military unit of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic also published important information in the Hungarian language. Sign and announcements intended to inform the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit of the Armed Forces, are indicated in Hungarian by two (33%) units.

#### **Final questions** (questions 8 – 11)

No military unit of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic received complaints in the given period on to the violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

## Conclusion

The Report on the State of Use of the Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 – 2020 is the fifth report submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic in accordance with § 7a (2) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. Content-wise, this Report is the most extensive report that is based on the most detailed questionnaire survey on the use of languages of national minorities. The Report offers a comparison of the scope of application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in time sequences, which allows to analyse the factors influencing the use of languages of national minorities. For the first time, the Report seeks to provide an analysis of the costs of applying the given act. The survey follows the method of data processing used in previous reports, aimed to identify those areas where there are shortcomings in the use of national minority languages in application practice.

The Report summarizes the national legislative and institutional framework for the use of national minority languages with emphasis on changes that have taken place in this area during the period under review, it also sums up the international legal framework for the use of national minority languages and the use of national minority languages by public authorities and organizational units of Fire and Rescue Service, armed security forces, Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and other armed corps. The part of the Report that presents the results of an extensive questionnaire survey maps the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. during the period 2019 and 2020 (until 1 July).

### **Basic observations:**

The Report maps three categories of language rights arising from Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in all surveyed entities:

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

The Report includes also a separate Annex no. 10 containing a list and a number of specific shortcomings in the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. identified on the basis of a questionnaire survey.

Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in § 7b (1) defines language rights that must be observed and failing to do so shall be considered as an administrative offense. An administrative offense in the field of the use of languages of national minorities shall be committed by a public administration body in the municipality pursuant to § 2 (1) if:

- does not allow the citizen who is a member of national minority to communicate in oral and written communication in the language of a national minority or does not inform him/her of this possibility (§ 2 (3));
- at the request of a citizen who is a member of national minority, does not issue a copy of the decision and a birth certificate, marriage certificate or death certificate in the language of a national minority as well (§ 2 (4) and (5));

- does not provide its designation at the building where it's seated also in the language of a national minority (§ 2 (6));
- does not provide, upon request, an official form issued within the scope of its competence also in the language of a national minority (§ 2 (7));
- does not ensure the designation of a municipality in its national minority language within its jurisdiction in cases provided for in § 4 (1);
- does not provide (upon request) information, signs and announcements within its competence (pursuant to § 4 (6) of the first sentence);
- does not provide information on generally binding legislation upon request in the language of a national minority (§ 4 (8));
- does not provide the Office of the Government with information and written documents (pursuant to § 7a (3)).

Pursuant to § 7b (2) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., an administrative offense in the area of using the languages of national minorities is committed by a legal entity or a natural person-entrepreneur who does not indicate signs or announcements under § 4 (6) also in the language of the national minority, if it is a sign or an announcement containing information on threats to life, health, property or safety of Slovak citizens.

The results of the survey show that in a total of 781 cases in the areas defined above, there may have been drawbacks in the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. (see Annex no. 10 of the Report; in 2018 there were 1,267, and in 2016 there were 1,712 cases).

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

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

The results of the survey show that compliance with language rights in this category can lead to drawbacks in 612 cases (see Annex no. 10 of the Report; in the previous survey there were 709 cases).

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

- designation of a municipality<sup>116</sup> also in the language of a national minority, when designating a railway station, bus station, airport and a riverport in the municipality;
- street designations in the municipality also in the language of a national minority;
- designating local geographical indications in the municipality also in the language of a national minority;
- managing the official agenda, in particular the minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balances, public information and agendas of churches and religious societies intended for the public, apart from registry office, in the language of a national minority as well;
- keeping the municipality's chronicle also in the language of a national minority;
- use of the language of a national minority by the municipal police at duty;
- the use of the language of a national minority by members of the municipal police, armed security forces, other armed forces, the Fire and Rescue Service, who speak the language of a national minority when communicating with Slovak nationals belonging to a national minority;
- using the language of a national minority by the members of the municipal council during its sessions;
- discussions of public authority in the language of a national minority as well;
- issuing generally binding regulations to public authorities in the language of a national minority as well;
- publishing announcement intended to inform the public via local radio or other technical facilities in the language of a national minority;
- placing inscriptions on monuments, memorials and plaques also in the language of a national minority.

The results of the survey show that language rights in this category are exercised in 2,359 cases (2,194 cases in the previous survey), partly exercised in 1,096 cases (1,053 cases in the previous survey), and not exercised in 2,294 cases (2,611 cases in the previous survey; see Annex no. 10 of the Report).

When comparing the results of the survey with the monitoring for previous periods, we observe an improvement of the state of application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., and a gradual reduction of cases where an administrative offense could have occurred (in 2016 it was 1,712 cases, in 2018 – 1,267, and 781 cases in the given period), as well as cases where there could have been a non-compliance with the provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. However, this non-compliance is not an administrative offense (590 cases in 2016, 709 cases in 2018, 612 cases in the given period). Language rights, the application of which is laid down in Act No. 184/1999 Coll., were used as a possibility in 2016 in 1 736 cases, partially used in 698 cases and not used in 2 440 cases. The language rights in this category were in 2018 used in 2 194 cases, partly in 1 053 cases and not used in 2 611 cases. In the given period, the possibilities arising from Act no. 184/1999 Coll. were used in 2,359 cases, partially in 1,096 cases, and not used in 2,294 cases. The above that purposeful and continuous efforts in the field of improving the application practice of the use of languages of national minorities have tangible results, which are reflected in the results of these surveys.

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<sup>116</sup>Use the term municipality within the meaning of § 2 (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

The application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in the municipalities with Hungarian, Ruthenian, and Romani national minorities has improved, according to the result of the survey. There were no major changes in the municipalities with the Ukrainian national minority, and the situation in the municipality with the German national minority deteriorated slightly.

Compared to previous periods, the state administration improved the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. in all areas, namely in municipalities with both Hungarian and Ruthenian national minorities. In general, the languages of national minorities have been used to a greater extent in the official contact with state administration bodies, and the area of informing the public and indicating bilingual signs and announcements has also improved.

The creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact was assessed by more than half of municipalities and state administration bodies as problem-free, 12% of municipalities and state administration bodies considered it as problematic, and 30% partially problematic. Compared to the previous survey, the number of municipalities that assessed the creation of conditions as problematic increased, and the number of municipalities that described it as problem-free decreased. In the case of state administration bodies, the shift compared to the previous survey was reverse, as more state administration bodies assessed the creation of conditions as problem-free and less than problematic. The following factors were identified as the main obstacles to the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.: insufficient funding, lack of professional support and lack of qualified staff. Despite the fact that 162 municipalities and 9 state administration bodies cited a lack of funds as the cause of the unsatisfactory situation, most of the entities in question could not quantify the amount of funds that would be necessary for the full application of the provisions of the Act.

Despite the obvious improvement of the situation, it is necessary to state that within the application practice of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. , some significant backlogs still prevail. Addressing the language skills of candidates in recruitment could help to address this situation, while supporting the development of language skills training for staff aimed at improving the mastery of professional terminology in the languages of national minorities.

Another instrument that would help, could be the establishment of a compensation fund, from which state administration bodies, territorial self-government bodies, and legal entities established by territorial self-government bodies could draw funds to cover costs associated with the fulfilment of obligations imposed on them by Act no. 184/1999 Coll. So far, this law imposes obligations on these entities, however, they are currently obliged to cover it from their own budget. At the same time, these obligations are not taken into account when allocating funds to municipalities and other state administration bodies, despite the fact that Act no. 184/1999 Coll. imposes obligations only on selected entities. This fact puts them in a more unfavourable position in comparison with the bodies to which Act no. 184/1999 Coll. does not impose obligations. The compensation fund could cover increased costs related to the fulfilment of legal obligations to place bilingual (in 18 municipalities even trilingual) boards, publish multilingual announcements, provide, process and translate bilingual forms, public documents and other official documents required by the authorities. This is applicable if they are completed in the language of the national minority, translated into the state language in which they conduct the official agenda. In the event of the creation of a compensation fund, a special material will be prepared, within which the relevant impacts will also be listed and assessed.

The fulfilment of the constitutional rights of citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups to use their language in official contact is currently closely related to the creation of adequate opportunities within the gradual digitalization of communication between the citizens and the state. In connection with the shift of the powers of public authorities to electronic form in accordance with Act no. 305/2013 Coll. on the Electronic Form of the Exercise of Powers of Public Administration Bodies and on the amendment of certain laws (the e-Government Act), the central public administration portal is a key element for official contact. In this context, the availability of bilingual electronic forms and electronic communication and general official contact is becoming an increasingly urgent issue. Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic is the administrator of the module of electronic forms, which public authorities are obliged to use at duty. The given ministry also manages the central public administration portal.

The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, in co-operation with the Plenipotentiary (like in the previous period) and following the adoption of the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 10/2019, took steps to eliminate individual shortcomings along with activities aimed at establishing and continuing cooperation with all relevant ministries. The resolution included an establishment and operation of two working groups, the issuance of two methodological guidelines and a visit to all districts with the municipalities listed in the Government Provision no. 221/1999 Coll. The Plenipotentiary continuously provided professional and methodological assistance to the given municipalities. This was reflected in an increased awareness of local government bodies about their obligations arising from Act no. 184/1999 Coll., and in improved application of this Act.

The results of the submitted Report indicate that during the following period, it is necessary to continue with the cooperation and activities that have already been launched, and in cooperation with relevant ministries, state administration bodies, municipalities and citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to national minorities, to carry on eliminating the remaining shortcomings and strengthening the provision of professional and methodological assistance from the Government Office in terms of the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

## List of Annexes

- Annex no. 1: Questionnaire for local authorities (municipalities) on the use of languages of national minorities
- Annex no. 2: Questionnaire for legal entities established by territorial self-government units on the use of languages of national minorities
- Annex no. 3: Questionnaire for district authorities on the use of languages of national minorities
- Annex no. 4: Questionnaire for state administration bodies on the use of languages of national minorities
- Annex no. 5: Questionnaire for organizational units of the Police Force on the use of languages of national minorities
- Annex no. 6: Questionnaire for organizational units of the Fire and Rescue Service on the use of languages of national minorities
- Annex no. 7: Questionnaire for organizational units of the Armed Forces and the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps on the use of languages of national minorities
- Annex no. 8: List of state administration bodies and their organizational units using in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both the state language and also the language of a national minority in official written communication
- Annex no. 9: List of organizational units of the Fire and Rescue Service, Armed Security Corps, Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, and other armed corps communicating in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority
- Annex no. 10: List and number of specific shortcomings in the application of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. identified on the basis of a questionnaire survey

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**for territorial self-government units (municipalities) on the use of languages of national minorities**

Dear respondent,

We would like to ask you to **help us with determining the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 and 2020 (until 1 July)** by completing this questionnaire. The data are collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Status of Use of Languages of National Minorities on the territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is, in accordance with § 7a Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act no. 184/1999 Coll."), entitled to request information and written documents on the use of languages of national minorities in the area of their competence from public administration bodies. If the public administration body does not provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it shall commit an administrative offense pursuant to § 7b (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.)

This obligation applies to **all municipalities listed in the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 534/2011 Coll., amending the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 221/1999 Coll., which issues a list of municipalities where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 20% of the population** (hereinafter referred to as "Government Regulation No. 534/2011 Coll."). The given Regulation in force is **based on the 1991 Census of Population and Housing**.

We would also like to take this opportunity to collect the data (via several questions) needed to analyse the **costs of increasing the availability of services provided by local government bodies and local government authorities** to persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the area of the use of minority languages in official contact. This analysis is one of the tasks of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2016-2020.

Read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill in** the relevant data.

**Fill in the answers for the period from 2019 to 1 July 2020** (hereinafter referred to as the "**reference period**").

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

<b>DESIGNATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE NATIONAL MINORITY</b>
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**1. Enter the name of the municipality in the state language: .....**

**2. Indicate for which national minority you fill in the questionnaire** (Note! If there are several national minorities living in the municipality, the questionnaire is filled in separately for each national minority): .....

**3. State the designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority** (Note! If the municipality is listed in the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 534/2011 Coll. in Cyrillic alphabet, use the Cyrillic): .....

**4. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of the national minority is indicated *on the road sign at the beginning and at the end of the municipality*:**

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) the designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority coincides with the name in the state language

**5. Indicate whether the information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens (e.g. safety signs during road reconstruction) is also provided in the additional text tables in your municipality in the language of a national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) not applicable for our municipality (Note! If there are no traffic signs with additional text tables in the municipality)

**6. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority* is given under the name in the state language *when designating the railway station, bus station, airport and river port* (Note! Mark your answers in the appropriate box **with the letter x**):**

	Train Station	Bus Station	Airport	River Port
a) yes				
b) partially				
c) no				
d) not applicable for our municipality				

**7. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 6, state whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of the national minority is given under the name in the state language *when designating the railway station, bus station, airport and river port* (Note! Mark your answers in the appropriate box **with the letter x**):**

	Train Station	Bus Station	Airport	River Port
a) same font				
b) smaller font				

**8. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of the national minority is indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language *on the buildings of public administration bodies*:**

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

**9. Indicate how the following *designation of the public authority* is located *on the buildings*:**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**10. Indicate whether the *designation of the public administration body* in the language of the national minority is indicated *on the buildings* in addition to the equivalent in the state language:**

- a) same font
- b) smaller font

**11. Indicate how the *streets* of your municipality are marked with signs:**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the state language and in the language of the national minority
- c) no streets are marked in our village

**12. Indicate how the *geographical indications of your municipality* are marked with signs :**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the state language and in the language of the national minority
- c) no geographical indications in our municipality

<b>OFFICIAL CONTACT</b>
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**MUNICIPAL/CITY OFFICE EMPLOYEES**

**13. Indicate the total number of employees of the municipal/city office: .....**

**14. Indicate the number of employees with a command of the language of a national minority:**

- a) only spoken form (Note! They do not possess written skills) .....
- b) spoken and written form .....

**ENSURING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF THE NATIONAL MINORITY**

**15. Indicate how your municipality ensures the possibility of using the language of the national minority in official contact:**

- a) through employees of the municipality communicating in the language of the national minority
- b) through interpretation or translation services<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>117</sup>Note: "The text in the language of a national minority does not have to be an officially certified translation of the text in the state language. The text in the language of a national minority may also be prepared by an employee of

c) in another way (please specify): .....

**16. Indicate whether your municipality determines designated office hours for handling matters in the language of the national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) no

#### **INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING THE NATIONAL MINORITY LANGUAGE**

**17. Indicate whether your municipality indicates (in a visible place) information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority – in oral and written form in official contact at the seat of a public administration body in accordance with § 1 of Government Regulation no. 535/2011 Coll., which implements certain provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll .118:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**18. If you marked answer a) to question no. 17, indicate in which language the following information is provided (Note! Several answers may be given):**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the language of the national minority

**19. If you marked answer a) to question no. 17, tell us how the information is presented (Note! Several answers can be given):**

- a) on the official notice board of the municipality
- b) on the information board of the municipality
- c) on the website of the municipality
- d) in another way (please specify): .....

#### **WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS**

**20. Indicate whether *written submissions* from citizens in the language of the national minority were registered at your office during the reference period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**21. If you marked the answer a) in 1 question no. 20, what was the total number of such submissions in the given period: .....**

**22. If you marked answer a) to question no. 20, which areas were covered by such submissions:**  
.....

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a public administration body who speaks the language of a national minority." IN: Methodological guideline to Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, p. 22. Available online: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7551\\_metodicke-usmernenie.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7551_metodicke-usmernenie.pdf) .

<sup>118</sup><https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2011/535/20120701>

**23.** If you marked answer a) to question no. 20, state whether the *answers to the submissions written in the language of the national minority were provided at your office in the given period both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority:*

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

**24.** If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 23, what was the total number of provided responses to submissions in the given period: .....

**25.** If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 23, which areas were covered by the answers provided to the submissions in the given period: .....

#### **OFFICIAL AGENDA**

**26.** Indicate whether your municipality also uses the language of the national minority in the official agenda of the municipal office - e.g. in minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc .:

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

**27.** If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 26, indicate in which areas: .....

#### **CHRONICLE**

**28.** Indicate whether your municipality also keeps a chronicle in the language of the national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) our municipality does not keep a chronicle

**MUNICIPAL POLICE** (Note! To be filled in, only if there is a municipal police in your municipality)

**29.** Indicate the total number of municipal police staff: .....

**30.** Indicate the number of the municipal police staff with a command of the language of a national minority:

- a) only spoken form (Note! They do not possess written skills) .....
- b) spoken and written form: .....

**31.** Indicate whether, in addition to the state language, the language of the national minority is used by the municipal police at duty:

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

**32. Indicate whether the municipal police officers at duty received consent from the citizens to use the language of the national minority in your municipality:**

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) in some cases
- d) there was no such an occasion

**33. Do officers of the municipal police who speak the language of a national minority use it when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority?**

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

<b>BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS</b>
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**OFFICIAL FORMS**

**34. Indicate whether *bilingual official forms* are provided for citizens in your municipality within the scope of its competence:**

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

**35. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 34, indicate in which areas they are ensured:**  
.....

**36. Indicate whether your municipality received *requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms* in the state language and in the language of the national minority during the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**37. If you marked answer a) to question no. 36, what was the total number of requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms in the given period: .....**

**38. Indicate whether your municipality issued bilingual *official forms* upon request, both in the state language and in the language of the national minority during the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**39. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 38, what was the total number of provided responses to submissions in the given period: .....**

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS**

**40. Indicate whether your municipality received requests for the issuance of bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, confirmations, statements and declarations) in the period under review:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**41. If you marked answer a) to question no. 40, indicate the number in the given period:**

- number of requests for permits: .....
- number of requests for authorizations: .....
- number of requests for confirmations: .....
- number of requests for statements: .....
- number of requests for declarations: .....

**42. If you marked answer a) to question no. 40, indicate whether bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, confirmations, statements and declarations) were issued during the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**43. If you marked answer a) to question no. 42, indicate the number in the given period:**

- number of permits: .....
- number of authorizations: .....
- number of confirmations: .....
- number of statements: .....
- number of delivery declarations: .....

**44. If there is a registry office in your municipality, did it receive requests for the issuance of bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates in the given period?**

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) not applicable for our municipality

**45. If you marked answer a) to question no. 44, indicate whether bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates were issued during the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**46. If you marked answer a) to question no. 45, indicate the number in the given period:**

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

**47. Indicate if your municipality received *submissions which initiated administrative proceedings in the language of the national minority* during the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**48. If you marked answer a) to question no. 47, indicate the number in the given period: .....**

**49. Indicate whether your municipality received *requests for decisions in a true copy and in the language of the national minority* in the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**50. If you marked answer a) to question no. 49, indicate the number in the given period: .....**

**51. Indicate whether *decisions were made in your municipality in administrative proceedings in a true copy and in the language of the national minority* in the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**52. If you marked answer a) to question no. 51, indicate the number in the given period: .....**

**53. If you marked answer a) to question no. 51, indicate in which areas were covered by the given decisions: .....**

**54. If a municipality issues decisions in the language of a national minority, state whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language *on decisions* issued in the language of a national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) not applicable for our municipality

<b>NEGOTIATIONS OF TERRITORIAL SELF-GOVERNMENT UNITS</b>
--

**55. Indicate whether the deputies in your municipality also use the language of the national minority at the negotiations of the municipal/city council:**

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

**56. Indicate whether the mayor in your municipality also uses the language of the national minority at the negotiations of the municipal/city council:**

- a) yes

- b) partially
- c) no

**57. Indicate the language of the negotiations at the municipal/city council in your municipality:**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the language of the national minority
- c) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**58. Indicate whether materials for the negotiations of the municipal/city council are also being prepared in your municipality in the language of the national minority:**

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

**59. Indicate how your municipality ensures the possibility of using the language of the national minority during the negotiations of the municipal/city council:**

- a) through interpretation services<sup>119</sup>
- b) in another way (please specify): .....

<b>INFORMING THE PUBLIC</b>
-----------------------------

**GENERALLY BINDING LEGISLATION**

**60. Indicate whether your municipality received *requests for the issuance of information on generally binding legal regulations* both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority in the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**61. If you marked answer a) to question no. 60, indicate the number in the given period: .....**

**62. If you marked answer a) to question no. 60, state whether your municipality did *provide information on generally binding legal regulations* both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority:**

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

**GENERALLY BINDING REGULATIONS**

**63. Indicate whether your municipality issues and publishes *generally binding municipal regulations* also in the language of the national minority:**

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<sup>119</sup>Note: Interpretation will be provided by the municipality, either through an employee of the municipality or through an interpreter." IN: Methodological guideline to Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended , p. 26. Available online: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7551\\_metodicke-usmernenie.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7551_metodicke-usmernenie.pdf) .

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

#### **INFORMATION ON THREATS TO LIFE, HEALTH, SECURITY OR PROPERTY OF CITIZENS**

**64. Indicate whether the places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the municipality, contain information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens<sup>120</sup> also in the language of the national minority:**

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

**65. Under the Act on Spatial Planning and Building Regulations (Building Act), a municipality is<sup>121</sup> a Building Authority. In accordance with the above, does your municipality carry out inspections of construction site designations also with regard to the information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens?**

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

**66. Indicate whether your municipality, when determining the use of traffic signs on local and special-purpose roads, provides information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens also in the language of a national minority (on additional text tables to traffic signs<sup>122</sup>):**

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

#### **SIGNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**67. Indicate whether signs and announcements to inform the public (e.g. shops, sports facilities, restaurants, streets, roads, airports, bus stations and railway stations) under the municipality's administration, are stated in the language of the national minority:**

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

**68. Indicate whether the announcements to inform the public via local radio or other technical devices are also stated in the language of the national minority:**

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<sup>120</sup>A comprehensive overview of such information is available on the Plenipotentiary's website: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7750\\_usmernenie-k-aplikacii-%C2%A7-4-ods-6-zakona-o-pouzivani-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7750_usmernenie-k-aplikacii-%C2%A7-4-ods-6-zakona-o-pouzivani-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin.pdf)

<sup>121</sup>This refers to § 117 (1) of Act no. 50/1976 Coll. on Spatial Planning and Building Regulations (Building Act).

<sup>122</sup>The translation of selected additional traffic signs is available on the Plenipotentiary's website: <https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk//informacie-tykajuce-sa-ohrozenia-zivota-zdravia-bezpecnosti-alebo-majetku-obcanov/>

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

**69. Indicate where your municipality publishes announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority (Note! Several answers can be given):**

- a) website of the municipality
- b) municipal radio
- c) municipal television
- d) periodical press of the municipality
- e) official notice board of the municipality
- f) elsewhere (please specify): .....

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**70. Indicate whether important information** (composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, time and manner in which the information can be obtained on where natural or legal entities can submit a request, proposal, submission, complaint or other submissions, procedure that the municipality must follow in processing all requests, proposals and other submissions, including the relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for proceedings rendered services of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for access to information and information on public funds management and management of municipal property) **is stated on the municipal official board, on the website at the seat of the municipality, and in periodicals also published in the language of the national minority:**

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

**MEMORIALS, MONUMENTS AND MEMORIAL PLAQUES**

**71. If your municipality owns monuments, memorials and memorial plaques, are the inscriptions indicated both in the state language and also the language of the national minority?**

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) not applicable for our municipality

<b>COSTS OF ENSURING THE USE OF LANGUAGES OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN OFFICIAL CONTACT</b>
--

**72. Indicate the approximate amount of funds from the municipality's budget, which the municipality spent in the given period on (Note! For each answer, state the numerical value in EUR):**

**a) responses to submissions written in the language of the national minority both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority: .....**

**b) use of the language of the national minority (besides state language) in the official agenda of the municipal office (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.): .....**

**c) keeping the chronicle also in the language of a national minority: .....**

**d) provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of your municipality and their processing (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language): .....**

**e) issuance of bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations): .....**

**f) issuance of bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates:.....**

**g) issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority: .....**

**h) preparation of materials for the meeting of the municipal/city council also in the language of the national minority: .....**

**i) ensuring the possibility of using the language of a national minority at the meetings of the municipal/city council: .....**

**j) provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority:.....**

**k) issuance and publication of generally binding regulations of the municipality also in the language of the national minority: .....**

**l) provision of information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the municipality, also in the language of the national minority: .....**

**m) indication of signs and announcements to inform the public (e.g. shops, sports facilities, restaurants, streets, roads, airports, bus stations and railway stations) under municipality's administration, also in the language of the national minority:.....**

**n) publication of important information** (composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, time and manner in which the information can be obtained on where natural or legal entities can submit a request, proposal, submission, complaint or other submissions, procedure that the municipality must follow in processing all requests, proposals and other submissions, including the relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for proceedings rendered services of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for access to

information and information on public funds management and management of municipal property) is stated on the municipal **official board, on the website at the seat of the municipality, and in periodicals also in the language of the national minority:**.....

**73. Indicate the estimated amount of funds from the municipal budget that is needed to fulfil the following legal obligations and possibilities for the calendar year (Note! For each answer, state the numerical value in EUR):**

**a) responses to submissions written in the language of the national minority both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**b) use of the language of the national minority (besides state language) in the official agenda of the municipal office** (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.): .....

**c) keeping the chronicle also in the language of a national minority:** .....

**d) provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of your municipality and their processing** (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language): .....

**e) issuance of bilingual public documents** (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations): .....

**f) issuance of bilingual birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates:**.....

**g) issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority:** .....

**h) preparation of materials for the meeting of the municipal/city council also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**i) ensuring the possibility of using the language of a national minority at the meetings of the municipal/city council:** .....

**j) provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority:**.....

**k) issuance and publication of generally binding regulations of the municipality also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**l) provision of information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the municipality, also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**m) indication of signs and announcements to inform the public (e.g. shops, sports facilities, restaurants, streets, roads, airports, bus stations and railway stations) under municipality's administration, also in the language of the national minority:**.....

**n) publication of important information** (composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, time and manner in which the information can be obtained on where natural or legal entities can submit a request, proposal, submission, complaint or other submissions, procedure that the municipality must follow in processing all requests, proposals and other submissions, including the relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for

proceedings rendered services of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for access to information and information on public funds management and management of municipal property) is stated on the municipal **official board, on the website at the seat of the municipality, and in periodicals also in the language of the national minority:**.....

<b>FINAL QUESTIONS</b>
------------------------

**74. Indicate whether the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact for your municipality is:**

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

**75. If you marked answer b) or c) in question 74, what was the reason (Note! You can give more than one answer):**

- a) lack of qualified employees
- b) insufficient funds
- c) lack of professional support
- d) other factors (please specify) .....

**76. Indicate whether your municipality has received suggestions due to violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. for the years 2019 and 2020 (until 1 July):**

- a) yes
- b) no

**77. If you marked answer a) to question no. 76, indicate the number in the given period:**  
.....

**78. If you marked answer a) to question no. 76, indicate what has been the subject of such complaints:** .....

**79. If you marked answer a) to question no. 76, please indicate how these complaints have been resolved:** .....

Date: .....

Questionnaire filled in (name, surname, position and signature):  
.....

Date: .....

The questionnaire was approved (name, surname, position and signature of the mayor of the municipality/city, or the head of the municipal office/city office):  
.....

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**for legal entities established by local authorities on the use of languages of national minorities**

Dear respondent,

We would like to ask you to **help us with determining the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 and 2020 (until 1 July)** (hereinafter referred to as "the given period") by completing this questionnaire. The data are collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Status of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is, in accordance with § 7a Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act no. 184/1999 Coll."), entitled to request information and written documents on the use of languages of national minorities in the area of their competence from public administration bodies. If the public administration body does not provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it shall commit an administrative offense pursuant to § 7b (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

This obligation applies to **all municipalities listed in the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 534/2011 Coll., amending the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 221/1999 Coll., which issues a list of municipalities where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 20% of the population** (hereinafter referred to as "Government Regulation No. 534/2011 Coll."). The given Regulation in force is **based on the 1991 Census of Population and Housing**.

Read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill** in the relevant data.

**Fill in the answers for the period from 2019 to 1 July 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the "reference period").**

**Do not fill in** the questionnaire **on behalf of legal entities operating in the field of pre-school education, primary schools and secondary schools.**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

<b>DESIGNATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE NATIONAL MINORITY</b>
--

**1. Indicate the area your *legal entity operates*<sup>123</sup> in: .....**

<sup>123</sup>Areas of application: e.g. healthcare; social services; social protection of children and social guardianship; culture; tourism; recreation and sports; asset management; technical services; housing administration; community service; telecommunications; vocational training, etc.

2. Enter the name of the *legal entity* established by the territorial self-government unit in the state language: .....

3. Enter the designation of the *legal entity* established by the territorial self-government unit in the language of the national minority: .....

4. Indicate the name of the municipality or city which is the founder of the *legal entity*: .....

5. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of a national minority is indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language *on the buildings of a legal entity* established by territorial self-government unit:

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

6. Indicate the language of the *designation of the legal entity* established by the territorial self-government unit is located *on the buildings*:

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

7. Indicate whether the *designation of the legal entity* established by the territorial self-government unit in the language of the national minority is indicated *on the buildings* in addition to the equivalent in the state language:

- a) same font
- b) smaller font

<b>OFFICIAL CONTACT</b>
-------------------------

8. Indicate the total number of employees of the *legal entity* established by the territorial self-government unit: .....

9. Indicate the number of employees with a command of the language of a national minority:

- a) only spoken form (Note! They do not possess the written skills) .....
- b) spoken and written form: .....

10. Indicate how the *legal entity* established by the local self-government unit ensures the possibility of using the language of the national minority in official contact:

- (a) through employees of *a legal person* established by a local self-government unit communicating in the language of a national minority
- b) through interpretation or translation services<sup>124</sup>
- c) in another way (please specify): .....

---

<sup>124</sup>Note: "The text in the language of a national minority does not have to be an officially certified translation of the text in the state language. The text in the language of a national minority may also be prepared by an employee of a public administration body who speaks the language of a national minority." IN: Methodological guideline to Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, p. 22. Available online: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7551\\_metodicke-usmernenie.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7551_metodicke-usmernenie.pdf).

**11. Indicate whether the local self-government unit determines designated office hours for handling matters in the language of the national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**12. Indicate whether *legal entity* established by the territorial self-government unit indicates (in a visible place) information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority – in oral and written form in official contact at the seat of a public administration body in accordance with § 1 of Government Regulation no. 535/2011 Coll., which implements certain provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. 125:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**13. If you marked answer a) to question no. 12, indicate in which language the following information is provided (Note! Several answers can be given):**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the language of the national minority

**14. If you marked answer a) to question no. 12, tell us how the information is presented (Note! Several answers can be given):**

- a) on the official notice board
- b) on the information board
- c) on the website
- d) in another way (please specify): .....

**15. Indicate whether *written submissions from citizens in the language of the national minority were registered by the legal entity* established by the territorial self-government unit in the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**16. If you marked the answer a) in question no. 15, what was the total number of such submissions in the given period: .....**

**17. If you marked answer a) to question no. 15, which areas were covered by such submissions: .....**

**18. If you marked answer a) to question no. 15, state whether the *legal entity* established by the territorial self-government unit provided *answers in the given period to the submissions written in the language of the minority* both in the state language and also in the language of the minority:**

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

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<sup>125</sup><https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2011/535/20120701>

19. Indicate whether the *legal entity* established by the territorial self-government unit also uses the language of the national minority in the official agenda – e.g. in minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.:

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

20. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 19, indicate in which areas: .....

<b>BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS</b>
----------------------------

**OFFICIAL FORMS**

21. Indicate whether *bilingual official forms* are provided for citizens by the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit within the scope of its competence:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) does not apply to a legal entity established by a territorial self-government unit

22. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 21, indicate in which areas they are ensured: .....

23. Indicate whether legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit received *requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms* in the state language and in the language of the national minority during the given period:

- a) yes
- b) no

24. If you marked answer a) to question no. 23, indicate the total number of requests for official forms: .....

25. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit issued *bilingual official forms* upon request, both in the state language and in the language of the minority during the given period:

- a) yes
- b) no

26. If you marked answer a) to question no. 25, indicate the total number of requests for official forms: .....

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS**

27. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit received *requests for the issuance of bilingual public documents* (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations) in the given period:

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) does not apply to a legal entity established by a territorial self-government unit

**41. If you marked answer a) to question no. 40, indicate the number in the given period:**

- number of requests for permits: .....
- number of requests for authorizations: .....
- number of requests for confirmations: .....
- number of requests for statements: .....
- number of requests for declarations: .....

**29. If you marked answer a) to question no. 27, indicate whether *bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, confirmations, statements and declarations) were issued* during the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**30. If you marked answer a) to question no. 27, indicate the number in the given period:**

- number of permits: .....
- number of authorizations: .....
- number of confirmations: .....
- number of statements: .....
- number of delivery declarations: .....

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

**31. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit received *submissions which initiated administrative proceedings in the language of the national minority in the given period*:**

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) does not apply to a legal entity established by a territorial self-government unit

**32. If you marked answer a) to question no. 31, indicate the number of submissions in the given period: .....**

**33. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the territorial self-government received *requests for the issuance of bilingual decisions* in the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) does not apply to a legal entity established by a territorial self-government unit

**34. If you marked answer a) to question no. 33, indicate the number of requests in the given period: .....**

**35. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the territorial self-government issued *decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of the national minority in the given period:***

- a) yes
- b) no

**36. If you marked answer a) to question no. 35, indicate the total number of such decisions in the given period: .....**

**37. If you marked answer a) to question no. 35, indicate which areas were affected by such decisions: .....**

**38. If a legal entity established by a territorial self-government unit issues decisions in the language of a national minority, state whether the *designation of the municipality in the language of a national minority is indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on decisions issued in the language of a national minority:***

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) does not apply to a legal entity established by a territorial self-government unit

<b>NEGOTIATIONS OF LEGAL ENTITY BODIES</b>
--

**39. Indicate whether the language of the national minority is also used at the negotiations of the bodies of a legal entity established by a territorial self-government unit:**

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

**40. Indicate the language of negotiations of the bodies of the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit:**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the language of the national minority
- c) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**41. Indicate whether materials are being prepared for the negotiations of the bodies of a legal entity established by a territorial self-government unit also in the language of a national minority:**

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

**42. Indicate how the possibility of using the language of a national minority in the negotiations of the bodies of a legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit is ensured:**

a) through interpretation services<sup>126</sup>

b) in another way (please specify): .....

<b>INFORMING THE PUBLIC</b>
-----------------------------

**43. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit received *requests for the issuance of information on generally binding legal regulations* both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority in the given period:**

a) yes

b) no

**44. If you marked answer a) to question no. 43, indicate the number of requests in the given period: .....**

**45. If you ticked marked a) to question no. 43, state whether the legal entity established by the territorial self-government has *provided information on generally binding legal regulations* in addition to the state language also in the language of the national minority:**

a) yes

b) partially

c) no

**46. Indicate whether the places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit, contain information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens also in the language of the national minority:**

a) yes

b) partially

c) no

**47. Indicate whether the signs and announcements intended to inform the public, which are under the administration of the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit, are also in the language of the national minority:**

a) yes

b) partially

c) no

**48. Indicate where the legal entity established by the local self-government unit states announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority (Note! Several answers can be given):**

a) on the website

b) on the official notice board

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<sup>126</sup>Note: Interpretation will be provided by the municipality, either through an employee of the municipality or through an interpreter." IN: Methodological guideline to Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended, p. 26. Available online: [https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7551\\_metodicke-usmernenie.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7551_metodicke-usmernenie.pdf) .

c) elsewhere (please specify): .....

**49. Indicate whether important information** (method for establishing the liable person, its powers and competencies and a description of the organizational structure, place, time and methods in which the information can be obtained; information on where the request, proposal, complaint, complaint, or other submission can be submitted, place, time and manner of lodging an appeal and the possibility of judicial review of the liable person's decision, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the liable person in processing all applications, requests and other submissions, including relevant time limits to be complied with; regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the liable person acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the liable person, the schedule of administrative fees charged by the liable person for administrative acts and the list of fees for disclosing information) is **also being published in the language of the national minority:**

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

<b>AREAS OF PUBLIC CONTACT</b>
--------------------------------

**50. If the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit is a health care facility, state how it ensures the possibility of using the language of the national minority with the staff of health care facilities** (Note! Answer this question only if it is applicable to you):

- a) through the staff of the health care facility communicating in the language of the national minority
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (please specify): .....

**51. If the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit is a social care facility, state how it ensures the possibility of using the language of the national minority with the staff of social care facilities** (Note! Answer this question only if it is applicable to you):

- a) through the staff of the social care facility communicating in the language of the national minority
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (please specify): .....

**52. If the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit is a social guardianship facility, state how it ensures the possibility of using the language of the national minority with the staff of social guardianship facilities** (Note! Answer this question only if it is applicable to you):

- (a) through the staff of a social guardianship facility communicating in the language of a national minority
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (please specify): .....

**FINAL QUESTIONS**

**53. Indicate whether the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact for the legal entity established by a territorial self-government unit is:**

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

**54. If you marked answer b) or c) in question 53, what was the reason (Note! You can give more than one answer):**

- a) lack of qualified employees
- b) insufficient funds
- c) lack of professional support
- d) other factors (please specify): .....

**55. Indicate whether the legal entity established by the territorial self-government unit has received *complaints due to violation of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.* in the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**56. If you marked answer a) to question no. 55, indicate the total number of such complaints in the given period: .....**

**57. If you marked answer a) to question no. 55, indicate what has been the subject of such complaints: .....**

**58. If you marked answer a) to question no. 55, please indicate how these complaints have been resolved: .....**

Date: .....

Questionnaire filled in (name, surname, position and signature):

.....

Date: .....

The questionnaire was approved by (name, surname, position and signature of the statutory representative of the legal entity established by the local government): .....

.....

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**for district offices on the use of languages of national minorities**

Dear respondent,

We would like to ask you to **help us with determining the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 and 2020 (until 1 July)** by completing this questionnaire. The data are collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Status of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is, in accordance with § 7a Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act no. 184/1999 Coll."), entitled to request information and written documents on the use of languages of national minorities in the area of their competence from public administration bodies. If the public administration body does not provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it shall commit an administrative offense pursuant to § 7b (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

We would also like to take this opportunity to collect the data (via several questions) needed to analyse the **costs of increasing the availability of services provided by public administration bodies** to persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the area of the use of minority languages in official contact. This analysis is one of the tasks of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2016-2020.

Read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill** in the relevant data. In case of any ambiguities when filling in the questionnaire, please contact the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities:

[sofia.daskalova@vlada.gov.sk](mailto:sofia.daskalova@vlada.gov.sk); 02/209 25 117; [martina.pucikova@vlada.gov.sk](mailto:martina.pucikova@vlada.gov.sk) 02/209 25 672.

**Fill in the answers for the period from 2019 to 1 July 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the "reference period").**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

<b>DESIGNATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE NATIONAL MINORITY</b>
--

**1. Enter the name of the district office/workplace of the district office in the state language:**

.....

**2. Indicate the designation of the district office/workplace of the district office in the language of the national minority: .....**

**3. Indicate for which national minority you fill in the questionnaire** (note: if there are several national minorities living in the municipality, the questionnaire is filled in separately for each national minority): .....

**4. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of the national minority is indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language *on the buildings of the district office/workplace of the district office*:**

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

**5. Indicate how the *designation of the district office/workplace of the district office* is located *on the buildings*:**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**6. Indicate whether the *designation of the district office/workplace of the district office* in the language of the national minority is indicated *on the buildings* in addition to the equivalent in the state language:**

- a) same font
- b) smaller font

**OFFICIAL CONTACT**

**EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE/WORKPLACE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE**

**7. Indicate the total number of employees**  
of the district office: .....  
of your workplace: .....

**8. Indicate the number of employees with a command of the language of a national minority:**

	district office	your workplace
a) written and spoken language skills		
b) only spoken language skills		

**9. Indicate whether the employees participated in language competence training aimed at maintaining and improving the level of command of the language of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a special regulation (hereinafter referred to as "language competence training"):**

- a) yes
- b) no

**10. If you ticked marked a) to question 9 , indicate how many employees have attended language competence training: .....**

**11. If you marked answer a) to question 9, indicate how the employees who have attended language training assess this training:**

- a) very useful
- b) useful
- c) useless

**12. If you marked answer b) to question 9, state the reason why the employees did not participate in language competence training:**

- a) it was not necessary (employees have a sufficient command of the language in question)
- b) no training in the relevant language has been offered
- c) did not have the opportunity to participate due to workload
- d) lack of interest
- e) doubts about the possibility of acquiring a language through one language competence training course

**13. Are your employees interested in language competence training in the next period?**

- a) yes
- b) no

#### **ENSURING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF THE NATIONAL MINORITY**

**14. Indicate how the district office/workplace of the district office ensures the possibility of using the language of the national minority in official contact:**

- a) through internal employees communicating in the language of the national minority
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (please specify): .....

**15. Indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office determines designated office hours for handling matters in the language of the national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) no

#### **INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING THE NATIONAL MINORITY LANGUAGE**

**16. Indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office states information (in a visible place) on the possibilities of using the language of the national minority – in oral and written form in official contact at the seat of the district office/workplace of the district office in accordance with § 1 of Government Provision no. 535/2011 Coll., which implements certain provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**17. If you marked answer (a) to question 16, please indicate the language in which the information is stated:**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**18. If you marked answer a) to question no. 16, tell us how the information is presented (Note! Several answers can be given):**  
a) on the official notice board  
b) on the information board  
c) in another way (please specify): .....

**WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS**

**19. Indicate if written *submissions* from citizens in the language of the national minority were registered at the district office/workplace of the district office during the reference period:**  
a) yes  
b) no

**20. If you marked the answer a) in question no. 19, what was the total number of such submissions in the given period: .....**

**21. If you marked answer a) to question no. 19, which areas were covered by such submissions: .....**

**22. If you marked the answer a) to question 19, state whether the district office/workplace of the district office provided *answers to submissions written in the language of the minority both in the state language and also in the language of the minority during the given period:***  
a) yes  
b) partially  
c) no

**OFFICIAL AGENDA**

**23. Indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office also uses the language of the national minority in the official agenda – e.g. in minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.:**  
a) yes  
b) partially  
c) no

**24. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 23, indicate in which areas: .....**

<b>BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS</b>
----------------------------

**OFFICIAL FORMS**

**25. Indicate whether *bilingual official forms* are provided at the district office/workplace of the district office for citizens within the scope of its competence:**  
a) yes  
b) partially  
c) no

26. If you marked **answer a) or b)** to question no. 25, indicate in which areas they are ensured:  
.....

27. Indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office received *requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms* in the state language and in the language of the minority during the given period:

- a) yes
- b) no

28. Indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office issued *bilingual official forms* upon request, both in the state language and in the language of the minority during the given period:

- a) yes
- b) no

29. If you marked **answer a)** to question no. 28, what was the total number of issued bilingual official forms in the given period: .....

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS**

30. Indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office received *requests for the issuance of bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations)* during the given period?

- a) yes
- b) no

31. If you marked **answer a)** to question no. 30, indicate the number in the given period:

- number of requests for permits: .....
- number of requests for authorizations: .....
- number of requests for confirmations: .....
- number of requests for statements: .....
- number of requests for declarations: .....

32. If you marked **answer a)** to question no. 30, indicate whether *bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, confirmations, statements and declarations) were issued* during the given period:

- a) yes
- b) no

33. If you marked **answer a)** to question no. 32, indicate the number in the given period:

- number of permits: .....
- number of authorizations: .....
- number of confirmations: .....
- number of statements: .....
- number of delivery declarations: .....

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

**34. Indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office received *submissions which initiated administrative proceedings* in the language of the national minority in the given period?**

- a) yes
- b) no

**35. If you marked answer a) to question no. 34, indicate the number in the given period:**

**36. Indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office received *requests for the issuance of bilingual decisions* in the given period?**

- a) yes
- b) no

**37. If you marked answer a) to question no. 36, indicate the number in the given period:**

**38. Indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office *issued decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy* in the language of the national minority for the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**39. If you marked answer a) to question no. 38, indicate the total number of such decisions in the given period: .....**

**40. If you marked answer a) to question no. 38, indicate which areas were affected by such decisions: .....**

**41. If the district office/workplace of the district office issues decisions in the language of the national minority, state whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of the national minority is indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language *on decisions* issued in the language of the national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) not applicable to the district office/workplace of the district office

<b>NEGOTIATIONS AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE/OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE</b>
--

**42. Indicate whether the language of the national minority is also used at the negotiations of the district office/workplace of the district office:**

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

**43. Indicate the language of the negotiations at the district office/workplace of the district office:**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the language of the national minority
- c) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**44. Indicate whether the materials for the negotiations at the district office/workplace of the district office are also being prepared in the language of the national minority:**

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

<b>INFORMING THE PUBLIC</b>
-----------------------------

**GENERALLY BINDING LEGISLATION**

**45. Indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office received *requests for the issuance of information on generally binding legal regulations* both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority in the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**46. If you marked answer a) to question no. 45, indicate the number in the given period:**

**47. If you marked answer a) to question 45, please indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office *provided information on generally binding legal regulations* both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority:**

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

**INFORMATION ON THREATS TO LIFE, HEALTH, SECURITY OR PROPERTY OF CITIZENS**

**48. Indicate whether places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the district office/workplace of the district office, contain information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens is also in the language of the national minority<sup>127</sup>:**

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

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<sup>127</sup>A comprehensive overview of such information is available on the Plenipotentiary's website:  
[https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7750\\_usmernenie-k-aplikacii-%C2%A7-4-ods-6-zakona-o-pouzivani-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7750_usmernenie-k-aplikacii-%C2%A7-4-ods-6-zakona-o-pouzivani-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin.pdf)

## SIGNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**49. Indicate whether the signs and announcements intended to inform the public, which are under the administration of the district office/workplace of the district office, are also in the language of the national minority:**

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

**50. If you marked answer a) in question no. 49, state where the district office/workplace of the district office provides announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority (Note! Several answers can be given):**

- a) on the website
- b) on the official notice board
- c) on the information board
- d) elsewhere (please specify): .....

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**51. Indicate whether important information (method for establishing the liable person, its powers and competencies and a description of the organizational structure, place, time and methods in which the information can be obtained; information on where the request, proposal, complaint, complaint, or other submission can be submitted, place, time and manner of lodging an appeal and the possibility of judicial review of the liable person's decision, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the liable person in processing all applications, requests and other submissions, including relevant time limits to be complied with; regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the liable person acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the liable person, the schedule of administrative fees charged by the liable person for administrative acts and the list of fees for disclosing information) is also published in the language of the national minority:**

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

<b>COSTS OF ENSURING THE USE OF LANGUAGES OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN OFFICIAL CONTACT</b>
--

**52. Indicate the approximate amount of funds from the budget of the district office/workplace of the district office, which the municipality spent in the given period on (Note! For each answer, state the numerical value in EUR):**

**a) responses to submissions written in the language of the national minority both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority: .....**

**b) use of the language of the national minority (besides state language) in the official agenda of the district office/workplace of the district office** (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.): .....

**c) provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of the district office/workplace of the district office and their processing** (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language):.....

**d) issuance of bilingual public documents** (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations): .....

**e) issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority:**.....

**f) provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority:**.....

**g) provision of information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the office, also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**h) indicating signs and announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**i) publication of important information** (information on the composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, instructions, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, the time and manner in which information and information on where natural or legal persons may submit an application, proposal, complaint, grievance or other submissions may be obtained, the procedure to be followed by the municipality in processing all applications, proposals and other submissions, including relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for acts and actions of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for making information and information on the management of public funds and the management of municipal property) **on the official board, website and periodicals also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**53. Indicate the estimated amount of funds from the district office/workplace of the district office budget that is needed to fulfil the following legal obligations and possibilities for the calendar year** (Note! For each answer, state the numerical value in EUR):

**a) responses to submissions written in the language of the national minority both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**b) use of the language of the national minority (besides state language) in the official agenda of the district office/workplace of the district office** (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.): .....

**c) provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of the district office/workplace of the district office and their processing** (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language):.....

**d) issuance of bilingual public documents** (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations): .....

*e) issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority:.....*

*f) provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority:.....*

*g) provision of information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the office, also in the language of the national minority: .....*

*h) indicating signs and announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority: .....*

*i) publication of important information (information on the composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, instructions, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, the time and manner in which information and information on where natural or legal persons may submit an application, proposal, complaint, grievance or other submissions may be obtained, the procedure to be followed by the municipality in processing all applications, proposals and other submissions, including relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for acts and actions of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for making information and information on the management of public funds and the management of municipal property) on the official board, website and periodicals also in the language of the national minority:.....*

<b>FINAL QUESTIONS</b>
------------------------

**54. Indicate whether the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact for district office/workplace of the district office is:**

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

**55. If you marked answer b) or c) in question 54, what was the reason (Note! You can give more than one answer):**

- a) lack of qualified employees
- b) insufficient funds
- c) lack of professional support
- d) other factors (please specify) .....

**56. Indicate whether the district office/workplace of the district office received complaints about violation of the Act on the Use of Minority Languages for the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**57. If you marked answer a) to question no. 56, indicate the total number of such complaints in the given period: .....**

**58. If you marked answer a) to question no. 56, indicate what has been the subject of such complaints: .....**

**59. If you marked answer a) to question no. 56, please indicate how these complaints have been resolved: .....**

Date: .....

Questionnaire filled in (name, surname, position and signature):

.....

Date: .....

The questionnaire was approved (name, surname, position and signature of the head of the district office):

.....

**OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**for state administration bodies<sup>128</sup> on the use of languages of national minorities**

Dear respondent,

We would like to ask you to **help us with determining the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 and 2020 (until 1 July)** by completing this questionnaire. The data are collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Status of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is, in accordance with § 7a Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act no. 184/1999 Coll."), entitled to request information and written documents on the use of languages of national minorities in the area of their competence from public administration bodies. If the public administration body does not provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it shall commit an administrative offense pursuant to § 7b (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

We would also like to take this opportunity to collect the data (via several questions) needed to analyse the **costs of increasing the availability of services provided by public administration bodies** to persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the area of the use of minority languages in official contact. This analysis is one of the tasks of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2016-2020.

Read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill** in the relevant data. In case of any ambiguities when filling in the questionnaire, please contact the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities:

[sofia.daskalova@vlada.gov.sk](mailto:sofia.daskalova@vlada.gov.sk); 02/209 25 117; [martina.pucikova@vlada.gov.sk](mailto:martina.pucikova@vlada.gov.sk) 02/209 25 672.

**Fill in the answers for the period from 2019 to 1 July 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the "reference period").**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

<b>DESIGNATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE NATIONAL MINORITY</b>
--

**1. Enter the name of the state administration body in the state language: .....**

<sup>128</sup>This refers to customs offices, tax offices, labour, social affairs and family offices, regional public health offices, regional veterinary and food administrations and state archives. Identical questions were sent to all entities and the name of the entity was used throughout the text of the questionnaire.

**2. Indicate the designation of the state administration body in the language of the national minority: .....**

**3. Indicate for which national minority you fill in the questionnaire (note: if there are several national minorities living in the municipality, the questionnaire is filled in separately for each national minority):.....**

**4. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority is indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on the buildings of the state administration body:***

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

**5. Indicate how the following *designation of the state administration body is located on the buildings:***

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**6. Indicate whether the *designation of the state administration body in the language of the national minority is indicated on the buildings in addition to the equivalent in the state language:***

- a) same font
- b) smaller font

<b>OFFICIAL CONTACT</b>
-------------------------

**STATE ADMINISTRATION BODY STAFF**

**7. Indicate the total number of employees of the state administration body: .....**

**8. Indicate the number of employees with a command of the language of a national minority:**

- a) only spoken form (Note! They do not possess the written skills) .....
- b) spoken and written form: .....

**9. Would your employees be interested in language competence training aimed at maintaining and improving the level of command of the language of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in the municipalities defined in a special regulation?**

- a) yes
- b) no

**ENSURING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF THE NATIONAL MINORITY**

**10. Indicate how the state administration body ensures the possibility of using the language of the national minority in official contact:**

- a) through internal employees communicating in the language of the national minority

- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (please specify): .....

**11. Indicate whether the state administration body determines designated office hours for handling matters in the language of the national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING THE NATIONAL MINORITY LANGUAGE**

**12. Indicate whether the state administration body states information (in a visible place) on the possibilities of using the language of the national minority – in oral and written form in official contact at the seat of the customs office/branch of the customs office in accordance with § 1 of Government Provision no. 535/2011 Coll., which implements certain provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**13. If you marked answer a) to question 12, please indicate the language in which the information is stated:**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**14. If you marked answer a) to question no. 12, tell us how the information is presented (Note! Several answers can be given):**

- a) on the official notice board
- b) on the information board
- c) in another way (please specify): .....

**WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS**

**15. Indicate whether written *submissions from citizens in the language of the national minority were registered with the state administration* body during the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**16. If you marked answer a) in question no. 15, what was the total number of such submissions in the given period: .....**

**17. If you marked answer a) to question no. 15, which areas were covered by such submissions: .....**

**18. If you marked answer a) to question 15, please indicate whether the *answers to submissions written by the state administration body in the minority language* were provided in the language of the minority during the given period:**

- a) yes

- b) partially
- c) no

**OFFICIAL AGENDA**

**19. Indicate whether the state administration body also uses the language of the national minority in the official agenda of the municipal office – e.g. in minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc .:**

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

**20. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 19, indicate in which areas: .....**

<b>BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS</b>
----------------------------

**OFFICIAL FORMS**

**21. Indicate whether *bilingual official forms* are provided for citizens by the state administration body within the scope of its competence:**

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

**22. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 21, indicate in which areas they are ensured: .....**

**23. Indicate whether the state administration body received *requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms in the state language and in the language of the minority during the given period:***

- a) yes
- b) no

**24. Indicate whether the state administration body issued *bilingual official forms upon request, both in the state language and in the language of the minority during the given period:***

- a) yes
- b) no

**25. If you marked answer a) to question no. 24, what was the total number of issued *bilingual official forms* in the given period: .....**

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS**

**26. Indicate whether the state administration body received *requests for the issuance of bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations) during the given period?***

- a) yes

b) no

**27. If you marked answer a) to question no. 26, indicate the number in the given period:**

- number of requests for permits: .....
- number of requests for authorizations: .....
- number of requests for confirmations: .....
- number of requests for statements: .....
- number of requests for declarations: .....

**28. If you marked answer a) to question no. 26, indicate whether *bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, confirmations, statements and declarations) were issued* during the given period.**

a) yes

b) no

**29. If you marked answer a) to question no. 28, indicate the number in the given period:**

- number of permits: .....
- number of authorizations: .....
- number of confirmations: .....
- number of statements: .....
- number of delivery declarations: .....

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

**30. Indicate whether the state administration body received *submissions that initiated administrative proceedings in the language of the national minority* during the given period?**

a) yes

b) no

**31. If you marked answer a) to question no. 30, indicate the number in the given period:.....**

**32. Indicate whether the state administration body received *requests for bilingual decisions during the given period?***

a) yes

b) no

**33. If you marked answer a) to question no. 32, indicate the number in the given period:.....**

**34. Indicate whether the state administration body *issued decisions in the administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of the national minority* for the given period:**

a) yes

b) no

**35. If you marked answer a) to question no. 34, indicate the total number of such decisions in the given period: .....**

**36. If you marked answer a) to question no. 34, indicate which areas were affected by such decisions: .....**

**37. If a state administration body issues decisions in the language of a national minority, state whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of the national minority is indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language *on decisions* issued in the language of the national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) not applicable for the state administration body

<b>NEGOTIATIONS OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATION BODY</b>
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**38. Indicate whether the language of the national minority is also used in the negotiations of the state administration body:**

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

**39. Indicate the language of the negotiations at the state administration body:**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the language of the national minority
- c) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**40. Indicate whether the materials for the negotiations of the state administration body are also being prepared in the language of the national minority:**

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

<b>INFORMING THE PUBLIC</b>
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**GENERALLY BINDING LEGISLATION**

**41. Indicate whether the state administration body received *requests for the issuance of information on generally binding legal regulations* both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority in the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**42. If you marked answer a) to question no. 41, indicate the number in the given period:.....**

**43. If you ticked answer a) to question 41, please indicate whether the state administration body *provided information on generally binding legal regulations* in addition to the state language in the language of the national minority:**

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

#### **INFORMATION ON THREATS TO LIFE, HEALTH, SECURITY OR PROPERTY OF CITIZENS**

**44. Indicate whether places accessible to the public, which are included in the report of the state administration body, contain information on threats to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens also in the language of the national minority<sup>129</sup>:**

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

#### **SIGNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**45. Indicate whether the signs and announcements intended to inform the public, which are under the administration of the state administration body, are also indicated in the language of the national minority:**

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

**46. If you marked answer a) in question no. 45, indicate where the state administration body states announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority (Note! Several answers can be given):**

- a) on the website
- b) on the official notice board
- c) on the information board
- d) elsewhere (please specify): .....

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**51. Indicate whether important information** (method for establishing the liable person, its powers and competencies and a description of the organizational structure, place, time and methods in which the information can be obtained; information on where the request, proposal, complaint, or other submission can be submitted, place, time and manner of lodging an appeal and the possibility of judicial review of the liable person's decision, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the liable person in processing all applications, requests and other submissions, including relevant time limits to be complied with; regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the liable person acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the liable person, the schedule of administrative fees charged by

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<sup>129</sup>A comprehensive overview of such information is available on the Plenipotentiary's website:  
[https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7750\\_usmernenie-k-aplikacii-%C2%A7-4-ods-6-zakona-o-pouzivani-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin.pdf](https://www.narodnostnemensiny.gov.sk/data/files/7750_usmernenie-k-aplikacii-%C2%A7-4-ods-6-zakona-o-pouzivani-jazykov-narodnostnych-mensin.pdf)

the liable person for administrative acts and the list of fees for disclosing information) is **also published in the language of the national minority**:

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

<b>COSTS OF ENSURING THE USE OF LANGUAGES OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN OFFICIAL CONTACT</b>
--

**48. Indicate the approximate amount of funds from the state administration body's budget, which the municipality spent in the given period on** (Note! For each answer, state the numerical value in EUR):

**a) responses to submissions written in the language of the national minority both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**b) use of the language of the national minority (besides state language) in the official agenda of the state administration body** (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.):  
.....

**c) provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of the state administration body and their processing** (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language):.....

**d) issuance of bilingual public documents** (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations): .....

**e) issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority:**.....

**f) provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority:**.....

**g) provision of information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the state administration body, also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**h) indicating signs and announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**i) publication of important information** (information on the composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, instructions, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, the time and manner in which information and information on where natural or legal persons may submit an application, proposal, complaint, grievance or other submissions may be obtained, the procedure to be followed by the municipality in processing all applications, proposals and other submissions, including relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for acts and actions of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for making information and information on the management of public funds and the management of municipal property) **on the official board, website and periodicals also in the language of the national minority:**.....

**49. Indicate the estimated amount of funds from the state administration body budget that is needed to fulfil the following legal obligations and possibilities for the calendar year (Note! For each answer, state the numerical value in EUR):**

**a) responses to submissions written in the language of the national minority both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority: .....**

**b) use of the language of the national minority (besides state language) in the official agenda of the state administration body (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.): .....**

**c) provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of the state administration body and their processing (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language): .....**

**d) issuance of bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations): .....**

**e) issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority: .....**

**f) provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority:.....**

**g) provision of information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the state administration body, also in the language of the national minority: .....**

**h) indicating signs and announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority: .....**

**i) publication of important information (information on the composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, instructions, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, the time and manner in which information and information on where natural or legal persons may submit an application, proposal, complaint, grievance or other submissions may be obtained, the procedure to be followed by the municipality in processing all applications, proposals and other submissions, including relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for acts and actions of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for making information and information on the management of public funds and the management of municipal property) *on the official board, website and periodicals also in the language of the national minority: .....***

<b>FINAL QUESTIONS</b>
------------------------

**50. Indicate whether the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact for the state administration body is:**

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

**51. If you marked answer b) or c) in question 50, what was the reason (Note! You can give more than one answer):**

- a) lack of qualified employees
- b) insufficient funds
- c) lack of professional support
- d) other factors (please specify): .....

**52. Indicate whether the state administration body received complaints about *violation of the Act on the Use of Minority Languages* for the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**53. If you marked answer a) to question no. 52, indicate the total number of such complaints in the given period: .....**

**54. If you marked answer a) to question no. 52, indicate what has been the subject of such complaints: .....**

**55. If you marked answer a) to question no. 52, please indicate how these complaints have been resolved: .....**  
.....

Date: .....

Questionnaire filled in (name, surname, position and signature):

.....

Date: .....

The questionnaire was approved (name, surname, position and signature of the director of the customs office):

.....

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**for the organizational units of the Police Force on the use of languages of national minorities**

Dear respondent,

We would like to ask you to **help us with determining the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 and 2020 (until 1 July)** by completing this questionnaire. The data are collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Status of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is, in accordance with § 7a Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act no. 184/1999 Coll."), entitled to request information and written documents on the use of languages of national minorities in the area of their competence from public administration bodies. If the public administration body does not provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it shall commit an administrative offense pursuant to § 7b (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

We would also like to take this opportunity to collect the data (via several questions) needed to analyse the **costs of increasing the availability of services provided by public administration bodies** to persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the area of the use of minority languages in official contact. This analysis is one of the tasks of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2016-2020.

Read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill** in the relevant data. In case of any ambiguities when filling in the questionnaire, please contact the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities:

[sofia.daskalova@vlada.gov.sk](mailto:sofia.daskalova@vlada.gov.sk); 02/209 25 117; [martina.pucikova@vlada.gov.sk](mailto:martina.pucikova@vlada.gov.sk) 02/209 25 672.

**Fill in the answers for the period from 2019 to 1 July 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the "reference period").**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**1. Enter the name of the organizational unit of the Police Force in the state language:**

.....

<b>OFFICIAL CONTACT</b>
-------------------------

**2. Indicate the total number of members of the organizational unit of the Police Force:**

district directorate: .....

district department: .....

**3. Indicate the number of members of the organizational unit of the Police Force, who have the command of the language of a national minority:**

	<b>district directorate</b>	<b>district department</b>
a) spoken and written form		
b) only spoken form		

**4. Would your employees be interested in language competence training aimed at maintaining and improving the level of command of the language of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in the municipalities defined in a special regulation?**

- a) yes
- b) no

**5. Indicate how the organizational unit of the Police Force ensures the possibility of using the language of a national minority at duty:**

- a) through members of the organizational unit of the Police Force communicating in the language of the national minority
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (please specify): .....

**6. Indicate whether the organizational unit of Police Force at duty registered for (the past period) *written submissions* from citizens in the language of the national minority in the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**7. If you marked answer a) in question no. 6, what was the total number of such submissions in the given period: .....**

**8. If you marked answer a) to question no. 6, which areas were covered by such submissions: .....**

**9. Indicate whether the organizational unit of Police Force at duty registered responses to *written submissions* from citizens in the language of the national minority in the given period:**

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

**10. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 8, indicate in which areas: .....**

**11. Indicate whether the organizational unit of the Police Force uses, in addition to the state language, also the language of the national minority when at duty:**

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

**12. Do officers of the organizational unit of the Police Force, who speak the language of a national minority, use it when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority?**

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

<b>BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS</b>
----------------------------

**OFFICIAL FORMS**

**13. Indicate whether *bilingual official forms* are provided for citizens by the organizational unit of the Police Force at duty within its competence:**

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

**14. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 13, indicate in which areas they are ensured:**  
.....

**15. Indicate whether the organizational unit of the Police Force received *requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms* in the state language and in the language of the minority in the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**16. Indicate whether the organizational unit of the Police Force issued *bilingual official forms* upon request, both in the state language and in the language of the minority during the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS**

**17. Indicate whether the organizational unit of the Police Force received *requests for the issuance of bilingual public documents* (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations) in the reference period?**

- a) yes
- b) no

**18. If you marked answer a) to question no. 17, indicate the number in the given period:**

- number of requests for permits: .....
- number of requests for authorizations: .....
- number of requests for confirmations: .....
- number of requests for statements: .....
- number of requests for declarations: .....

19. If you marked **answer a) to question no. 17**, indicate whether **bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, confirmations, statements and declarations) were issued** during the given period.

- a) yes
- b) no

20. If you marked **answer a) to question no. 17**, indicate the number in the given period:

- number of permits: .....
- number of authorizations: .....
- number of confirmations: .....
- number of statements: .....
- number of delivery declarations: .....

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

21. Indicate whether the organizational unit of the Police Force *received submissions that initiated administrative proceedings* in the language of the national minority in the given period?

- a) yes
- b) no

22. If you marked **answer a) to question no. 21**, indicate the number in the given period:.....

23. Indicate whether the organizational unit of the Police Force received *requests for the issuance of bilingual decisions* in the given period?

- a) yes
- b) no

24. If you marked **answer a) to question no. 23**, indicate the number in the given period:.....

25. Indicate whether *the organizational unit of the Police Force issued decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy* in the language of the national minority for the given period:

- a) yes
- b) no

26. If you marked **answer a) to question no. 25**, indicate the total number of such decisions in the given period: .....

27. If you marked **answer a) to question no. 25**, indicate which areas were affected by such decisions: .....

28. If an organizational unit of the Police Force issues decisions in the language of a national minority, state whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of the national minority is indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language *on decisions* issued in the language of the national minority:

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

**INFORMING THE PUBLIC**

**INFORMATION ON THREATS TO LIFE, HEALTH, SECURITY OR PROPERTY OF CITIZENS**

**29. Indicate whether the places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit of the Police Force, contain information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens also in the language of the national minority:**

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

**30. Indicate whether the District Traffic Inspectorate at the seat of your District Directorate gave its consent in the given period to install a road sign also in the language of the national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**31. If you marked answer a) to question 30, please indicate the total number of consents issued during the given period: .....**

**32. If you marked answer a) to question 30, please indicate the type of the road sign:**  
 .....

**SIGNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**33. Indicate whether the signs and announcements intended to inform the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit of the Police Force, are also indicated in the language of the national minority:**

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

**34. Indicate where the organizational unit of the Police Force indicates announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority (Note! Several answers can be given):**

- a) on the website
- b) on the official notice board
- c) on the information board
- d) elsewhere (please specify): .....

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**51. Indicate whether important information** (method for establishing the liable person, its powers and competencies and a description of the organizational structure, place, time and methods in which the information can be obtained; information on where the request, proposal, complaint, complaint, or other submission can be submitted, place, time and manner of lodging an appeal and the possibility of judicial review of the liable person's decision, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the liable person in processing all applications, requests and other submissions, including relevant time limits to be complied with; regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the liable person acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the liable person, the schedule of administrative fees charged by the liable person for administrative acts and the list of fees for disclosing information) **is also published in the language of the national minority:**

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

<b>COSTS OF ENSURING THE USE OF LANGUAGES OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN OFFICIAL CONTACT</b>
--

**36. Indicate the approximate amount of funds from the organizational unit of the Police Force's budget, which the municipality spent in the given period on** (Note! For each answer, state the numerical value in EUR):

**a) responses to submissions written in the language of the national minority both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**b) the use also of the language of the national minority in the official agenda of the organizational unit of the Police Force** (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.):.....

**c) provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of the organizational unit of the Police Force and their processing** (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language):.....

**d) issuance of bilingual public documents** (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations): .....

**e) issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority:** .....

**f) provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority:**.....

**g) provision of information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit of the Police Force, also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**h) indicating signs and announcements intended to inform the public:**.....

**i) publication of important information** (information on the composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, instructions, instructions,

interpretative opinions according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, the time and manner in which information and information on where natural or legal persons may submit an application, proposal, complaint, grievance or other submissions may be obtained, the procedure to be followed by the municipality in processing all applications, proposals and other submissions, including relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for acts and actions of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for making information and information on the management of public funds and the management of municipal property) **on the official board, website and periodicals also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**37. Indicate the estimated amount of funds from the organizational unit of the Police Force budget that is needed to fulfil the following legal obligations and possibilities for the calendar year (Note! For each answer, state the numerical value in EUR):**

**a) responses to submissions written in the language of the national minority both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**b) the use also of the language of the national minority in the official agenda of the organizational unit of the Police Force** (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.):.....

**c) provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of the organizational unit of the Police Force and their processing** (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language):.....

**d) issuance of bilingual public documents** (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations): .....

**e) issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority:** .....

**f) provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority:**.....

**g) provision of information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit of the Police Force, also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**h) indicating signs and announcements intended to inform the public:**.....

**i) publication of important information** (information on the composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, instructions, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, the time and manner in which information and information on where natural or legal persons may submit an application, proposal, complaint, grievance or other submissions may be obtained, the procedure to be followed by the municipality in processing all applications, proposals and other submissions, including relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for acts and actions of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for making information and information on the management of public funds

and the management of municipal property) *on the official board, website and periodicals also in the language of the national minority:* .....

<b>FINAL QUESTIONS</b>
------------------------

**38. Indicate whether the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact for the organizational unit of the Police Force at duty is:**

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

**39. If you marked answer b) or c) in question 38, what was the reason (Note! You can give more than one answer):**

- a) lack of qualified employees
- b) insufficient funds
- c) lack of professional support
- d) other factors (please specify): .....

**39. Indicate whether the organizational unit of the Police Force received *complaints due to violation of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities* for the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**40. If you marked answer a) to question no. 39, indicate the total number of such complaints in the given period: .....**

**41. If you marked answer a) to question no. 39, indicate what has been the subject of such complaints: .....**

**42. If you marked answer a) to question no. 39, please indicate how these complaints have been resolved: .....**

Date: .....

Questionnaire filled in (name, surname, position and signature):

.....

Date: .....

The questionnaire was approved by (name, surname, position and signature of the head of the organizational unit of the Police Force): .....

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Annex no. 6: Questionnaire for organizational units of the Fire and Rescue Service on the use of languages of national minorities**

Dear respondent,

We would like to ask you to **help us with determining the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 and 2020 (until 1 July)** by completing this questionnaire. The data are collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Status of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is, in accordance with § 7a Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act no. 184/1999 Coll."), entitled to request information and written documents on the use of languages of national minorities in the area of their competence from public administration bodies. If the public administration body does not provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it shall commit an administrative offense pursuant to § 7b (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

We would also like to take this opportunity to collect the data (via several questions) needed to analyse the **costs of increasing the availability of services provided by public administration bodies** to persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the area of the use of minority languages in official contact. This analysis is one of the tasks of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2016-2020.

Read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill** in the relevant data. In case of any ambiguities when filling in the questionnaire, please contact the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities:

[sofia.daskalova@vlada.gov.sk](mailto:sofia.daskalova@vlada.gov.sk); 02/209 25 117; [martina.pucikova@vlada.gov.sk](mailto:martina.pucikova@vlada.gov.sk) 02/209 25 672.

**Fill in the answers for the period from 2019 to 1 July 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the "reference period").**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

<b>DESIGNATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE NATIONAL MINORITY</b>
--

**1. State the name of the organizational unit of the Fire and Rescue Service in the state language:**

.....

**2. Indicate the designation of the organizational unit in the language of the national minority:**

.....

**3. Indicate for which national minority you fill in the questionnaire** (note: if there are several national minorities living in the municipality, the questionnaire is filled in separately for each national minority): .....

**4. Indicate whether the *designation of the municipality in the language of the national minority is indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language on the buildings of the organizational unit:***

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

**5. Indicate how *the organizational unit designation is located on the buildings:***

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**6. Indicate whether the *designation of the organizational unit in the language of the national minority is indicated on the buildings in addition to the equivalent in the state language:***

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

<b>OFFICIAL CONTACT</b>
-------------------------

**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE STAFF**

**7. Indicate the total number of employees of the organizational unit:** .....

**8. Indicate the number of employees with a command of the language of a national minority:**

- a) spoken and written form .....
- b) only spoken form .....

**9. Indicate whether the organizational unit at duty uses, in addition to the state language, also the language of the national minority:**

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

**10. Do members of the organizational unit, who speak the language of a national minority, use it when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority?**

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

**ENSURING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF THE NATIONAL MINORITY**

**11. Indicate how the organizational unit ensures the possibility of using the language of the national minority in official contact:**

- a) through employees of the organizational unit communicating in the language of the national minority
- b) through interpretation or translation services
- c) in another way (please specify): .....

**12. Indicate whether the organizational unit determines designated office hours for handling matters in the language of the national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING THE NATIONAL MINORITY LANGUAGE**

**13. Indicate whether the organizational unit indicates (in a visible place) information on the possibilities of using the language of a national minority – in oral and written form in official contact at the seat of a public administration body in accordance with § 1 of Government Regulation no. 535/2011 Coll., which implements certain provisions of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**14. If you marked answer a) to question 13, please indicate the language in which the information is stated:**

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**15. If you marked answer a) to question no. 13, tell us how the information is presented (Note! Several answers can be given):**

- a) on the official notice board
- b) on the information board
- c) in another way (please specify): .....

**WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS**

**16. Indicate whether *written submissions* from citizens in the language of the national minority were registered (for the past period) at your office during the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**17. If you marked answer a) in question no. 16, what was the total number of such submissions in the given period: .....**

**18. If you marked answer a) to question no. 16, which areas were covered by such submissions: .....**

**19. If you marked answer a) to question 16, please indicate whether your organizational unit received the *answers to submissions* written in the minority language both in the language of the minority and in the state language during the given period:**

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

**20. Indicate whether the organizational unit also uses the language of the national minority in the official agenda of the municipal office – e.g. in minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc**  
..:

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

**21. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 20, indicate in which areas: .....**

<b>BILINGUAL DOCUMENTS</b>
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**OFFICIAL FORMS**

**22. Indicate whether *bilingual official forms (e.g. requests)* are provided by the organizational unit for the citizens within the scope of its competence:**

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

**23. If you marked answer a) or b) to question no. 22, indicate in which areas they are ensured:**  
.....

**24. Indicate whether the organizational unit received *requests for the issuance of bilingual official forms in the state language and in the language of the minority in the given period:***

- a) yes
- b) no

**25. Indicate whether the organizational unit issued *bilingual official forms* upon request, both in the state language and in the language of the minority during the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**26. If you marked answer a) to question no. 25, what was the total number of issued *bilingual official forms* in the given period: .....**

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS**

**27. Indicate whether the organizational unit received *requests for the issuance of bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations)* in the given period?**

- a) yes
- b) no

**28.** If you marked **answer a) to question no. 27**, indicate the number in the given period:

- number of requests for permits: .....
- number of requests for authorizations: .....
- number of requests for confirmations: .....
- number of requests for statements: .....
- number of requests for declarations: .....

**29.** If you marked **answer a) to question no. 27**, indicate whether *bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, confirmations, statements and declarations) were issued* during the given period.

- a) yes
- b) no

**30.** If you marked **answer a) to question no. 29**, indicate the number in the given period:

- number of permits: .....
- number of authorizations: .....
- number of confirmations: .....
- number of statements: .....
- number of delivery declarations: .....

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

**31.** Indicate whether the organizational unit of the Police Force received *submissions that initiated administrative proceedings* in the language of the national minority in the given period?

- a) yes
- b) no

**32.** If you marked **answer a) to question no. 31**, indicate the number of submissions in the given period: .....

**33.** Indicate whether the organizational unit received *requests for the issuance of bilingual decisions* in the given period?

- a) yes
- b) no

**34.** If you marked **answer a) to question no. 33**, indicate the *number* in the given period:.....

**35.** Indicate whether the organizational *issued decisions in the administrative proceedings in a true copy* in the language of the national minority for the given period:

- a) yes
- b) no

**36.** If you marked **answer a) to question no. 35**, indicate the total number of such decisions in the given period: .....

**37.** If you marked **answer a) to question no. 35**, indicate which areas were affected by such decisions: .....

**38.** If an **organizational unit** of issues decisions in the language of a national minority, state whether the *designation of the municipality* in the language of the national minority is indicated next to the name of the municipality in the state language *on decisions* issued in the language of the national minority:

- a) yes
- b) partially
- c) no
- d) does not apply to a local government body/organizational unit

<b>NEGOTIATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OF THE RESCUE SERVICE</b>
--

**39.** Indicate whether the language of the national minority is also used in the negotiations of the organizational unit:

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

**40.** Indicate the language of the negotiations at the organizational unit:

- a) only in the state language
- b) in the language of the national minority
- c) in the state language and in the language of the national minority

**41.** Indicate whether the materials for the meeting of the organizational unit of the Fire and Rescue Service are also being prepared in the language of the national minority:

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

<b>INFORMING THE PUBLIC</b>
-----------------------------

**GENERALLY BINDING LEGISLATION**

**42.** Indicate whether the organizational unit received *requests for the issuance of information on generally binding legal regulations* both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority in the given period:

- a) yes
- b) no

**43.** If you marked **answer a) to question no. 42**, indicate the number in the given period:.....

**44.** If you ticked **answer a) to question 42**, indicate whether the organizational unit **provided information on generally binding legal regulations** in addition to the state language in the language of the national minority:

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

**INFORMATION ON THREATS TO LIFE, HEALTH, SECURITY OR PROPERTY OF CITIZENS**

**45. Indicate whether the places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit, contain information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens also in the language of the national minority:**

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

**SIGNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**46. Indicate whether the signs and announcements intended to inform the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit, are also indicated in the language of the national minority:**

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

**47. Indicate where the organizational unit indicates announcements intended to inform the public also in the language of the national minority (Note! Several answers can be given):**

- a) on the website
- b) on the official notice board
- c) on the information board
- d) elsewhere (please specify): .....

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**48. Indicate whether important information** (method for establishing the liable person, its powers and competencies and a description of the organizational structure, place, time and methods in which the information can be obtained; information on where the request, proposal, complaint, complaint, or other submission can be submitted, place, time and manner of lodging an appeal and the possibility of judicial review of the liable person's decision, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the liable person in processing all applications, requests and other submissions, including relevant time limits to be complied with; regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the liable person acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the liable person, the schedule of administrative fees charged by the liable person for administrative acts and the list of fees for disclosing information) **is also published in the language of the national minority:**

- a) yes
- b) partially

c) no

<b>COSTS OF ENSURING THE USE OF LANGUAGES OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN OFFICIAL CONTACT</b>
--

**49. Indicate the approximate amount of funds from the organizational unit of the Fire and Rescue Service's budget, which the municipality spent in the given period on (Note! For each answer, state the numerical value in EUR):**

**a) responses to submissions written in the language of the national minority both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority: .....**

**b) the use also of the language of the national minority in the official agenda of the organizational unit of the Police Force (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.):.....**

**c) provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of the organizational unit of the Police Force and their processing (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language):.....**

**d) issuance of bilingual public documents (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations): .....**

**e) issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority: .....**

**f) provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority:.....**

**g) provision of information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit of the Police Force, also in the language of the national minority: .....**

**h) indicating signs and announcements intended to inform the public:.....**

**i) publication of important information (information on the composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, instructions, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, the time and manner in which information and information on where natural or legal persons may submit an application, proposal, complaint, grievance or other submissions may be obtained, the procedure to be followed by the municipality in processing all applications, proposals and other submissions, including relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for acts and actions of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for making information and information on the management of public funds and the management of municipal property) *on the official board, website and periodicals also in the language of the national minority: .....***

**50. Indicate the estimated amount of funds from the organizational unit of the Fire and Rescue Service budget that is needed to fulfil the following legal obligations and possibilities for the calendar year (Note! For each answer, state the numerical value in EUR):**

**a) responses to submissions written in the language of the national minority both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority: .....**

**b) the use also of the language of the national minority in the official agenda of the organizational unit of the Police Force** (e.g. minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, etc.):.....

**c) provision of bilingual official forms within the scope of the organizational unit of the Police Force and their processing** (translation of completed data from the language of a national minority into the state language):.....

**d) issuance of bilingual public documents** (permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations): .....

**e) issuance of decisions in administrative proceedings in a true copy in the language of a national minority:** .....

**f) provision of information on generally binding legal regulations in the state language and in the language of a national minority:**.....

**g) provision of information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens in places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit of the Police Force, also in the language of the national minority:** .....

**h) indicating signs and announcements intended to inform the public:**.....

**i) publication of important information** (information on the composition and powers of the municipal self-government bodies, overview of legal regulations, instructions, instructions, interpretative opinions according to which the municipality acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities in relation to the municipality, place, the time and manner in which information and information on where natural or legal persons may submit an application, proposal, complaint, grievance or other submissions may be obtained, the procedure to be followed by the municipality in processing all applications, proposals and other submissions, including relevant deadlines to be met, the schedule of administrative fees collected by the municipality for acts and actions of administrative bodies, the schedule of fees for making information and information on the management of public funds and the management of municipal property) **on the official board, website and periodicals also in the language of the national minority:** .....

<b>FINAL QUESTIONS</b>
------------------------

**51. Indicate whether the creation of conditions for the use of the language of a national minority in official contact for the organizational unit is:**

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

**52. If you marked answer b) or c) in question 51, what was the reason** (Note! You can give more than one answer):

- a) lack of qualified employees
- b) insufficient funds
- c) lack of professional support
- d) other factors (please specify): .....

**53. Indicate whether the organizational unit received complaints on violation of *the Act on the Use of Minority Languages* for the period under review:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**54. If you marked answer a) to question no. 53, indicate the total number of such complaints in the given period: .....**

**55. If you marked answer a) to question no. 53, indicate what has been the subject of such complaints: .....**

**56. If you marked answer a) to question no. 53, please indicate how these complaints have been resolved: .....**

Date: .....

Questionnaire filled in (name, surname, position and signature):

Date: .....

The questionnaire was approved by (name, surname, position and signature of the head of the organizational unit of the Fire and Rescue Service): .....

.....

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**for organizational units of the Armed Forces and the Prison and Court Guard Corps of the  
Slovak Republic on the use of languages of national minorities**

Dear respondent,

We would like to ask you to **help us with determining the state of use of the languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic for the period 2019 and 2020 (until 1 July)** by completing this questionnaire. The data are collected by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the purposes of preparing the Report on the Status of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, which is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is, in accordance with § 7a Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act no. 184/1999 Coll."), entitled to request information and written documents on the use of languages of national minorities in the area of their competence from public administration bodies. If the public administration body does not provide the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with information and written documents for this purpose, it shall commit an administrative offense pursuant to § 7b (1) of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.

We would also like to take this opportunity to collect the data (via several questions) needed to analyse the **costs of increasing the availability of services provided by public administration bodies** to persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the area of the use of minority languages in official contact. This analysis is one of the tasks of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for 2016-2020.

Read the questionnaire carefully, **circle** your answers and **fill** in the relevant data. In case of any ambiguities when filling in the questionnaire, please contact the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities:

[sofia.daskalova@vlada.gov.sk](mailto:sofia.daskalova@vlada.gov.sk); 02/209 25 117; [martina.pucikova@vlada.gov.sk](mailto:martina.pucikova@vlada.gov.sk) 02/209 25 672.

**Fill in the answers for the period from 2019 to 1 July 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the "reference period").**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**1. Enter the name of the organizational unit of the Police Force in the state language:**

.....

<b>OFFICIAL CONTACT</b>
-------------------------

**2. Indicate the total number of members of the organizational unit: .....**

**3. Indicate the number of members of the organizational unit, who have the command of the language of a national minority:**

- a) spoken and written form .....
- b) only spoken form .....

**4. Do members of the organizational unit, who speak the language of a national minority, use it when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority?**

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

<b>INFORMING THE PUBLIC</b>
-----------------------------

**5. Indicate whether the places accessible to the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit (e.g. fences separating the public space from the territory of the Armed Forces) , contain information on the threat to life, health, safety or property of Slovak citizens also in the language of the national minority:**

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

**6. Indicate whether the signs and announcements intended to inform the public, which are under the administration of the organizational unit, are also indicated in the language of the national minority:**

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

**7. Indicate whether important information** (method for establishing the liable person, its powers and competencies and a description of the organizational structure, place, time and methods in which the information can be obtained; information on where the request, proposal, complaint, complaint, or other submission can be submitted, place, time and manner of lodging an appeal and the possibility of judicial review of the liable person's decision, including an explicit indication of the requirements to be met, the procedure to be followed by the liable person in processing all applications, requests and other submissions, including relevant time limits to be complied with; regulations, guidelines, instructions, interpretative statements according to which the liable person acts and decides or which regulate the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities in relation to the liable person, the schedule of administrative fees charged by the liable person for administrative acts and the list of fees for disclosing information) **is also published in the language of the national minority:**

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

**FINAL QUESTIONS**

**8. Indicate whether the organizational unit received *complaints due to violation of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities* for the given period:**

- a) yes
- b) no

**9. If you marked answer a) to question no. 8, indicate the total number of such complaints in the given period: .....**

**10. If you marked answer a) to question no. 8, indicate what has been the subject of such complaints: .....**

**11. If you marked answer a) to question no. 8, please indicate how these complaints have been resolved: .....**  
.....

Date: .....

Questionnaire filled in (name, surname, position and signature):

.....

Date: .....

The questionnaire was approved (name, surname, position and signature of the head of the organizational unit of the Armed Forces): .....

.....

**List of state administration bodies and their organizational units using in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both the state language and also the language of a national minority in official written communication**

<b>Seq. no.:</b>	<b>District offices</b>	<b>minority language</b>
1.	Senec District Office	Hungarian language
2.	Dunajská Streda District Office	Hungarian language
3.	Galanta District Office	Hungarian language
4.	Komárno District Office	Hungarian language
5.	Levice District Office, Šahy branch, Želiezovce branch	Hungarian language
6.	Nové Zámky District Office	Hungarian language
6.1	Nové Zámky District Office, Štúrovo branch	Hungarian language
7.	Šaľa District Office	Hungarian language
8.	Rimavská Sobota District Office	Hungarian language
9.	Košice – okolie District Office, Moldava nad Bodvou branch	Hungarian language
10.	Michalovce District Office, Veľké Kapušany branch	Hungarian language
11.	Rožňava District Office	Hungarian language
12.	Trebišov District Office, Kráľovský Chlmec branch	Hungarian language
13.	Medzilaborce District Office	Ruthenian language
14.	Humenné District Office, Medzilaborce branch	Ruthenian language

<b>Seq. no.:</b>	<b>Labour, Social Affairs and Family Offices of the Slovak Republic</b>	<b>minority language</b>
1.	Dunajská Streda Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office	Hungarian language
2.	Dunajská Streda Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Šamorín branch	Hungarian language
3.	Dunajská Streda Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Veľký Meder branch	Hungarian language
4.	Galanta Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office	Hungarian language

5.	Komárno Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office	Hungarian language
6.	Komárno Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Hurbanovo branch	Hungarian language
7.	Komárno Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Kolárovo branch	Hungarian language
8.	Košice Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Moldava nad Bodvou branch	Hungarian language
9.	Levice Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Šahy branch	Hungarian language
10.	Levice Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Želiezovce branch	Hungarian language
11.	Lučenec Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Filákovo branch	Hungarian language
12.	Michalovce Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Veľké Kapušany branch	Hungarian language
13.	Nové Zámky Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office	Hungarian language
14.	Nové Zámky Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Šaľa branch	Hungarian language
15.	Nové Zámky Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Štúrovo branch	Hungarian language
16.	Pezinok Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Senec branch	Hungarian language
17.	Revúca Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Tornaľa branch	Hungarian language
18.	Rimavská Sobota Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office	Hungarian language
19.	Rimavská Sobota Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Gemerský Jablonec branch	Hungarian language
20.	Rimavská Sobota Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Bátka branch	Hungarian language
21.	Rožňava Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office	Hungarian language
22.	Rožňava Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Plešivec branch	Hungarian language
23.	Stropkov Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Medzilaborce branch	Ruthenian language
24.	Trebišov Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Kráľovský Chlmec branch	Hungarian language
25.	Trebišov Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Streda nad Bodrogom branch	Hungarian language
26.	Trebišov Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Čierna nad Tisou branch	Hungarian language
27.	Veľký Krtíš Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, Vinica branch	Hungarian language

<b>Seq. no.:</b>	<b>Tax Offices</b>	<b>minority language</b>
1.	Bratislava Tax Office, Senec branch	Hungarian language
2.	Trnava Tax Office, Dunajská Streda branch	Hungarian language
3.	Trnava Tax Office, Galanta branch	Hungarian language
4.	Trnava Tax Office, Šamorín contact centre	Hungarian language
5.	Nitra Tax Office, Komárno branch	Hungarian language
6.	Nitra Tax Office, Nové Zámky branch	Hungarian language
7.	Nitra Tax Office, Štúrovo branch	Hungarian language
8.	Nitra Tax Office, Šaľa contact centre	Hungarian language
9.	Nitra Tax Office, Hurbanovo contact centre	Hungarian language
10.	Nitra Tax Office, Kolárovo contact centre	Hungarian language
11.	Nitra Tax Office, Šahy contact centre	Hungarian language
12.	Banská Bystrica Tax Office, Rimavská Sobota branch	Hungarian language
13.	Košice Tax Office, Rožňava branch	Hungarian language
14.	Košice Tax Office, Moldava nad Bodvou contact centre	Hungarian language
15.	Košice Tax Office, Veľké Kapušany contact centre	Hungarian language
16.	Košice Tax Office, Kráľovský Chlmec contact centre	Hungarian language

<b>Seq. no.:</b>	<b>Customs Offices</b>	<b>minority language</b>
1.	Trnava Customs Office, Dunajská Streda branch	Hungarian language
2.	Trnava Customs Office, Galanta branch	Hungarian language
3.	Trnava Customs Office, Veľký Meder Station	Hungarian language
4.	Nitra Customs Office, Štúrovo branch	Hungarian language
5.	Nitra Customs Office, Komárno branch	Hungarian language
6.	Nitra Customs Office, Nové Zámky branch	Hungarian language

7.	Nitra Customs Office, Štúrovo branch	Hungarian language
8.	Banská Bystrica Customs Office, Rimavská Sobota branch	Hungarian language
9.	Košice Customs Office, Rožňava branch	Hungarian language
10.	Michalovce Customs Office, Čierna nad Tisou branch	Hungarian language
11.	Michalovce Customs Office, Ublá branch	Ruthenian language
12.	Michalovce Customs Office, Veľké Slemence branch	Hungarian language
13.	Michalovce Customs Office, Dobrá branch	Hungarian language

<b>Seq. no.:</b>	<b>State Archives</b>	<b>minority language</b>
1.	State Archive in Banská Bystrica, Rimavská Sobota branch	Hungarian language
2.	State Archive in Košice, Rožňava branch	Hungarian language
3.	State Archive in Nitra, Komárno branch	Hungarian language
4.	State Archive in Nitra, Nové Zámky branch	Hungarian language
5.	State Archive in Nitra, Šaľa branch	Hungarian language

<b>Seq. no.:</b>	<b>Regional Veterinary and Food Administrations</b>	<b>minority language</b>
1.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration Senec	Hungarian language
2.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
3.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration Galanta	Hungarian language
4.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration Komárno	Hungarian language
5.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
6.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration Šaľa	Hungarian language
7.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
8.	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration Rožňava	Hungarian language

Seq. no.:	Regional Public Health Authorities	minority language
1.	Regional Public Health Authority in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
2.	Regional Public Health Authority in Galanta	Hungarian language
3.	Regional Office of Public Authority in Komárno	Hungarian language
4.	Regional Office of Public Authority in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
5.	Regional Office of Public Authority in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
6.	Regional Public Health Authority in Rožňava	Hungarian language

**List of organizational units of the Fire and Rescue Service, Armed Security Corps, Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, and other armed corps communicating in accordance with Act no. 184/1999 Coll. both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority**

<b>Seq. no.:</b>	<b>Organizational units of the Fire and Rescue Service</b>	<b>minority language</b>
	<b>Name of the District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service</b>	
1.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
2.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service Galanta	Hungarian language
3.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service Komárno	Hungarian language
4.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
5.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
6.	District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service Rožňava	Hungarian language

<b>Seq. no.:</b>	<b>Organizational units of the Police Force<sup>130</sup></b>	<b>minority language<sup>131</sup></b>
	<b>Name of the District Directorate/District Department of the Police Force</b>	
1.	DD PF in Senec	Hungarian language
2.	DD PF in Dunajská Streda	Hungarian language
3.	DD PF in Komárno	Hungarian language
3.1.	D. Dept. PF Komárno	Hungarian language
3.2.	D. Dept. PF Bátorove Kosihy	Hungarian language
3.3.	D. Dept. PF Hurbanovo	Hungarian language
3.4.	D. Dept. PF Kolárovo	Hungarian language

<sup>130</sup>Municipalities listed in the Government Decree no. 221/1999 Coll., as amended, fall under the competence of individual district directorates and district departments of the Police Force.

<sup>131</sup>Under § 7 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll., if members of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, Armed Security Forces, other Armed Corps, the Fire and Rescue Service, and the municipal police speak the language of a minority, then in the municipality according to § 2 (4) they may use the language of the minority in communication with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority.

3.5.	D. Dept. PF Zemianska Olča	Hungarian language
4.	DD PF in Levice	Hungarian language
4.1	D. Dept. PF Levice	Hungarian language
4.2.	D. Dept. PF Kalná nad Hronom	Hungarian language
4.3.	D. Dept. PF Šahy	Hungarian language
4.4.	D. Dept. PF Želiezovce	Hungarian language
5.	DD PF in Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
5.1.	D. Dept. PF Nové Zámky	Hungarian language
5.2.	D. Dept. PF Dvory n. Žitavou	Hungarian language
5.3.	D. Dept. PF Štúrovo	Hungarian language
5.4.	D. Dept. PF Šurany	Hungarian language
6.	DD PF in Šaľa	Hungarian language
6.1.	D. Dept. PF Šaľa	Hungarian language
6.2.	D. Dept. PF Močenok	Hungarian language
6.3.	D. Dept. PF Vlčany	Hungarian language
7.	DD PF in Lučenec	Hungarian language
8.	DD PF in Revúca	Hungarian language
9.	DD PF in Rimavská Sobota	Hungarian language
10.	DD PF in Veľký Krtíš	Hungarian language
11.	DD PF in Brezno	Romani language
12.	DD PF in Zvolen	Romani language
13.	DD PF in Žiar nad Hronom	German language
14.	DD PF in Košice - okolie	Hungarian language
15.	DD PF in Michalovce	Hungarian language

16.	DD PF in Rožňava	Hungarian, Romani language
17.	DD PF in Trebišov	Hungarian language
18.	DD PF in Spišská Nová Ves	Romani language
19.	DD PF in Bardejov	Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Romani language
20.	DD PF in Humenné	Ukrainian language
21.	DD PF in Stará Ľubovňa	Ukrainian language
22.	DD PF in Svidník	Ukrainian, Ruthenian language
23.	DD PF in Kežmarok	Romani language
24.	DD PF in Poprad	Romani language
25.	DD PF in Prešov	Romani language
26.	DD PF in Vranov nad Topľou	Romani language
27.	DD PF in Galanta	Hungarian language

<b>Seq. no.:</b>	<b>Organizational units of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic</b>	<b>minority language</b>
1.	Operational Unit Kolíňanský vrch/Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade/Air Force of the Slovak Armed Forces	Hungarian language
2.	Military Unit 3030 Zvolen/Mierovo/Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic	Hungarian language
3.	Military Unit 3030 Zvolen/Ožďany/Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic	Hungarian language
4.	Military Unit 3030 Zvolen/Veľká Ida/Air Force of the Slovak Armed Forces	Hungarian language
5.	Military unit 8024 Rožňava/Ground forces of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic	Hungarian language
6.	Military unit 7945 Rožňava/Ground forces of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic	Hungarian language

<b>Seq. no.:</b>	<b>Organizational units of the Prison and Court Guard Corps</b>	<b>minority language</b>
1.	Detention facility Želiezovce	Hungarian language

**List and number of specific shortcomings in the application practice of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. identified on the basis of a questionnaire survey**

a) language rights that must be observed and failing to do so shall be considered as an administrative offense

<b>Number of shortcomings</b>	<b>Type of shortcoming in the case of territorial self-government units (municipalities)</b>	<b>The relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.</b>
13	did not allow a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority to communicate in oral and written form in the language of the minority	§ 7b (1) letter a)
165	did not inform about the possibility of communicating in oral and written form in the language of the minority	§ 7b (1) letter a)
1	did not issue a copy of a decision and a birth certificate, marriage certificate or death certificate also in the language of the minority upon request of a citizen of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority	§ 7b (1) letter b)
60	did not ensure their designation on the building they reside also in the language of the minority	§ 7b (1) letter c)
6	did not provide, upon request, an official form issued within the scope of its competence in the language of the minority	§ 7b (1) letter d)
15	did not ensure in their territory the designation of the municipality in the language of the minority on traffic signs marking the beginning and the end of the municipality	§ 7b (1) letter e)
37	did not ensure in their territory the designation of the municipality on the buildings of public administration bodies in the language of the minority	§ 7b (1) letter e)
3	did not ensure in their territory the designation of the municipality in the language of the minority on decisions issued in the language of the minority	§ 7b (1) letter e)
302	did not provide information on the threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in places accessible to the public both in the state language and in the language of the minority	§ 7b (1) letter f)
17	did not provide the Government Office with information and written documents for the purpose of the Report on the State of Use of Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic	§ 7b (1) letter h)
<b>Total: 619</b>		

<b>Number of shortcomings</b>	<b>Type of shortcoming in the case of legal entities established by the municipality</b>	<b>The relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.</b>
25132	did not inform about the possibility of communicating in oral and written form in the language of the national minority	§ 7b (1) letter a)
13	they did not ensure their designation on the building they reside also in the language of the national minority	§ 7b (1) letter c)
15	did not ensure in their territory the designation of the municipality on the buildings of public administration bodies in the language of the national minority	§ 7b (1) letter e)

<sup>132</sup>Three legal entities established by municipalities did not answer the given question.

18133	did not provide information on the threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in places accessible to the public both in the state language and in the language of the national minority	§ 7b (1) letter f)
<b>Total: 71</b>		

<b>Number of shortcomings</b>	<b>Type of shortcoming in the case of legal entities established by the self-governing region</b>	<b>The relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.</b>
12134	did not inform about the possibility of communicating in oral and written form in the language of the national minority	§ 7b (1) letter a)
8	they did not ensure their designation on the building they reside also in the language of the national minority	§ 7b (1) letter c)
9	did not ensure in their territory the designation of the municipality on the buildings of public administration bodies in the language of the national minority	§ 7b (1) letter e)
16	did not provide information on the threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in places accessible to the public both in the state language and in the language of the national minority	§ 7b (1) letter f)
<b>Total: 45</b>		

<b>Number of shortcomings</b>	<b>Type of shortcoming in the case of state administration bodies</b>	<b>The relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.</b>
2*	did not inform about the possibility of communicating in oral and written form in the language of the minority	§ 7b (1) letter a)
3**	did not ensure in their territory the designation of the municipality on the buildings of public administration bodies in the language of the minority	§ 7b (1) letter e)
41***	did not provide information on the threats to the life, health, safety or property of citizens of the Slovak Republic in places accessible to the public both in the state language and in the language of the minority	§ 7b (1) letter f)
<b>Total: 46</b>		

\* one district office (MoI SR), one RVFA (MoARD SR)

\*\* one district office (MoI SR), one OLSAF (MoLSAF SR), one RPHA (MoH SR)

\*\*\* 6 district offices (MoI SR), 12 tax offices (MoF SR), 5 customs offices (MoF SR), one RPHA (MoH SR), 3 RVFA (MoARD SR), 11 OLSAF (MoLSAF SR), one DD FaRS (MI SR), 2 AF SR (MoD SR)

<sup>133</sup>Two legal entities established by municipalities did not answer the given question.

<sup>134</sup>One legal entity established by the municipalities did not answer the given question.

b) language rights that must be observed and failing to do so shall not be considered as an administrative offense

<b>Number of shortcomings</b>	<b>Type of shortcoming in the case of territorial self-government units (municipalities)</b>	<b>The relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.</b>
37	did not provide a response to a submission written in a minority language both in the state language and also in the minority language	§ 2 (3)
2	did not issue bilingual permits, authorizations, certificates, statements and declarations in the state language and minority language upon request	§ 2 (5)
2	did not issue a decision of a public administration body in administrative proceedings, in addition to the state language also in a copy in the language of the minority, if the proceedings were initiated with submissions in the minority language	§ 2 (4)
3	did not issue a decision of a public administration body in administrative proceedings upon request, both in the state language and also in the minority language in a copy	§ 2 (4)
460	did not publish important information indicated on the official notice board of the municipality, on the municipality's website, and in the published periodicals, both in the state language and also in the language of the minority	§ 5a (2)
<b>Total: 504</b>		

<b>Number of shortcomings</b>	<b>Type of shortcoming in the case of legal entities established by the municipality</b>	<b>The relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.</b>
18	did not publish important information indicated on the official notice board of the municipality, on the municipality's website, and in the published periodicals, both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority	211/2000 Coll. § 6 (5)
<b>Total: 18</b>		

<b>Number of shortcomings</b>	<b>Type of shortcoming in the case of legal entities established by the self-governing region</b>	<b>The relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.</b>
15	did not publish important information indicated on the official notice board of the municipality, on the municipality's website, and in the published periodicals, both in the state language and also in the language of the national minority	211/2000 Coll. § 6 (5)
2	did not provide a response to a submission written in a national minority language both in the state language and also in the national minority language	§ 2 (3)
<b>Total: 17</b>		

Number of shortcomings	Type of shortcoming in the case of state administration bodies	The relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.
6*	did not provide a response to a submission written in a minority language both in the state language and also in the minority language	§ 2 (3)
65**	did not publish important information indicated on the official notice board of the municipality, on the municipality's website, and in the published periodicals, both in the state language and also in the language of the minority	§ 5a (2)
<b>Total: 71</b>		

\* one district office (MoI SR), one customs office (MoF SR), 4 OLSAF (MoLSAF SR)

\*\* 9 district offices (MoI SR), 14 tax offices (MoF SR), 10 customs offices (MoF SR), one RPHA (MoH SR), 6 RVFA (MoARD SR), 3 state archives, 17 OLSAF (MoLSAF SR) , 5 AF SR (MoD SR)

c) Language rights, the application of which is stipulated by Act no. 184/1999 Coll., as an option

<b>use this option</b>	<b>partially use this option</b>	<b>do not use of this option</b>	<b>Type of option in the case of territorial self-government units (municipalities)</b>	<b>relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.</b>
215	16	105	designation of the municipality in the language of the minority is also indicated in the municipality when designating the railway station, bus station, airport and river port	§ 4 (3)
114	0	43	municipality in its territory marks the streets also in the language of the minority	§ 4 (4)
62	0	60	municipality in its territory designates local geographical indications also in the language of the minority	§ 4 (4)
34	124	456	official agenda, in particular the minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information intended for the public, and the agenda of churches and religious societies intended for the public (except registry agenda) is kept both in the state language and also in the minority language	§ 3 (4)
168	63	178	chronicle of the municipality is also kept in the language of the minority	§ 3 (3)
40	10	2	members of the municipal police use the language of the minority in addition to the state language	§ 7 (3)
42	7	3	members of the municipal police, who speak the language of the minority, use the language of the minority when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the national minority	§ 7 (4)
358	123	138	members of the municipal council used the language of the minority at negotiations of the council	§ 3 (2)
118	301	195	negotiations of the public administration body in the language of a national minority as well	§ 3 (1)
19	64	539	municipality issues generally binding regulations within its competence, in addition to the state language also in the language of the minority	§ 4 (8)
283	164	164	signs and announcements intended to inform the public, which are in the administration of the municipality, are also indicated in the language of the national minority	§ 4 (6)
484	44	88	announcements intended to inform the public via local radio or other technical devices are being published both in the state language and also in the language of the minority	§ 5a (1)

296	82	63	inscriptions on monuments, memorials and commemorative plaques are indicated both in the state language and also in the language of the minority	§ 4 (7)
<b>Total: 2,233</b>	<b>Total: 998</b>	<b>Total: 2,034</b>		

use this option	partially use this option	do not use of this option	Type of option in the case of legal entities established by the municipality	relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.
3	6	38135	official agenda, in particular the minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information intended for the public, and the agenda of churches and religious societies intended for the public (except registry agenda) is kept both in the state language and also in the national minority language	§ 3 (4)
26	9	13	negotiations of the public administration body in the language of a national minority as well	§ 3 (1)
28	8	12136	announcements intended to inform the public shall be published in addition to the state language also in the language of the national minority	§ 5a (1)
<b>Total: 57</b>	<b>Total: 23</b>	<b>Total: 63</b>		

use this option	partially use this option	do not use of this option	Type of option in the case of legal entities established by the self-governing region	relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.
0	0	24	official agenda, in particular the minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information intended for the public, and the agenda of churches and religious societies intended for the public (except registry agenda) is kept both in the state language and also in the national minority language	§ 3 (4)
9	5	10	negotiations of the public administration body in the language of a national minority as well	§ 3 (1)

<sup>135</sup>One legal entity did not answer the given question.

<sup>136</sup>14 legal entities did not answer the given question.

9	4	11137	announcements intended to inform the public shall be published in addition to the state language also in the language of the national minority	§ 5a (1)
<b>Total: 18</b>	<b>Total: 9</b>	<b>Total: 45</b>		

use this option	partially use this option	do not use of this option	Type of option in the case of state administration bodies	relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.
0	5	74 <sup>138</sup>	official agenda, in particular the minutes, resolutions, statistics, records, balance sheets, information intended for the public, and the agenda of churches and religious societies intended for the public (except registry agenda) is kept both in the state language and also in the minority language	§ 3 (4)
8	17	64	negotiations of the public administration body in the language of a national minority as well	§ 3 (1)
41	38	9 <sup>139</sup>	announcements intended to inform the public shall be published in addition to the state language also in the language of the minority	§ 5a (1)
<b>Total: 49</b>	<b>Total: 60</b>	<b>Total: 147</b>		

use this option	partially use this option	do not use this option	Type of option in the case of organizational units of the armed security forces and rescue services	relevant provision of Act no. 184/1999 Coll.
2	3	2	members of the armed security forces, who speak the language of the minority, use the language of the national minority when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the national minority	§ 7 (4)
0	3	3	members of the Fire and Rescue Service, who speak the language of the minority, use the language of the national minority when communicating with citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the national minority	§ 7 (4)
<b>Total: 2</b>	<b>Total: 6</b>	<b>Total: 5</b>		

<sup>137</sup>Three legal entities established by municipalities did not answer the given question.

<sup>138</sup>10 state administration bodies did not answer the given question.

<sup>139</sup>One state administration body did not answer the given question.