

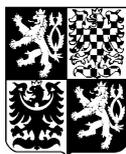
**Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**

Council for National Minorities of the Government of the Czech Republic

**Report on the situation of National Minorities**  
**In the Czech Republic**  
**in 2002**

Prague, August 2003

# THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



## RESOLUTION

### OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

No. 822 from August 6, 2003

to the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2002

#### T h e G o v e r n m e n t

I. t a k e s i n t o a c c o u n t the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2002 included in Part III of the document No. 769/03 (hereinafter „Report“);

#### I I . a m e n d s

1. Government Resolution No. 243 from March 12, 2003 to the Information on the Performance of the Government Resolution on the Integration of Roma Communities and the Active Practice of State Administration in the Course of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by These Resolutions to December 31, 2002 to the effect that

a) item IV/4 of the above Resolution is cancelled,

b) item IV/5 of the above Resolution is designated as IV/4, IV/6 as IV/5, IV/7 as IV/6 and IV/8 as IV/7,

2. Government Resolution No. 600 from June 12, 2002 to the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2001 to the effect that

a) item II/2 of the above Resolution is cancelled,

b) item II/3 of the above Resolution is designated as II/2;

#### I I I . i m p o s e s o n

1. the Minister of Culture in co-operation with the Vice-Chairman of the Government for research, development, human rights and human resources

a) to elaborate the bill of Act on the establishment of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno as a state institution receiving contributions from the State Budget and submit it to the government till September 30, 2003,

b) to enter into the bill of Act on the State Budget for 2004, the budget chapter of the Ministry of Culture, 8 000 thousands CZK, the amount which will be provided as an investment grant to town Brno for the purposes of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno, and this in the pattern mentioned in the Appendix 5 to the Report,

c) further to the Government Resolution N.98/2002 Coll. which determines the conditions and way of providing grants from the State Budget for the activities of the members of national minorities and the support of the integration of the members of the Roma community to elaborate the Report on the utilisation of resources from the State Budget of the Czech Republic in 2004 as an investment grant to town Brno for the purposes of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno and submit it to the government till May 31, 2005,

2. the Minister of Culture in co-operation with the Vice-Chairman of the Government for research, development, human rights and human resources and the Minister of Finance to enter into the draft of the State Budget of the Czech Republic for 2004, the budget chapter of the Ministry of Culture, 7 500 thousands CZK, the specific binding indicator for the activity of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno as a state institution receiving contributions from the State Budget,

3. the Lady-Minister of Education, Youth and Sports in co-operation with the Vice-Chairman of the Government for research, development, human rights and human resources to submit the draft of measures for the education of the members of national minorities in their mother tongues within the reform of public administration and submit it to the government till December 31, 2003,

4. the Vice-Chairman of the Government for research, development, human rights and human resources in co-operation with the 1st Vice-Chairman of the Government and the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, the Lady-Minister of Education, Youth and Sports and the Vice-Chairman of the Legislative Council of the Government to submit the draft of measures for the solution of problems which are mentioned in Part 1.2. of the Report and result from the application of the Assembly of the Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia and the Association of the Citizens of

Croatian national minority sent to the constitutional authorities of the Czech Republic in 2002 and submit it to the government till October 31, 2003,

5. the Vice-Chairman of the Government for research, development, human rights and human resources

a) to elaborate the analysis of the support of projects aimed at the activities of the members of national minorities and the support of the integration of the members of the Roma community from public finances and submit its evaluation to the government till May 31, 2004 within the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in 2003,

b) to ensure the publication of this Resolution in the Government Journal for the authorities of regions and communities;

IV. a u t o r i s e s the Prime Minister to submit the Report to the Chairman of Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and the Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic for an information of respective committees of the Parliament of the Czech Republic;

V. r e c o m m e n d s chief executive officers, mayors of statutory towns and communities with local authorities and communities where the Committee for National Minorities was established to ensure providing grants from public finances for the purposes of the activities of the members of national minorities and the support of the integration of the members of the Roma community by virtue of the Government Resolution N.98/2002 Coll. which determines the conditions and way of providing grants from the State Budget for the activities of the members of national minorities and the support of the integration of the members of the Roma community.

Performed by:

Prime Minister

1st Vice-Chairman of the Government and Minister of the Interior

Minister of Justice

Vice-Chairman of the Government for research, development, human rights and human resources and Chairman of the Government Council for National Minorities

Minister of Finance

Minister of Culture

Minister of Labour and Social Affairs  
Lady-Minister of Education, Youth and Sports  
Chairman of the Legislative Council of the Government

Noted by:

chief executive officers,  
mayors of statutory towns

Prime Minister  
PhDr. Vladimír Š p i d l a, v. r.

# 1. Legislative regulations relating to the rights of the members of national minorities

## 1.1. The minority policy of the Czech Republic in international context

Although the issue of national minorities is not specifically regulated within the agreements of the United Nations, it is the subject of discussions especially with respect to the negotiations of periodical reports on performing obligations resulting from individual international agreements which contain relevant provisions that guarantee inter alia the rights of the members of national minorities. These agreements are *International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, *International Pact on Civil and Political Rights*, *International Convention on the Liquidation of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, *Convention on the Rights of Children* etc. As a matter of fact, on 30 April - 1 May 2002 *Initial Report of the Czech Republic on Performing Obligations Resulting from International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* and on 24 January *Second Periodical Report of the Czech Republic on the Performance of Convention on the Rights of Children* were discussed in Geneva. The Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its final recommendations pointed out the discrimination of the Roma minority in the Czech Republic in the field of employment, housing and particularly education. The Committee for the Rights of Children criticised the excessive number of Roma children at special schools but at the same time it appreciated the programmes and strategies focused on facilitating the access of Roma children to education. The controls of complying with the principles determined by *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* (ETS 157), the document which is binding for the Czech Republic since 1998,<sup>1)</sup> have not necessitate a comprehensive evaluation.

As to other international legal obligations resulting from the documents of the Council of Europe in the field of the rights of the members of national minorities, the Czech Republic has not completed the ratification of *European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages* (ETS 148).<sup>2)</sup> In this case ratification measures depend on the adoption of new Education Act and Act on Administrative Procedure (Rules of Administrative Procedure) representing the regulations which are most liable to obligations included in the Charter. That is why the Secretariat of Government Council for National Minorities (hereinafter „Council“) in co-operation with local elected authorities prepared the analysis of the situation reflecting the legislative process in respective regions. These efforts are focused on the definition of real conditions for the acceptance of those obligations of the Charter which the Czech Republic is able to perform just now. The evaluation of this analysis will terminate during 2003 when the Czech Republic will ratify the Charter.

The legal framework for ensuring conditions for the execution of rights of the members of national minorities was extended with *Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Education and Science*,<sup>3)</sup> the bilateral government agreement with Republic of Croatia, especially with respect to relation to the members of the Croatian minority. This agreement determines in its

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<sup>1)</sup> Published under N. 96/1998 Coll. as Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

<sup>2)</sup> The Czech Republic signed the Charter on 9 November 2000 under the reservation of ratification. It means that it is not still bound by this document. The Charter was signed on 5 November 1992 and entered into force after its ratification by five member states of the Council of Europe on 1 March 1998. Up till now 29 from 45 member states have signed this document and 17 states have ratified it.

<sup>3)</sup> Published under N. 47/2002 Coll. as Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation in the Field of Culture and Science.

Article 8 the obligation to ensure conditions for the preservation of their cultural and historical heritage, the development of their culture and its various aspects.

The situation of national minorities in the Czech Republic is actually reflected in *Regular Report of the European Commission on the Czech Republic in 2001* (published in 2002), *Regular Report on the Progress of the Czech Republic in Admission to EU* (from 9 October 2002) and the admission-monitoring programme organised by *Open Society Institute*.<sup>4</sup> It is clear from these documents that the position of national minorities in the Czech Republic as a whole is satisfactory with the exception of the Roma. The critical evaluation of the situation of Roma communities relates to the low standard of education of Roma children, unemployment, housing and the large scale of social problems and discrimination of the Roma.

Within international activities focused on the position of the Roma so-called *Finnish Initiative* within the Council of Europe should be mentioned. The Committee of Delegates of Ministers of the European Council at its 811 session on 10 October 2002 presented the initiative of Finnish president Tarja Halonen. This initiative was focused on the establishment of the European Roma Forum. At 110. session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Vilnius in May 2002 our Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed its stand on this initiative and supported the establishment of such a body upon the condition that its activities and competencies would be defined clearly. The same stand was taken by the Czech Republic also at 11. session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in November 2002.

In the range of powers of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe the issues of national and ethnic minorities cover the main human-dimension activities. The Czech Republic co-operates with the High Commissioner of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe for National Minorities, participates in activities of so-called Contact Centre for the affairs of the Roma and Sinti; it also supported its activity in 2002 by a financial contribution (10 000 USD). In addition to a financial contribution the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the activity of this Contact Centre: from June 2001 to June 2002 its representative has worked there and participated in drawing up an action plan for the solution of Roma problems.

Another activity of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe focused on the problems on national minorities is the annual *Implementation Session of the Human Dimension of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe* which takes place every September in Warsaw. Actual problems of national minorities are discussed separately and most of discussions relate to Roma issues. The typical feature of these sessions in last years is the criticism of the position of the Roma minority in some European countries including the Czech Republic. In 2002 the situation changed and the position of the Roma minority in the Czech Republic ceased to be subject to the criticism of participating countries and non-governmental organisations.

## **1. 2. Legislative regulations in the Czech Republic with respect to the rights of national minorities**

### 1.2.1. The transformation of public administration

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<sup>4</sup> The Protection of Minorities in the Czech Republic, in: *Monitoring the Process of Admission to EU: The Protection of Minorities*, Vol. I. The Evaluation of Selected Conception Measures in Candidate Countries, Prague 2002, pp. 55-103.

By means of Act N. 320/2002 Coll. on the amendment and cancellation of some acts because of the cancellation of district offices Act N. 273/2002 Coll. on the rights of the members of national minorities (hereinafter „Minority Act“) was amended within the legislation of the second phase of the reform of local public administration. With respect to the solution of problems of Roma communities § 6 concerning „right to participate in the solution of problems relating to a national minority“ was supplemented by two new clauses: Clause 7 stipulates that a regional authority administers and co-operates in its region the fulfilment of tasks in the field of state policy for the integration of the members of the Roma community in the society. Clause 8 imposes upon local authorities with extended competencies according to this Act to fulfil the tasks in their region with respect to the exercise of rights of the members of the Roma community and their integration in the society. The Minority Act was supplemented by § 13a) which determines that the competencies of a regional or local authority with extended competencies according to this Act are delegated powers. In this context more than ten towns concluded at the end of 2002 and at the beginning of 2003 public agreements aimed at the assurance of the exercise of delegated powers in the field of the rights of the members of national minorities. These agreements should ensure the execution of public administration, i.e the agenda of regional Roma co-ordinators and their co-operation with consultants for Roma affairs in communities and towns. The conclusion of these agreements has to be approved by the Ministry of the Interior on the basis of the opinion of the Secretariat of the Council. The Ministry of the Interior in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Council and the Office of the Government Council for the Affairs of the Roma Community will also control the performance of obligations resulting from concluded agreements.

### 1.2.2. Education

A new legislative regulation concerning education is included in the bill on pre-school, primary, secondary, professional and other education (Primary Education Act) from 2002. The flowchart of this legislative process presumes that this Act will enter into force on 1 September 2004. If this bill is approved, consequent legal regulations will be prepared.. The bill declares the equal access of all persons to education and respect for their individual needs. The Act contains a special provision relating to the education of the members of national minorities in their mother tongue, teaching religion and the education of pupils who need special educational treatment as well as very gifted ones. In addition, it contains principles on which education as a public service is based (for example the equal access to education and possibility to study during the whole life) and general aims of education; stress is laid above all on the development of essential skills, respect for human rights, tolerance and freedom, the awareness of both national identity and European and world-wide appurtenance, the development of knowledge of specific features of culture, history and minority languages and understanding natural and social relations that enables the harmonious development of personality. The bill also includes the new way of education of pupils who need special educational treatment. A part of this act relating to primary education deals in preparatory classes for children from socially weak families who have communication difficulties; the aim of these classes is to harmonise their development and enable them to continue their trouble-free education together with their contemporaries. A new provision imposes a duty not to grade pupils in educational subjects by marks „E“. An essential change is also the new conception of GCE examinations relating inter alia to minority education at secondary schools with Polish as a teaching language.

Act N. 199/2002 Coll. on institutional or protective education and preventive-educational care in educational facilities entered into force on 1 July 2002. This act is closely linked with

Family Act, Criminal Code, Act on the Social and Legal Protection of Children, Rules of Civil Procedure and other legal regulations of the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs, Justice, Health and the Interior. Its application impacts upon discriminated children living in disadvantaged social conditions.

The special needs of pupils from Roma community are treated especially by Directive of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on the integration of children and pupils who need special educational treatment at schools and in educational facilities.<sup>5)</sup> This Directive specifies the concept of integration, determines the structure of individual education programmes, imposes a duty upon the directors of schools to co-operate with the promoters in the creation of conditions for the integration of pupils and initiates parents or handicapped pupils to participate in decision-making on the methods of education.<sup>6)</sup> Similarly, the Guidance Notes of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on the education of pupils with special learning or behavioral dysfunctions<sup>7)</sup> follow the above Directive and specifies the organisation and procedures of the education of this target group of pupils at primary schools, specialised classes of primary schools, special schools, secondary and secondary modern schools. In this context the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports elaborated in 2002 a bill on work with children and young people and the amendment of Act N. 200/1991 Coll. on disciplinary transgressions. The bill imposes upon regions and communities to create conditions for comprehensive attitude towards children and young people and initiate their participation in affairs which relate to them (for example by means of parliaments of children and young people). Regions, communities and administrative authorities are obliged within their competence to create conditions for international co-operation of persons working with children and exchange stays of children, young people and their groups. The bill will be submitted to the government for consideration in June 2003.

### 1. 2. 3. Cultural activities

Legal regulations in the gestion of the Ministry of Culture deal in the issues of national minorities, especially in regulations that relate to mass media. In 2002 Act N. 192/2002 Coll. was adopted as an amendment of Act N. 484/1991 Col.. on Czech Radio. This act re-defines the concept of „public services in the field of radio broadcasting“ in accordance with the definition of „public services in the field of television broadcasting“ in Act N. 483/1991 Coll. on Czech Television. Public services consist in the creation, dissemination and poised offer of programmes for all groups of inhabitants in consideration of their ethnicity and the development of cultural identity of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic including the members of national minorities.

The amendment of Act N. 231/2001 Coll. on Radio and Television Broadcastring by Act 309/2002 Coll. prohibits broadcasting that incites to hatred or violence towards other inhabitants on the basis of their race, sex, religion etc. According to § 17 of this Act one of criteria for the selection of an applicant for a broadcasting licence is his contribution to the development of the culture of national, ethnic and other minorities in the Czech Republic. The

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<sup>5)</sup> R.N. 13 710/2001-24, in: Government Journal for the Authorities of Regions, Districts and Communities, Part 4, 2002.

<sup>6)</sup> Relevant measures in the field of education are treated by Information on the Fulfilment of Government Resolutions on the Integration of Roma Communities and the Action of State Administration during the Implementation of Measures Adopted by These Resolutions to 31 December 2002 - see Government Resolution N. 243 from 12 March 2003.

<sup>7)</sup> R.N. 13 711/2001-24.

provisions of §31 of Act on Radio and Television Broadcasting impose upon an operator to compose programmes in order to provide their poised offer to all inhabitants considering their age, sex, skin colour, religion, political or other views, national, ethnic or social origin and membership in a minority. In this context it should be mentioned the amendment of Act N. 231/2001 Coll. submitted by the government on 15 October 2002 to the Parliament of the Czech Republic for consideration. This legal regulation explicitly prohibits advertisement and teleshopping which inveigh against religious or political views and discriminate on the basis of sex, race, skin colour, language, national or social origin or membership in a national or ethnic minority.

The amendment of Act N. 46/2000 Coll. on Rights and Duties in Publishing Periodicals (Press Act) by Act N. 320/2002 Coll. contains protective measures against discrediting natural persons, their honour, dignity or privacy with respect to their ethnic or national origin in periodicals. This protection has been ever ensured by Act on Radio and Television Broadcasting.

The cultural activities of the members of national minorities are also treated by Act N. 257/2001 Coll. on Libraries and Conditions for the Provision of Public Librarian and Information Services (Library Act) which entered into force on 1 January 2002. Its aim is to create conditions for providing information which would be accessible regardless to the social position of a subject. It means free access to information and its democratic use in the interest of citizens as its producers and recipients in the process of upbringing, education, creation and utilisation of cultural values, research, development and the production of values and tangible assets.

#### 1. 2. 4. Penal protection

The activities of the Ministry of Justice are based on the assumption that the protection of national or other minorities against attacks on them and their members must be comparable with penal rules in developed European countries. That is why the Ministry of Justice elaborated in 2002 the amendment of the Criminal Code which entered into force on 1 July 2002.<sup>8)</sup> It extends facts of case of crimes of violence against a group of inhabitants and individuals (§196 and 197a), defamation of nation, race and belief (§198), inciting to hatred towards a group of persons or limitation rights and freedoms (§198a), bodily harm (§221 and 222) and murder (§219) in order to provide penal protection against attacks motivated by hatred towards an ethnic group. The above amendment of the Criminal Code corresponds the requirement included in Council Directive 200/43/EC from 29 June 2000 which applies the principle of the equal treatment of persons regardless their racial or ethnic origin. In addition, many provisions of the bill of the Criminal Code which has been prepared for comments presume the more extent protection of the rights of national minorities with respect to following crimes: torture, cruel or inhuman treatment, deprivation or restriction of personal freedom, abduction, infringement of mail secret with respect to private documents, infringement of confidentiality of utterance, defamation of nation, ethnic group, race and belief, abuse of racial, ethnic or other membership, affront among soldiers, violence or threat of violence, infringement of rights and interests of soldiers of the same rank, infringement of rights and interests of subordinate soldiers, apartheid and discrimination of a group of people.

#### 1.2.5. Protection against discrimination

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<sup>8)</sup> Act N. 134/2002 Coll. which amends Act N. 140/1961 Coll. (Criminal Code).

On 1 January 2003 Act N. 151/2002 Coll. entered into force. This Act amends some acts because of the adoption of Rules of Administrative Procedure. They were supplemented with some provisions compatible with Community Law. These provisions deal above all in extended protection in cases of discrimination because of racial or ethnic origin, religion, belief, world outlook, health affliction, age or sexual orientation in the field of both labour and social affairs such as access to education, health and social care, access to tenders, membership in organisations of employees and employers, in professional and common-interest associations, sale of goods or providing services. According to §26, clause 3 of Rules of Administrative Procedure a participant in a judicial proceeding in a suit for protection against discrimination because of racial or ethnic origin can be represented by a legal person.

According to the provisions of § 133a) of Rules of Administrative Procedure a statement that a participant in a judicial proceeding was discriminated because of his racial or ethnic origin is considered to be evidential until the contrary is proved. The same principle is applied to a proceeding on health and social care, access to education, training and tenders, membership in organisations of employees or employers, professional and common-interest associations, sale of goods or providing services.

The comprehensive legislative solution of the problem of protection against discrimination is included in the bill of Act on Equal Treatment and Protection against Discrimination.<sup>9)</sup> The draft of the intended subject of this act was prepared in the gestion of the vice-chairman of the government for research, development, human rights and human resources in the course of 2002 and it will be submitted to the government to 31 January 2003; the articulated bill will be submitted to it during the third quarter of 2003.

#### 1.2.6. The moderation of wrongs to the members of the German and Croatian national minorities

The citizens of the Czech Republic - the members of the German of Croatian national minorities - applied the chairman of the Council and competent bodies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in 2002 for the remedy of property and other wrongs which have been committed to them. Response to this application was presented in *Information about the Actual Situation of the German Minority and Selected Issues of the Croatian and Polish Minorities in the Czech Republic*.<sup>10)</sup>

The application of *Assembly of the Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia* from 6 November 2002 (further to the report which was submitted to the Co-ordination Council of the Czech-German Discussion Forum on 28 June 2002) states that the members of the German national minority consider the application of restitution laws to be discrimination because of their ethnicity. For this reason they expect the moderation of property and other wrongs or at least a humanitarian gesture of the Czech government. In their application they ask for:

- the stand of both chambers of the Parliament on the situation of the German minority in the Czech Republic;
- looking for the way of a humanitarian gesture;

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<sup>9)</sup> See Report on the State of Human Rights in the Czech Republic in 2002. The government adopted it by Resolution N. 548 from 4 Juni 2003.

<sup>10)</sup> This document was submitted to the meeting of the government on 12 February 2003 as an information for its members (the text is available on the address: <http://www.vlada.cz/1250/vrk/vrk.htm>). Chapters on the situation of the German minority were then presented at the meeting of Co-ordination Council of the Czech-German Discussion Forum in Munich on 14 February 2003.

- looking for the XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
- the inclusion of all years worked in the calculation of retirement pension;
- the revision of cases of the unlawful confiscation of property;
- the moderation of wrongs by means of the reversion of property owned by the state or the reimbursement of expropriated property including compensation for the descendants of beneficiaries.

The similar application of *Association of the Citizens of Croatian Nationality* from 30 January addressed to the chairman of the Council and competent bodies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic asks for the moderation of wrongs resulting from the persecution of the members of the Croatian national minority since 20 February 1948, especially the cancellation of Act N. 213/1948 Coll. on the Protection of Public Interests.<sup>11)</sup> According to this Act action committees made repressive steps against the Croatians under the pretext of their state unreliability. They also determined conditions for the collective displacement of the Croatians from border regions in South Moravia. That is why they expect the remedy of wrongs committed to the members of their minority after February 1948.

The drafts of measures which would moderate wrongs committed by the state to the members of the German and Croatian minorities are limited by existing legislation. In its Resolution N. 527 from 22 May 2002 the government took up principal attitude to restitution process in the Czech Republic, the applications of individuals which would be submitted to the United Nations Committee for Human Rights and the implementation of conclusions of the above Committee on these applications. Nevertheless, the possibility of a humanitarian gesture of the Czech government towards the members of both minorities is still open.

The drafts of measures aimed at the moderation of wrongs to the members of the German and Croatian national minorities - the citizens of the Czech Republic - are treated by the Council in accordance with its Resolution N. 28 from 3 February 2003. According to this Resolution the chairman of the Council in co-operation with relevant ministries should submit to the Council the draft of possible measures for consideration and then prepare an appropriate document for the meeting of the government. As the moderation of the consequences of individual wrongs relates exclusively to old persons, the solution of this problem bears no delay. For this reason the draft of the Resolution reflects existing situation. For example, one of possible ways of a humanitarian gesture is the utilisation of the Czech-German Future Fund which would enable to resolve some problems to which refer the representatives of the German minority, i.e. the inclusion of all years worked in the calculation of retirement pension, the settlement of losses caused by payroll deductions by 20% or the remedy of other wrongs including moral rehabilitation.

#### 1.2.7. The grant policy of the state

As to the exercise of rights of the members of national minorities, in 2002 an important legislative regulation was adopted. This regulation relates to the support of the activities of national minorities from the State Budget. The Government Decree N. 98/2002 Coll. which stipulates the conditions and way of providing grants from the State Budget for the activities of the members of national minorities and the support of the integration of the members of the Roma community was approved by the government on 20 February 2002 (and entered into

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<sup>11)</sup> This Act was approved on 21 July 1948 and entered into force on 8 August 1948. It consequently legalised repressive measures against the members of the Croatian minority.

force on 15 April 2002). Its issue was authorised by § 12, clause 2 and § 13 § 2 of Act N. 273/2001 on the Rights of the Members of National Minorities, as amended. Within the larger framework of state grant policy concerning the activities of national minorities this Decree is a statutory instrument of Act N. 218/2000 Coll. on budgetary rules and the amendment of some relating acts (Budgetary Rules). This legal regulation aims at the assurance of the systematic implementation of grant policy of the Ministries of Culture, Education, Youth and Sports, Labour and Social Affairs with respect to the activities of national minorities. It charges these ministries in co-operation with the Council with proposing a specific binding indicator in its chapter of the State Budget for the activities of national minorities.

## **2. The education of the members of national minorities**

### **2.1. The education of the members of national minorities in their mother tongue within the state educational system**

The creation of conditions for the education of pupils from national minorities in their mother tongue within the state educational system is affected with the insufficiencies of existing legislation.<sup>12)</sup> The Education Act is subject to the criticism of the representatives of national minorities especially German and Polish ones. Their initiatives relate above all to the amendment of the legal regulation which determines the minimum number of pupils per class and school where lessons are taken in a minority language and the possibility of bilingual lessons within the educational programme for selected subjects or their parts. This criticism also relates to the financial support of communities for reimbursement for operating costs at schools where lessons are taken in the language of a national minority. Although the possibility of bilingual education and the application of minority languages was included in the government bill of a new Education Act for the last voting period, Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic dismissed it.<sup>13)</sup> It is expected that the essential principles of the bill of the Education Act dismissed in 2002 will be entered into its amendment which is being prepared.

The situation of education in the languages of the members of national minorities has not changed yet. Smaller and dispersed minorities, i.e. Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak and Ukrainian ones, are not able to ensure the required number of pupils for the establishment of a minority school or a class within state schools. This hinders from the assurance of teaching in a minority language. Within the framework of the grant programme of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports focused on the support of education in the languages of national minorities and the development of multicultural upbringing the organisations of the members of national minorities educate

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<sup>12)</sup> Act N. 29/1984 Coll. on the system of primary, secondary and secondary modern schools (Education Act), as amended; Act N. 564/1990 Coll. on state administrative in the educational system, as amended, especially by Act N. 284/2002 Coll. which amends Act N. 564/1990 Coll. on state administration and self-administration in the educational system and some other acts.

<sup>13)</sup> The Committee for Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sports of Chamber of Deputies adopted on 4 April its Resolution N. 319 where it recommended to dismiss the government bill of the Education Act in its second reading. Chamber of Deputies dismissed the bill in its second reading on 25 April 2002 (Resolution of Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic N. 239 from 25 April 2002 to the Chamber Press 1150).

children and young people in their minority languages. These out-of-school activities are carried out by individual minorities according to their possibilities and often organised as so-called Saturday or Monday schools for children of the members of national minorities, summer camps etc. The summary of the support of projects included in the above programme is given in Appendix 1 to this Report.

Within the intention of valid legal regulations which enable to establish schools or classes where lessons are taken in a minority language (see above) in the process of the transformation of public administration a special attention should be paid to the education of pupils from Polish, German and Roma minorities.

## 2.2. The education of the members of the German minority in their mother tongue

The representatives of the German minority acknowledge a fact that their dispersed settlement and the small number of pupils in their communities obstruct complying with conditions for the establishment of minority classes or schools where lessons would be taken in their language. That is why they suggest the state to ensure the education of children from German or mixed families in German as their mother tongue at bilingual primary schools with German as a teaching language. The valid legal regulations of the Czech Republic have not applied this principle yet. The children of the members of the German minority are still educated within the state educational system by means of extended lessons in German language at primary schools. Education in German language runs mostly in out-of-school organisations, especially in *Meeting Centres of Czech-German Understanding* supported by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany (now 15 centres function in the Czech Republic) or within the educational programmes of *Goethe Institute*. Although the representatives of the German minority evaluate positively the existing educational system, especially teaching German language at primary schools (from the fourth grade), language courses organised by the regional organisations of the German minority and the activity of Meeting Centres, they would appreciate the opportunity to apply extended teaching programmes in more regions as well as in regions with less children from German families.

The draft of measures for the improvement of situation in the education of pupils from the German national minority in their mother tongue depends on the amendments of the Education Act, especially the creation of legislative framework for the application of bilingual education and the mother tongue of the members of a minority. The solution of this problem consists in the implementation of specific teaching programmes at primary schools according to local needs and the creation of conditions for the application of German as teaching language as well as the new definition of criteria for the minimum number of pupils in classes or schools. To this effect the representatives of the German minority formulated in 2002 their proposals and addressed them to the chairman of the Council and other public officials. The draft of individual measures is a part of the draft of the Government Resolution to this document.

## 2.3. The problems of the preservation of primary and secondary schools with Polish as a teaching language

The Polish national minority disposes of schools with Polish as a teaching language in former districts Karviná and Frýdek-Místek where it is settled in strength. In the school year 2001/2002 there were:

- a) kindergartens (38 kindergartens - 24 in Frýdek-Místek district and 14 in Karviná district) with more than 700 children;

- b) primary schools (29 primary schools - 17 in Frýdek-Místek district and 12 in Karviná district) with 2 324 pupils;<sup>14)</sup>
- c) secondary schools (the Polish Grammar School in Český Těšín with detached classes in Karviná was attended by 467 pupils; Polish classes of the Technical College in Karviná by 63 pupils, the School of Commerce in Český Těšín by 102 pupils and the Health School in Karviná by 54 pupils).

In the school year 2001-2002 these schools were attended by about 4 000 pupils.

The actual situation of primary and secondary schools with Polish as a teaching language is described in detail in the document submitted by the Deputy Prime Minister and the chairman of the Council to the members of the government on 12 February 2003.<sup>15</sup> This document responds inter alia to the application of the civil association *Congress of the Polish in the Czech Republic* from 5 November 2002. The representatives of the Polish national minority addressed it to the Lady-Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, the chairman of the Council and other public officials.

The chairman of the Council and the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports agreed during their negotiations at the Regional Authority for Moravian-Silesian region (6 January 2003) upon the following conditions for the preservation and development of primary schools with Polish as a teaching language:

- to regulate the minimum number of pupils at minority schools to 6 pupils in kindergartens, 10 pupils at primary schools of five grades and 13 pupils at primary schools of nine grades and assure their financing;
- to regulate the possibility of financial support for communities from the State Budget with respect to growing operation expenses of schools with Polish as a teaching language<sup>16)</sup> and stipulate the well-arranged rules and mechanisms for financing minority schools in communities;
- to draw up the long-term conception of an educational system for national minorities at the level of the state and Moravian-Silesian region in accordance with its long-term perspective and establish for this purpose a consultative board of the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, regional elected authorities and the Polish minority;
- to nominate a worker of respective regional authority who will be responsible for the solution of problems concerning the educational system for the Polish minority and to consult this affair with the representatives of the Polish national minority;
- to ensure the participation of the representatives of the Polish minority in all competitions for appointment to an office of the directors of respective schools and in case of the merger of a Polish and a Czech school publicise a competition also in Polish press as well

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<sup>14)</sup> In addition, there are also special classes with Polish as a teaching language (for example at Special School in Třinec) as stated in respective pedagogical documents (R.N. 19 709/97-22, in: Journal of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports N. 10/1997).

<sup>15)</sup> Information about the Actual Situation of the German National Minority and Selected Issues of the Croatian and Polish Minorities, R.N. 183/03 (<http://www.vlada.cz/1250/vrk/vrk.htm>).

<sup>16)</sup> Further to this regulation it is necessary to ensure increasing the amount of the Budget Chapter n.333 for the operation expenses of these schools and educational facilities.

as enter the requirement of the knowledge of Polish into the preconditions of such a competition;

- support an investment plan for the reconstruction, construction and completion of primary schools in Jablunkov (Henryk Sienkiewicz Primary School within the Jablunkov Project).

The above draft of measures is now being discussed with the representative of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in the Council. The flowchart of the elaboration of the draft of individual steps in this field presumes that a comprehensive document will be submitted to the Council for consideration till 30 June 2003 and then it will be submitted to the government.

#### 2.4. The education of the members of the Roma minority

The education of Roma pupils is one of priorities on which the Ministry of Education, Youth and Schools focuses in its effort to change existing situation. In 2002 the Ministry submitted to the government the draft of the solution of the problem concerning the education of children from the Roma and other communities<sup>17)</sup> by means of their special preparation and taking positive measures in accordance with item 9 of the Final Recommendation of the Committee for Human Rights as a control body of International Pact on Civil and Political Rights.

The summary of measures in the field of the educational system with respect to Roma pupils in 2002 and the whole period after the adoption of Report on the Situation of the Roma Community in the Czech Republic and the fulfilment of tasks relating to Roma communities in 1997 is presented in *Information on the Implementation of Government Resolutions on the Integration of Roma Communities and the Active Practice of State Administration in the Implementation of Measures Adopted by These Regulations till 31 December 2002*.<sup>18)</sup> This Information also includes so-called second actualised Conception of Roma Integration, the document that describes in detail the activities for increasing the education standard of the Roma and the methods of removing the differences in the education of Roma children as well as situation in pre-school education in kindergartens within the programme of the timely care of children from disadvantaged socio-cultural environment. In addition, it deals in the possibilities of the transformation of special schools attended by many Roma pupils and the liquidation of educational insufficiencies of Roma adults.

The attitude towards the education of Roma pupils is verified also by means of international programmes. Within many experiments the project of *Re-integration of Roma Pupils at Special Schools to Primary Schools* can be mentioned; the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports entrusted in 1999 beneficiary association *Step by Step Czech Republic* to implement it. This project is implemented in co-operation with *Open Society Institute New York* at five special schools (Prague, Ostrava, Kladno, Brno, Ústí nad Labem) attended by the high percentage of Roma children. The purpose of the above programme is to ensure the smoothly running transfer of these children to primary schools. One of preconditions of the implementation of this project is the participation of Roma pedagogical assistants, parents and the community as a whole in educational process as well as the training of teachers focused on the methods of multicultural and „anti-prejudicial“ education. The main aim is to educate children according to their abilities and not to a prescribed syllabus, i.e. to individualise teaching. The international partners of this programme are Hungary, Slovak Republic and

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<sup>17)</sup> The government adopted it by Resolution N. 243 from 17 April 2002.

<sup>18)</sup> Government Resolution N. 243 from 12 May 2003.

Bulgaria. Independent research - which is a part of the project- showed that more than the half of pupils at special schools would be able to succeed at primary schools. For pupils who took part in this experiment primary schools were found. These schools will embody such pupils in their educational programmes after the comprehensive training and examination of pedagogues. After three years of implementation the experiment was evaluated in 2002 as essentially successful.<sup>19)</sup>

Other positive step consists in the direct support of schools with the high percentage of Roma pupils. On the basis of applications of schools and recommendations of promoters and Regional Authorities the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports approves exceptions with respect to the number of pupils at schools where Roma children prevail and the more intensive education and individual care of Roma pupils is needed. Up till now only three schools have applied for such an exception: Primary School Chánov, Primary School Havlíček Square in Prague 3 and Primary School Ústí nad Labem-Předlice. Although many other schools could apply for this exception they did not it. It is evident that the state directive which would charge respective schools with this application can not be utilised. Such a situation can be resolved by Roma co-ordinators who would initiate appropriate measures in co-operation with Regional Pedagogical Centres and other institutions.

Since September 2002 an experiment concerning schools with all-day programme (i.e. the all-day operation of a school and respective educational facility including canteen and so-called Mother Club) has been implemented at six primary schools in localities with the high percentage of Roma children in co-operation with the civil association *League of Community Schools*. Its applicability was verified in the school-year 2002/2003 and 2003/2004. In addition, conditions for giving meals to some pupils free of charge should be created.

Specific situation came for special schools with the large number of Roma pupils. Even some international organisations - for example Open Society Institute<sup>20)</sup> - point out this problem of the Czech Republic. In this context they criticise both the contemporary educational system of the Czech Republic and the responsibility of the state for the excessive number of Roma pupils at special schools and the stand of Roma parents who have not become convinced sufficiently that education is very important for their children; many of them still underestimate its importance and are not able to oblige their children to attend school regularly. Such a situation is also complicated by the fact that the experience of many Roma parents is based on their attendance at special schools and that is why they do not resist taking their children on them - in many cases they even demand it. The Government Council for the Affairs of the Roma Community in co-operation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports tries to enforce the drafts of measures aimed at positive change in this field, but still in vain.

Nevertheless, it is possible to mention some positive results in the field of the education of Roma pupils at secondary schools. In 1998 the 5-year experimental external study of *Social Activity in Ethnic Minorities*<sup>21)</sup> was started in *Evangelic Academy, Secondary Modern School of Sociology of Law and Secondary Modern School of Social Sciences* in Prague 4. The aim of this branch of study is to prepare adult Roma for the function of consultants and assistants in public administration authorities; some of them will function as Roma assistants at schools. In June first 26 graduates sat for their GCE examination. Nowadays the results of this experiment are being evaluated. It is presupposed that since the school-year 2003/2004 this branch of study will be entered into the list of the standard subjects of secondary schools.

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<sup>19)</sup> Open Society Institute, New York, 2002.

<sup>20)</sup> The Protection of Minorities in the Czech Republic - see remark n. 4.

<sup>21)</sup> Decision of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports R.N. 17 927/98-23 from 20 April 1998.

In 1998 *Private Secondary Social Modern School* was established in Kolín. At this school the branch of study „ Social care - social activity for ethnic Groups“ has been taught. The graduates of this school complete their secondary education and then they are allowed to work in state administration authorities and social or educational institutions with the larger number of Roma children. In June 2002 first 25 students graduated successfully there. Ten of them were admitted to university, one to secondary modern school and one to university in Norway.

Within the PHARE-NUT project the educational programme of the study of Roma assistant was started up; this programme will enable them to complete secondary education and become professionally and pedagogically competent in accordance with Regulation of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on the conditions of professional and pedagogical competence of the pedagogues at schools, in pre-school institutions and educational facilities.<sup>22)</sup> The project *Move Forward (Let Us Help Schools to Teach Newly)* was prepared by *Secondary Social Modern School, Secondary Pedagogical School and School of Commerce* in Most as a new educational programme for Roma assistants; this programme will enable them to complete secondary education and pedagogical qualification. The project was started up in September 2002 and it will have been verified till June 2003.

In 2002 the network of schools was extended with *Primary Church Art School Harmony* in Prague 6 whose promoter is Czech Hussite Church.<sup>23</sup> This school gets financial support from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. 40 pupils attend this school where teaching is ensured by five pedagogues (one of these pedagogues as well as one assistant are the members of the Roma minority).

Measures in the field of the assurance of education for Roma pupils<sup>24)</sup> are stipulated by so-called second actualised *Conception of Roma Integration*. The situation of Roma pupils is pointed out very critically by *Report on the State of Human Rights in the Czech Republic in 2002*.<sup>25)</sup> For these reason it is not purposeful to deal here in problem of the education of Roma pupils. As to the rights of national minorities, especially right to education in minority languages, there is still an open issue of the application Roma language as a minority language within the educational system, the reflection of a minority in this system, teaching methods etc. In this context the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports recommends to search the interest of the members of the Roma minority in education in Roma language. In addition, the problem of the codification of Roma language has not been resolved yet.

## 2.5. Upbringing to human rights (multiculturalism, extremism, law literacy)

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports elaborated in 2002 *Draft of the Conception of Educational Activities in the Field of Fight against Extremism* which was submitted to the government for consideration and approved by its Resolution N. 268 from 18 March 2002. This document was worked out in accordance with Government Resolution to Fight against

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<sup>22)</sup> Regulation of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports from 28 May 1997 on the Conditions of Professional and Pedagogical Competence of Educational Consultants.

<sup>23)</sup> Decision of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports R.N.25112/02-22 - The Educational Conception of Schools.

<sup>24)</sup> The education of children from disadvantaged socio-cultural environment also includes early care taken inter alia by Upbringing Centres.

<sup>25)</sup> See remark N.8.

Terrorism<sup>26)</sup> which relates to measures taken for the implementation of obligations resulting from Resolution of the Security Council of the United Nations N. 1373/2001 to Fight against Terrorism. The draft is drawn up as a „cross-section“ theme in the field of the education in accordance with the needs in the fields of the upbringing and education of foreigners and migrants and it considers the problem of traditionally settled national minorities in Bohemia. The Ministry is aware of need to intensify and deepen the education of teachers (see below), work out information documents for teachers and communicable texts for pupils. All tasks mentioned in the draft are financed from the budget of the Ministry.

In June 2002 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports concluded an agreement on co-operation with the *Faculty of Arts of the Charles University* in the establishment of a professional workplace for multicultural education, i.e. Cabinet for Upbringing to Democratic Citizenship. This workplace is financed on the basis of individual orders of the Ministry. It prepares seminars and workshops on actual topics for the teachers of primary and secondary schools, university teachers from pedagogical faculties and workers of pedagogical centres, pedagogical-psychological advice centres and Czech School Inspection. In addition, it works out analyses, searches and investigations and fulfils other actual tasks. The results of research and monitoring are the grounds for following conceptions of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

## 2.6. The education of teachers

For the assurance of the activity of pedagogical centres the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in 2002 drew up the *Conception for the Education of Pedagogues*,<sup>27)</sup> which imposes a duty to ensure the permanent education of teachers in the field of national and ethnic minorities and upbringing to human rights. In this context the Ministry supported:

- educational seminars for teachers, i.e.
- competition for the pupils of secondary schools under the title *To the Roots of Constitutionality* (the support of law literacy);
- summer courses for teachers of civics (extremism, media);
- A DALŠÍ 3 ODRAŽKY ..... XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
- the equipment of libraries of pedagogical centres with
- videocassetts *Ombudsman* (law literacy) and *Hard Memories* (the Roma Holocaust);
- publications: L. Šatava, Language and the Identity of Ethnic Minorities; J. Gisingová, Nicholas Winton and the Saved Generation; Intercultural Upbringing (CD-ROM); L. Kyncl, Textbook of the Holocaust of the Jews in World War II; J. Dědič, Before the Children Thawed; New Horizons of Upbringing to Citizenship (teachers' manual); E. Manuš, We Are Cutting Long Way; M. Elšíková, Bubu (multicultural upbringing).

The Ministry also undertook to grant approval clauses to these textbooks:

- *Law for Everybody* (first series of textbooks for the teaching of law literacy for primary and secondary schools in which stress is laid upon upbringing to democratic citizenship, the textbook deals in the teaching of law and ethics at primary and secondary schools. It has been verified for three years in courses for teachers and it considers source materials from teachers' practice and recommendations of specialists in teaching methodology;

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<sup>26)</sup> Government Resolution N. 1045 from 10 October 2001.

<sup>27)</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports -R.N. 16459/2002-25.

- *The Bases of Democracy-Responsibility* (for the teaching of national history and geography especially in 4th and 5th grades of primary schools and for the teaching of civics in the 6th grade of primary schools).

The education of teachers at universities is included in the programme *Support of the Development of Educational Programmes for Teachers and Other Educational Activities*. Within this programme following projects were implemented at universities in 2002:

- Upbringing to democratic citizenship and multicultural tolerance (Faculty of Arts of the Charles University);
- Didactic problems of the teaching of Czech language - multiethnic classes (Pedagogical Faculty of the Charles University in Prague);
- Multicultural (intercultural) upbringing as a cross-section theme of the Framework Educational Plan (Pedagogical Faculty of the Masaryk University in Brno);
- A teacher of geography in the multicultural society (Pedagogical Faculty of the Masaryk University in Brno);
- Initiating methods and forms of teaching - the application of principles of multicultural upbringing (Pedagogical Faculty of the Palacký University in Olomouc);
- The application of multicultural upbringing to the pre-gradual preparation of teachers focused on the problems of refugees (Pedagogical Faculty of the Palacký University in Olomouc);
- Additional pedagogical study for professions working with the disadvantaged groups of population (Pedagogical Faculty of the Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem);
- The course of multicultural upbringing (Pedagogical Faculty of Liberec University).

#### Projects implemented within University Development Fund

Pedagogical Faculty of the Palacký University in Olomouc:

- The development of social skills of the students of teaching profession;
- The pre-gradual education of teachers in the field of law upbringing;
- The education and upbringing of the minority groups of population within pre-gradual preparation.

#### Projects of transformation and development programmes of universities

- Faculty of Arts of the Charles University: Upbringing to democratic citizenship and multicultural tolerance
- Pedagogical Faculty of the Charles University: Didactic problems of the teaching of Czech language in multiethnic classes
- Pedagogical Faculty of the Masaryk University: Multicultural upbringing as a cross-section theme of the Framework Educational Plan
- Pedagogical Faculty of Liberec University: The course of multicultural upbringing
- Faculty of Arts of the Masaryk University: Ethics, minorities and marginalised groups in the Czech Republic.

### **3. The preservation and development of the culture of national minorities**

The attitude of the Ministry of Culture towards the members of national minorities in the Czech Republic is expressed in its initial document *Cultural Policy in the Czech Republic*<sup>28)</sup> which was approved by Government Resolution N. 40 from 10 February 2001 to updating the Strategy of More Efficient State Support of Culture (Cultural Policy). Article 14 of this document formulates the principles of the support of cultural activities of national minorities as an expression of respecting the identity and traditions of the members of national minorities living in Bohemia. Special stress is laid upon multiethnic cultural activities and the support of the Roma national minority.

In accordance with Cultural Policy in the Czech Republic one of priorities is the support of cultural activities of the members of national minorities within the special national-minority grant programme for the support of cultural activities of the members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic on one hand and

according to individual activities within other grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture on the other.

In accordance with Government Decree N. 98/2002 Coll. the Ministry of Culture supports the projects of the members of national minorities concentrated on:

- artistic activities;
- educational and upbringing activities in cultural branches;
- the collection of documents relating to the culture of national minorities;
- editorial activity;
- multiethnic cultural activities.

### 3.1. The most important cultural activities of individual national minorities supported by the Ministry of Culture

#### Croatian national minority

The only and traditional project of *Associations of Citizens of Croatian Minority in the Czech republic* supported in 2002 within the programme of the Ministry of culture is *The Day of Croatian Culture* which has been organised since 2002 in Jevišovka (in former Břeclav district). In this activity Croatian ensembles from Slovakia, Burgenland in Austria and Croatia and the ensemble *Pálava* from South Moravia which goes in for Croatian folklore take part.

#### Hungarian national minority

*Association of the Hungarians Living in Bohemia*, the civil association of the members of the Hungarian national minority, carries out extensive and many-sided cultural activities every year. In addition, it runs a library and a videothèque and collects information relating to the Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic. The most important project of this organisation is the festival *Days of Hungarian Culture* during which Hungarian culture is presented by means of various cultural activities in Prague, Brno, Ostrava and Pilsen.

#### German national minority

The main cultural activity of the members of German national minority in 2002 like in last years was *The Grand Rendezvous of Folk Art and Culture of the German Minority and the Friends of the Germans from All Regions*. It is an annual rendezvous of twenty regional associations organised within *Assembly of the Germans Living in Bohemia, Moravia and*

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<sup>28)</sup> The complete text of the dokument is published on the internet page of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic ([www.mkcr.cz](http://www.mkcr.cz)).

*Silesia*. Another roofing organisation of the German national minority in the Czech Republic is *Cultural Association of the German Minority Citizens in the Czech Republic* which organises many cultural activities mostly at local level. In addition to local or regional organisations of the above associations the projects of the preservation of traditional German folk culture are implemented by other independent regional organisations - *Association of the Germans in Cheb Region*, *Association of the Germans in Hřebeč Region*, *Silesian-German Association in Hlučín Region* etc.

#### Polish national minority

The most numerous socio-cultural organisation of the members of national minorities in the Czech Republic is *Polish Cultural and Educational Union* (hereinafter PCEU). Every year it implements project *Cultural and Educational Activities of PCEU* which includes a lot of activities in a region (concerts, theatre performances, recitations, exhibitions, lectures, seminars etc.). The most important of them is the folklore festival *Gorolski Swieto* in Jablunkov. In addition of folklore it includes some additional cultural activities. An important project of PCEU is the puppet theatre *Bajka* which has been performing for 54 years. Puppet performances in Polish language contribute to the enrichment of the vocabulary of children and deepen their relation to mother tongue. PCEU publishes its annual *Kalendarz Slaski* (Silesian Calendar) which is the valuable source of information about cultural, social, religious and political life of the Polish minority in the Czech Republic. In addition, it is the publisher of *Zwrot*, the oldest magazine of the Polish minority which is supported within the grant programme of the Ministry of Culture.

*Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic* as a roofing organisation co-ordinates the activity of more than 20 Polish organisations. This associations publishes newspapers *Glos Ludu* for the members of the Polish national minority in the Czech Republic, administrates the documentation centre of the Polish minority and collects, makes accessible and popularise archive records, books and museum exhibits documenting the past of this minority on the territory of the Czech Republic. Projects for this activity are financed to a great extent from the State Budget.

Within the activities of the Polish national minority an important role is played by choirs, especially civil associations *Ars Musica* and *Collegium Cantorum* from Český Těšín and the choir *Hutník* of the Cultural Centre in Třinec. In addition regular exhibitions of Polish books organised by *Association of the Supporters of Polish Books* in Český Těšín are worth mentioning as well as the folklore festival, organised every year by the civil folklore association *Górole* in Mosty near Jablunkov.

The Art and Libraries Department of the Ministry of Culture responsible for grants for professional cultural activities provided in 2002 government subsidy to Těšín Theatre including *Scena Polska*.

#### Roma national minority

Within the projects focused on the cultural activities of the Roma minority in 2002 an important role was played by 8th festival *Roma Song* which was held in Walachian Museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm. Its organiser was the civil association *Democratic Alliance of the Roma in the Czech Republic*. Like other projects advertising Roma culture this activity took place under the auspices of the Minister of Culture. Within other important activities the festival *Roma Song and Poetry* in Karviná organised by *Association of the Roma of Northern Moravia* earned respect. *KHAMORO World Roma Festival* in Prague which was organised by the civil association *Word 21* and in which many international and national Roma ensembles took part, met with a wide international acceptance.

Since 2002 the TV short-film serial *Amare Roma* has been shot under the support of the Minister of Culture. It informs about the history, culture and language of the Roma and introduces interesting Roma personalities. This culture project was realised by the members of the civil association *Yetti Climbers Club*. In 2002 last ten parts of this serial informing about the Roma living in the Czech Republic and neighbouring states (Hungary, Slovakia and Germany) were completed.

Within grant programmes of the Art Department of the Ministry of Culture a financial support was provided to the project *President of Crocodiles* (presented under the title *Barader Papežis*). This theatre performance realised by Činoherní studio Ústí nad Labem is inspired by the life of the Roma in Ústí and the Roma themselves act in it.

In the field of the plastic arts a grant was provided in 2002 for the presentation of works by Roma painter Rudolf Dzurko in the prestigious gallery *Egon Schiele Art Centrum* in Český Krumlov.

Within other grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture the project *Practice of Reading of Roma Children* within the programme *Library of 21st Century* is worth mentioning.

Within the programme for the support of the development of religious and religious-cultural activities in 2002 a grant was provided to the civil association *PETROV - Association for Work with Children and Young People*, project *National Roma Carnival*, the civil association *ŠEST - The Ethnically Mixed School - Tolerance* and the project *We All are Children of One Father*.

A specific - and in international context also unique - cultural project of the members of the Roma national minority is the *Museum of the Roma Culture* in Brno which is also a professional and educational institution. In addition to exhibitions this institution focused in 2002 on the preparation of a permanent exposition which should be opened in this year. The museum includes a serviceable reading-room and library where many books of Roma literature (books, magazines and CD-ROMs with Roma music) are deposited. There is also the Department for Communication with the Public and the Education Department there. In 2002 the Museum prepared a lot of programmes focused on plastic arts, music and the effective utilisation of leisure of Roma children and young people. It also participates in the fulfilment of individual tasks resulting from the governmental programme of the education, research and remembrance of the Jewish and Roma Holocaust as a part of the intergovernmental association *International Task Force for Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research*). The Museum of the Roma Culture received a grant from the programme *Integrated System of the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage* for the establishment of a special depository.

Within the programme *Library of 21st Century* a grant for the project *Come On, Children, Let's Read* was provided.

More detailed information about the situation of the Museum of the Roma Culture is given in section 4.3.1. of this Report.

#### Ruthenian national minority

This minority prefers cultural-educational and editorial activities (lectures, informal meetings and exhibitions) but in 2002 no project for them was not submitted to the Ministry of Culture.

#### Russian national minority

Within the activities of the Russian national minority the main role is played by concerts of classical music from 19th and 20th centuries, the presentation of literature and editorial

activity. The Ministry of Culture did not provide any grant for these activities (the representatives of the Russian minority did not submitted any project).

#### Greek national minority

The cultural activities of regional organisations of the Greek national minority are focused mostly on the preservation and development of traditional culture. Individual activities are ensured by *Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic* which in 2002 organised the *7th Greek Festival in the Czech Republic* and activities within the project *Important Days of the Greek Nation*. Traditional culture is preserved also by the civil association *Lycée of the Greeks* whose projects relate to Greek folk costumes, dance and folk traditions. In the Czech Republic there are ensembles of the Greek minority *Gorgona*, *Akropolis* and *Prométheus* which take part in all socio-cultural activities of the Greek minority as well as festivals of other national minorities every year.

#### Slovak national minority

The most numerous organisation of the organisations of the Slovak national minority is *Club of the Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic* whose activity is concentrated mostly on lectures, seminars, the performances of folklore ensembles and professional artists, exhibitions, publications and the collection of documents. Other Slovak association *Community of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic* organises the 4th international festival of Slovak folklore *Jánošík Ducat* in Walachia Open-Air Museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm. This festival has been assuming a multiethnic form because in addition to the Slovak minority also the members of other national minorities living in the Czech Republic have taken part in it. Within the association activities of the Slovak minority an important role is played by *Slovak-Czech Club* which in 2002 organised in several Czech town *Days of the Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic*. This civil association is also a guarantor of the project *Czech-Slovak Stage* where Czech and Slovak actors play together in the cycle of theatre performances.

Very active is also *Limborá Slovak Folklore Association*, the civil association in Prague, which in 2002 played the role of the main organiser of the international folklore festival *Prague - the Heart of Nations*.

#### Ukrainian national minority

The largest civil association *Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic* implemented in 2002 the project *Preservation of the Identity and the Development of the Ukrainian (Ukrainian-Ruthenian) National Minority in the Czech Republic* which included the annual activity of this association, i.e. concerts, film projections, exhibitions and meetings.

The activity of *Association of Ukrainian Women* consists in the presentation of Ukrainian culture, especially literary traditions. The association organises lectures and issues publications focused on the history of the Ukrainians and the contribution of the personalities of Ukrainian minority in Bohemia since the end of 19th century. In 2000 this association received a grant for the issue of *Ukrainian Necropolis in the Czech Republic*, the publication on important Ukrainian personalities who lived and died on the territory of the Czech Republic.

*Association of the Ukrainians and the Friends of Ukraine* focuses on the preservation and development of Ukrainian music. This association includes *St.Vladimir Choir* which takes part in concerts and participates in Orthodox liturgies in Prague.

#### Jewish Community

Within the grant programme for the support of activities of the members of national minorities the Jewish community did not apply for any support.<sup>29)</sup> Nevertheless, the grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture support the activities of the Jewish community within the competence of museums and galleries. The representatives of the Jewish community lay stress upon the activity of the non-governmental institution *Jewish Museum* in Prague. Within its activities in 2002 it is advisable to mention for example the project *Golem 2002*, the international music festival whose birth was initiated by Argentinian ambassador in the Czech Republic and which was organised under the auspices of president Václav Havel. It was held in co-operation with the Embassy of Republic of Argentina in Prague, the Charles University and the Educational and Cultural Centre of the Jewish Museum in Prague. The festival included the literary competition of students, the exhibition of paintings and sculptures, music recital etc. Another project of the Museum is *Disappeared Neighbours* focused on the literary works of the students of secondary schools and grammar schools. The main part of this project is the travelling exhibition *Disappeared Neighbours* presented together with the exhibition *Anne Frank - the Heritage for the Future*. Like some other institutions also *The Silver of Czech Synagogues*, the permanent exposition of the Jewish Museum, had to be closed from August to the end of 2002 because of floods.

A special programme was elaborated for Terežín Memorial. It is focused above all on the remembrance of the Holocaust (in accordance with the activity of the Holocaust International Co-ordination Committee) and consists in a lot of professional seminars - including international ones - for pedagogues, pupils and students of Czech and foreign schools. This activity aims not only at information about the Holocaust but also the historical, religious and cultural characteristics of the Jewish community. A similar role is played by the branches of West Bohemia Museum in Plzeň, i.e. *Museum of Dr. Šimon Adler* in Dobrá Voda-Hartmanice and Orlice Mountains Museum, i.e. *Karel Poláček Memorial* in Rychnov nad Kněžnou.

#### Multiethnic cultural activities

The multicultural activities within the grant programme of the Ministry of Culture for the support of the cultural activities of the members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic in 2002 are represented by the 23rd festival *Silesian Days* in Dolní Lomná in Těšín region, organised by *Silesian Foundation* and the 4th festival *Jackové to Children*.

Multiethnic cultural activities are supported also within the grant programmes of the Art Department of the Ministry of Culture. These activities consist above all in the festivals of ethnic music including Roma one. In 2002 *United Colour of Akropolis*, the round-the year cycle of concerts of ethnic music in Prague, *Respect Ethnic World Music Festival* in Prague and *Ostrava Drum* in Ostrava were organised.

#### **4. The financial support of activities of the members of national minorities**

The grant policy of the state relating to the execution of rights of national minorities is determined by Government Decree N. 98/2002 Coll. (see below, section 1.2.7.). Different situation is in the field of self-government: the financial support of activities of the members of national minorities within the competence of regions is mostly included in the programmes of the support of culture and care of ancient monuments (for example in Karlovy Vary region), the programmes of health and social support (for example in Moravian-Silesian

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<sup>29)</sup> The Federation of Jewish Communities does not define the Jewish community in the Czech Republic as a national minority.

region) or programmes of the support of young people and education. Their basic framework is determined by the rules of grant policy for the support of non-governmental non-profit organisations; as to the problems of national minorities, these rules do not explicitly deal in them. According to data included in section 5.2.1. of this Report only in the capital Prague a specific grant programme relating to the activities of national minorities is declared every year (this year a similar programme was declared for example in Liberec and Moravia-Silesia regions). *The Analyses of Financing Non-governmental Non-profit Organisations from Public Budgets in 2002*,<sup>30)</sup> the draft of a document for the meeting of the government, shows that the financial support of the activities of national minorities was declared only by these regions: capital Prague (2% of total grants for non-governmental non-profit organisations), Karlovy Vary (1%), Hradec Králové (2%) and Olomouc (2%). According to the Analyses other regions did not express their support explicitly as the support of activities of „the members of national and ethnic minorities (including the Roma minority)“. Like in regions also in statutory towns the activities of organisations of the members of national minorities are supported within the more general specification of grants (the support of culture, social welfare and education). It means that no specific programme for the support of activities of non-governmental non-profit organisations of the members of national minorities was declared. Grants for communities for the projects of the organisations of national minorities conform to the general rules of the support of non-governmental non-profit organisations. The communities do not declare specific grant programmes but they support individual projects. In some cases no support was found and this fact was justified by the general lack of finances in a local budget.

The analyses of data which relates to providing grants from public budgets for the projects of non-governmental non-profit organisations in 2002 shows that the support of projects relating to the activities of the members of national minorities represents in the total volume of grants for the projects of non-governmental non-profit organisations about 1,5% of all grants from the budget of central state administration, about 1% of regional budgets and about 0,3% of community budgets.

#### **4.1. Support by means of the budget chapter „General Cash Administration“**

The Ministry of Finance administrates the budget chapter *General Cash Administration* (hereinafter GCA) which consists in incomes and expenses of the State Budget (hereinafter SB). These incomes and expenses have a general character and do not fall within the competence of any chapter administrator. For 2002 following items concerning the support of activities of the members of national minorities and the integration of the Roma community were assigned in budget chapter GCA:

- *co-ordinators of Roma consultants in Regional Authorities* (4 680 000 crowns). This item was assigned in the State Budget for 2002 in accordance with Government Resolution N. 781 from 25 July 2001 by section II.5a). According to section II.5b) of this Resolution chapter GCA of SB amount 680 000 crowns was assigned for the satisfaction of needs relating to the function of co-ordinator;

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<sup>30)</sup> The Draft of the Main Fields of State Grant Policy Relating to Non-governmental Non-profit Organisations in 2004 and the Analyses of Their Financing from Public Budgets in 2002 (a document for the meeting of the government prepared by the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations; R.N. 6297/03-RND).

- *the support of the projects Integration of the Roma Community* (25 000 000 crowns). On the basis of Government Resolution on the affairs of the Roma community this amount was utilised for the implementation of two programmes, i.e. Programme of the Support of the Pupils of Secondary schools and Programme of Social Fieldwork ;
- *campaign against racism - the project Tolerance* (6 000 000 crowns). In 2002 this amount assigned for the implementation of a campaign was utilised for some specific orders:
  - „Minorities into Libraries“ - information and mass media campaign at regional and local levels;
  - mass media presentation of social fieldwork with the Roma;
  - a multimedia centre and seminars within the anti-racism music festival organised by the unincorporated association *Man in Need* in the Czech Television;
  - interactive upbringing and education campaign at secondary schools.

In accordance with Government Resolution N. 600 from 12 June 2002 to Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2001 the budget chapter GCA of the draft of SB for 2003 earmarked 20 000 000 crowns for the reconstruction of premises for the *House of National Minorities in Prague*.

#### **4.2. Financing educational activities**

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports provides grants to many civil associations, inter alia those of the members of national minorities. The support programmes are financed directly from the budget chapter of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the budget chapter GCA which is transferred to the budget chapter of the Ministry.

In 2002 more than 20 civil associations whose activities are focused on national minorities were supported within *Programmes of the State Support of Work with Children and Young People for Non-governmental Non-profit Organisations*. Eight Roma associations (*Association of the Roma in Moravia, Regiom Pardubice, R-Club, Rachel Vlašim, Jekhetane Ostrava, Savore Šumperk, Children Club 10, Association of the Roma Minority*) received grant 980 000 crowns for their activities. In addition, financial support was provided to the projects of non-governmental non-profit organisations of other national minorities (civil associations working with the Polish minority and the Jewish community). Other local and national-wide organisations which work with children and young people received 1 100 000 crowns for the activities of children of the members of national minorities. Most of finances was assigned for leisure activities, for example hobby groups, summer camps and weekend stays, and material equipment for these activities. The total amount of these grants was 2 537 000 crowns.

In accordance with Government Decree N. 98/2002 Coll. *Programme of the Support of the Integration of the Roma Community* was declared. It is focused on education, multiethnic cultural activities, prevention from socially pathogenous phenomena, leisure activities, summer and winter camps, weekend stays, trips, sportive activities etc. In 2002 88 projects were supported by grants 2 000 000 crowns.

*Programme of Education in Languages of National Minorities and Multicultural Upbringing* is addressed to all national minorities living in the Czech Republic. The aim of this grant programme is to strengthen the awareness of general human appurtenance and culture of other nations, upbringing to mutual tolerance and against racism and xenophobia. It is divided into three main themes:

- the language education of children and young people of national minorities;

- the common socio-cultural, sportive and educational activities of children and young people of national minorities and majority society;
- documentation, analysis, research and elaboration of education programmes in the field of minority education.

The representatives of national minorities acquainted with the above programme inter alia by means of *Advisory Board of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for the Education of National Minorities* whose members are also the representatives of national minorities. In 2002 the Advisory Board examined 35 projects. 16 projects were accepted and received grants 4 539 545 crowns. The list of endowed projects was publicised on the information www page of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and it is mentioned in Appendix N. 1. (Appendix N. 2 illustrates providing grants of the Ministry to national minorities in 2003).

Grants were provided in the form of a Decision on Providing a Grant. 15 subjects sent its account to the Ministry to required date (the civil association *Russian Institute* sent its account on the basis of a reasonable notice one month after the expiration of a required date).

The project PHARE (CZ 00-02-03) is focused on the education of teachers, school directors and pedagogical assistants at primary and preparatory schools on multicultural themes and the creation of specific conditions for the education of Roma pupils. It was divided into two parts: *Support to Roma Integration* and *Multicultural Education Reform*. Its total budget is 1 600 000 euro (950 000 euro will be utilised for project Support to Roma Integration and 650 000 euro for Multicultural Education Reform). 1 000 000 euro were provided by the European Commission from programme PHARE and 600 000 euro by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

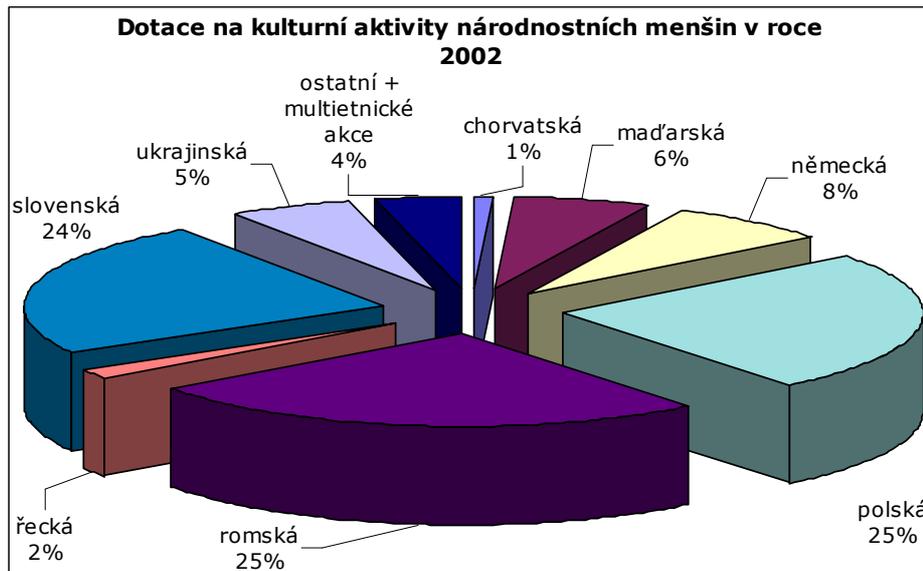
#### **4.3. The support of the preservation and development of culture**

The financial support of cultural activities of the members of national minorities is ensured by the Ministry of Culture; in addition to a grant programme for the support of cultural activities of the members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic the Ministry also implements a separate programme for the support of the integration of the members of the Roma community. In 2002 1 450 000 crowns were provided for 29 projects of this programme. Out of the competition the Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno was endowed (by 1 200 000 crowns).

Within the programme for the support of cultural activities of the members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic in 2002 95 subjects with 157 projects applied for grants; 94 subjects received it. The total amount of grants distributed within this competition was 7 585 977 crowns (the summary of all projects is mentioned in Appendix N. 3). In addition to the above programmes the Ministry of Culture provided grants for the activities of the members of national minorities as a part of *Library of 21st Century*, the grant programme of the Art and Libraries Department (the summary of these grants is mentioned in Appendix N. 4).

The proportional division of grants within the programme for the support of cultural activities of the members of national minorities in 2002 according to individual national minorities is

illustrated in following diagram:



#### 4.3.1. Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno

In 2002 the Government Council for National Minorities and the Government Council for the Affairs of the Roma Community discussed repeatedly the issue of the establishment of the Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno (hereinafter „Museum“), its institutional position and assurance of economic conditions for its further activities. Within the comprehensive report on the situation of national minorities it is relevant to pay special attention to this issue and propose measures which would represent the systematic solution of the problem of successful function of this institution not only in the Czech Republic and also in Central Europe as a whole. The activity of the Museum until now proves that it is not only a professional institution dealing with Roma affairs but also an institution which has a positive social and political influence in the field of social consciousness of the Roma community in Bohemia and mutual relations of the Roma community and majority society.

##### Some facts about the history of the Museum

The establishment of the Roma Museum in Bohemia was initiated for the first time during so-called „re-birth process“ in the end of 1960s of 20th century when the Roma in Czechoslovakia were given a break to establish their own organisation. In 1969 the Union of the Gypsies-Roma in the Czech Republic was founded in Brno as a centre of the Roma intellectuals. The members of the Union, especially Roma historian Bartoloměj Daniel, started to collect materials for the future museum, above all the products of traditional Roma handicrafts. These collections became a base for the exhibition *Romani hartikani buti - Roma Black-smith Trade* (Brno, October 1970). The process of normalisation terminated both the activity of the Union and efforts to establish a museum which would present Roma culture.

The idea of a Roma museum which would document the Roma culture was materialised after November 1989 by the group of Roma intellectuals -two workers of the Union, historians Karel Holomek and Jana Holomková-Horváthová - who asked Roma scholar Eva Davidová for professional co-operation. This group started to negotiate with the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of the Interior, Brno Metropolitan Authority, Roma Civil Initiative and other Roma associations. After many peripetia of preparatory negotiations the representatives of the

initiative group of the Roma refused up to a principle the offer of the Ministry of Culture to establish a museum as an independent part of the Moravian Provincial Museum in Brno. Roma activists decided to establish *Association for the Establishment of Museum of the Roma Culture*<sup>31)</sup> which started to build a museum as an association. Thus they expressed their will to establish a museum which would be independent on other institutions and the state that - in their point of view - could be ill-disposed to the establishment of an institution supporting the integration of the Roma into the society. Successively *Association of Experts and Friends of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno*<sup>32)</sup> and Karel Holomek became its chairman. The founders of the Museum formulated their mission as follows: *We shall make every effort to collect at the Museum as many materials as possible to present the richness and quality of the Roma culture, turn to the Roma people their lost self-confidence and present them to the Czech, Slovak and other public in an unknown light which would help it to find a viable way to the Roma ethnic group; the Museum has ambition to become a cultural centre of all Roma living on the territory of this state and an information centre for all people who are interested in Roma studies.* The activities of the Museum were divided into four basic ones: a) documentation, b) collections, c) science, research and presentation and d) education and popularisation.

After making a basic collection the Association established the beneficiary association *Museum of the Roma Culture*.<sup>33)</sup> On the basis of this fact the Brno Council approved 7 December 2000 an agreement on the lease of a reconstructed building in Bratislavská street 67 in Brno including the parcel of land. The Mayor of Brno and the lady-director of Museum of the Roma Culture signed on 11 January 2001 an agreement on the lease of non-residential premises for the beneficiary association Museum of Roma Culture for an agreed period at symbolic price 1 crown. The preliminary agreement on non-residential lease was concluded till 30 June 2001 and in following years it was prolonged.

The permanent seat of the Museum and the reconstruction of its building

After many negotiations of the representatives of *Association of Experts and Friends of Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno* with state administration bodies the Brno Metropolitan Authority allocated the building of the indication number 264/67 in Bratislavská street for the Museum and the Brno Metropolitan Council approved the intent of the free-of-charge transfer of this object to the beneficiary association Museum of the Roma Culture.<sup>34)</sup> Nevertheless, the building was desolate and it was necessary to procure finances for its reconstruction. Due to permanent equivocations concerning the way of reconstruction of the above building a document for the meeting of the government on financial support for the reconstruction of the future Museum was submitted in 1997 when a design study was elaborated. The government

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<sup>31)</sup> According to Act N. 83/1990 Coll. on the Association of Citizens, as amended. The Association for the Establishment of Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno as a civil association was registered by the Ministry of the Interior on 9 April 1991 (VSC/1-16122/91 R).

<sup>32)</sup> The Association of Experts and Friends of Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno as a civil association was registered by the Ministry of the Interior on 15 October 1991(VSC/1-8002/91 R).

<sup>33)</sup> The Resolution of the Regional Commercial Court in Brno on the registration of the beneficiary association Museum of the Roma Culture was issued on 21 December 1998 and the Registration Certificate of the Tax Office Brno I was issued on 17 August 1999.

<sup>34)</sup> The intent of the free-of-charge transfer of the building to the beneficiary association Museum of Roma Culture was approved by the Brno Metropolitan Council at its meeting on 12 -14 November 1996.

approved 34 905 000 crowns as a grant to Brno for the reconstruction of the above building.<sup>35)</sup> The reconstruction plan was divided into two phases: for 1998 20 000 000 crowns and for 1999 15 000 000 (14 905 000) crowns were allocated and Brno was obliged to pay surcharge 17 723 000 crowns (i.e. 30% of presumed expenses).<sup>36)</sup>

Because of technical problems (inter alia repeated competition of tenders for the selection of a reconstructor) reconstruction works were started in September 1999 and terminated in 2000.<sup>37)</sup> According to Occupancy Permit Decision from 1 November 2000 the occupancy permit was issued on 17 October 2000 and the building was transferred to its user.<sup>38)</sup> On 12 December 2000 the management of the Museum introduced a new building to the public within the „Open House Day“.<sup>39)</sup> According to the Investment Department of Brno Metropolitan Authority expenses on the whole reconstruction and modernisation of this building equaled to 34 850 021 crowns.

### The activities of the Museum

In the first years of the existence of the Museum its workers concentrated on the procurement of collections and documents in Bohemia, Slovak Roma settlements and Roma communities in Poland, Ukraine and Bulgaria. Thus they succeeded in saving, documenting, describing and registering thousands of examples of traditional handicrafts, housing, way of life, clothes, historical photographs etc. Audio and video cassettes have been recorded, inter alia on the memories of those who remember the sufferings of World War II. In addition, the Museum gained the part of collections of the cancelled Union of the Gypsies-Roma in the Czech Republic which were preserved in Moravian Provincial Museum (cca 120 items, mainly black-smith 's products and tools) and has completed the collections of traditional Roma handicrafts, textile, jewelery, fashion accessories, public records, written, photographic, audio and video documents and examples from the history of Roma housing, household equipment, way of life, plastic arts (works of skilled amateur and professional painters on Roma themes), medallions of Roma personalities and exhibits witnessing to the influence of Roma culture on the majority society.

After the establishment of the Museum also the library of Roma literature, Roma studies and periodicals has been built. The books deposited there are available for students, journalists, scientists and public interested in Roma culture.

The Museum started its educational activities in May 1993 with the first lecture of the long-term cycle *Who Are the Roma?* This cycle of lectures has been organised without interruption up till now. More than 10 000 listeners have acquired knowledge and information about the life of the Roma. Within the framework of multicultural upbringing many lectures of this

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<sup>35)</sup> Government Resolution N. 518 from 27 August 1997 on providing finances for the reconstruction of the object of Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno. The grant was provided by the Ministry of Culture and accepted by Brno authorities which assumed responsibility as an investor of the project.

<sup>36)</sup> Drawing finances for individual phases is specified in Government Resolution n. 686 from 29 October 1997 to the Report on the Situation of the Roma Community in the Czech Republic and contemporary situation inside this community.

<sup>37)</sup> See Government Resolution N. 790 from 28 July 1999 to the reconstruction of the object of the Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno.

<sup>38)</sup> Take-over procedure attended by the reconstructor, the customer and the user of the Museum of the Roma Culture took place on 3 November 2000 when the Occupancy Permit Decision came into force.

<sup>39)</sup> See document for the meeting of the government from 7 February 2001 „Information about the Reconstruction of the Building of the Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno for Which Finances Were Provided from the State Budget 1998-2000“.

cycle in 2002 focused on national minorities living in the Czech Republic. The Museum co-operates with the organisations of national minorities and Roma organisations in Brno when organising cultural and educational activities.

The Museum issues an annual where it informs about its activity contributing to Roma studies in various branches in the form of *Bulletin of Museum of the Roma Culture*.<sup>40)</sup> Although the Museum presents itself mostly by separated publications<sup>41)</sup> it enlists many well-wishers and those who are interested in Roma affairs by its exhibitions. The first large exhibition was *The Roma in Czechoslovakia* which took place in the second year of the existence of the Museum (Ethnographic Institute of Moravian Provincial Museum in Brno, 1992) followed by *The Roma in Brno* (1998), followed by the exhibition of Roma painter *Rudolf Dzurko* (2001), *The Roma Myth*, the largest exhibition of American ethno-choreographer Elisabeth Mourat who presented there her collection of works looking at the Roma from the angle of view of the majority society (and presented their copies to the Museum), *Lety, the Way from Tragedy to Tolerance*, the collection of etchings and photographs by Barbara E.M.Scotch inspired by her stay in Lety near Písek and accompanied by her animations, and a lot of exhibitions of photographs. *O Roma - Looking for Home* (Moravian Provincial Museum - Pavillon Anthropos), the last of large exhibitions, was organised by the Museum in 1999 and then transferred to Pilsen and Ústí nad Labem. In October 2002 *The Paths of the Roma - Romano Drom*, the exhibition of the works by ethnographer Eva Davidová (the expert of the Museum) was organised.

Nevertheless, most of people have visited travelling exhibitions. The most successful of them was *The World Seen by the Roma - E luma romane jakhence*, the collection of works by Roma non-professional painters (selected from the collection of the Museum); since 1996 this collection has represented the Museum in many places of the Czech Republic including Prague and also abroad where the exhibition was organised either by Czech Centres or embassies (Viena, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Washington, Moscow, Brussels, Utrecht etc.).

The Museum did much creditable professional and popularisation work in the field of study, documentation and presentation of the Roma Holocaust in World War II by means of large collections, written documents, photographs, video and audio records of the memories of witnesses of this event, the *Memorial to the Victims of the Gypsy Camp in Hodonín near Kunštát* (1997) and the tablet on the Roma mass graves in Černovice and Kunštát where the Museum organises their commemoration. Thanks to its initiative the tablet was installed also in Masná street in Brno from which the first Brno Roma were transported to Auschwitz in 1943. Since 1999 the Museum has been participating in the project *Phenomenon Holocaust* under the auspices of former president Václav Havel. The Museum presents this theme in international conferences and participates in activities of *International Task Force for Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research* where the representative of the Museum is a guarantor of thematic cycle „Roma Holocaust“.

Within international co-operation the Museum co-operates with renowned scientific institutions and museums all over the world - for example The House of Anna Frank in

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<sup>40)</sup> In 1992 the Museum issued totally 10 bulletins.

<sup>41)</sup> See for example publications focused on Roma holocaust in World war II: „Unknown Holocaust“ (1995); „Ma bisteren - Let Us Not Forget“ (1997); „From Brno to Auschwitz-Birkenau“ (2000). In addition, the Museum participated in the publication of „Phenomenon Holocaust“, the reports of the conference of the same name (Prague 1999) and it has been co-operating for a long time with Palacký University on Roma projects, the publication of recent Roma studies by authors C. Nečas, B. Daniel and E. Davidová, „The Chapters of the History of the Roma“ (2001) the book by Jana Horváthová and other works (The Roma and Nacism, 2000, „The Memoirs of the Roma Women - Roots“, 2002 etc.).

Amsterdam (the common project of mutual short-term affiliations), the Holocaust Museum in Washington, the State Museum in Auschwitz, memorials in former concentration camps etc. Historian Petr Lhotka is an author of „*The Roma in Auschwitz*“, the Czech part of the permanent exposition of the Nazi genocide of the Roma which was opened thanks to Dokumentations-und Kulturzentrum der deutscher Sinti und Roma in 2001 in Auschwitz. Documents and materials were provided by the Museum as well as materials for the Roma part of Czech Exposition which was opened in Auschwitz in 2002 under the auspices of Terezín Memorial.

Since 1998 the Museum has been utilising the large database of the documents of Roma witnesses of sufferings of World War II for mediating humanitarian aid and the indemnification of Roma victims of the Holocaust. From the very beginning the lecturers of the Museum have taken part in educational seminars for teachers *How Teach Holocaust* organised by Terezín Memorial. The last activity focused on this theme is the documentary film *These Are Hard Memories* directed by Monika Rychlíková with the aid of the experts of the Museum (in co-operation with Film and Sociology Association). Its first run was in October 2002 at the Museum and in the same month it won an award in *Čadca 2002*, the international festival of ethnographic films. Its copies are available in Terezín Memorial and methodological centres for the education of teachers.

In 2000 the Museum started up the project *Children 's Workshop* for children and young people of the Roma community in Brno. It consists in activities organised in co-operation with the Pedagogical Faculty of the Masaryk University in Brno and qualified volunteers within the project of the useful utilisation of leisure. These community projects focus on various themes: *Afternoon at the Museum* (museum activities), *Come on Children, Let 's Read* (enlisting readers from Roma children and young people), *Wide Open Museum* (cultural activities), „The Mondays of Plastic Arts“ etc. These activities not only give chance Roma children for cultural activities and also represent an important social-preventive factor of this target group.

#### Contemporary situation

The Museum is a member of Association of Museums and Galleries of the Czech Republic and the Club of the Foundation Information Centre and makes efforts to become a member of the International Organisation for Migration. The collections of the Museum are registered in the Central Registry of the Collections of the Ministry of Culture.<sup>42)</sup> According to stock-taking on 31 December 2002 the collection of the Museum contained 13 298 items of which 2 729 items were books representing the complete collection of Roma literature and Roma studies. In 2002 totally 140 research workers improved an opportunity to study at the Museum.

In 1997-2002 the Museum obtained resources for operation and professional activity from public finances including an investment grant 61 000 000 crowns from the State Budget provided to Brno for the reconstruction of the Museum building. The detailed summary for individual years is included in Appendix N. 5. In spite of the above fact the Museum still has not sufficient resources for opening the permanent exposition in 2003. For this reason it is advisable to support the project of permanent exposition from the State Budget.

The proposal of the solution of problem of the future legal status of the Museum

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<sup>42)</sup> According to the provisions of Act N. 122/2000 Coll. on the Protection of Museum Collections. The collection is registered under N. 002-05-13/231002.

The successful development of further activities of the Museum now depends on the possibilities of its transformation to a new institution. At present it is topical to decide on its new legal status and specify its financial cover. In this context it is evident from economic point of view that the problem must be resolved systematically by means of public finances. Although the Museum receives an every-year grant within the programme of the Ministry of Culture for the support of the projects concerning the cultural activities of the members of national minorities,<sup>43)</sup> these grants can not cover whole operation costs of the Museum.

The activity of the Museum complies with the valid legislation which relates to the activity of museums and galleries.<sup>44)</sup> Nevertheless, the main problem consists in the possible form of state participation in the assurance of the Museum's operation and activity. The forms of the new legal status of the Museum which would ensure unchangeable financial conditions for the activity of the Museum are as follows:

- The establishment of a state structural component

In this case legal regulations determine that a state structural component (a museum or a gallery) can be established under conditions stipulated in § 4 of Act N. 219/2000 Coll. on the Property of the Czech Republic and its Acting in Civil Relationships. The activity and management of a state structural component comply with this Act and Act N. 218/2000 Coll. on Budgetary Rules as amended, as well as statutory instruments, i.e. respective by-laws. A ministry can be the promoter of a state structural component but the law necessitates the approval of the Ministry of Finance. A state structural component is not a separate legal person but if it is established by a ministry, it is a separate accounting unit. The establishment of a new state structural component must comply with conditions stipulated in § 4 of Act N. 209/2000 Coll., i.e. the approval of the Ministry of Finance (presumably for the same reasons as mentioned above). The regulation to apply a law in this context (i.e. the establishment of a state structural component, establishment instruments etc.) is Regulation of the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic N. 62/2001 Coll. on the administration of state property by state structural components and state organisations. Expenses on the activity of a state structural component are covered from the State Budget, usually by means of a budget chapter administrator who is charged with the function of a promoter of a state structural component.

- The establishment of a new state institution receiving contributions from the State Budget

The establishment of a new state institution receiving contributions from the State Budget is possible according to § 54, clause 2 of Act N. 219/2000 Coll. only in cases and under conditions stipulated by a special regulation.<sup>45)</sup> The establishment of a new state institution receiving contributions from the State Budget depends on complying with the requirement stipulated in § 54, clause 2 of Act N. 219/2000 Coll. whose text is as follows: *A new state*

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<sup>43)</sup> Government Decree N. 98/2002 Coll. which specifies the conditions and way of providing grants from the State Budget for the activities of the members of national minorities and the support of the integration of the members of the Roma community.

<sup>44)</sup> Act N. 122/2000 Coll. on the Protection of Museum Collections, as amended; Government Decree N. 469/2000 Coll. which determines the content of individual trades; the specification of the content of trades according to Act N. 455/1991 Coll. on Business in Trade (Trade Act) which defines inter alia the competence of a museum within the activities of cultural and educational facilities; Act N. 129/2000 Coll. on Districts (district administration) as amended; Act N. 128/2000 on Communities (district administration), as amended.

<sup>45)</sup> In case of an intent to establish Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno as a state institution receiving contributions from the State Budget it is necessary to elaborate such a regulation. The Ministry of Culture presumes the submission of the government bill of this Act in 2003.

*institution receiving contributions from the State Budget can be established only in cases and under conditions stipulated by a special legal regulation“*. The establishment of a new state institution receiving contributions from the State Budget should be discussed in the government on the basis of the positive stand of the Ministry of Finance (for strengthening budget chapter 334 by resources calculated for a contribution to such a state institution).

- The embodiment of the Museum in an existing state museum institution receiving contributions from the State Budget (a state structural component)

If that the alterations of the establishment instrument of an existing state institution receiving contributions from the State Budget or a state structural component influence the expenses of the State Budget, they must be negotiated beforehand with the Ministry of Finance. The alteration of an establishment instrument (the extension of activities of an existing institution) is implemented by a promoter or a ministry which is charged with the function of a promoter. Within the above variants the Ministry of Culture considers the establishment of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno as a state institution receiving contributions from the State Budget (see the draft of respective government resolution to this Report) to be the best one.

#### **4.4. The support of the integration of the members of the Roma community**

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs supported in 2002 the activities of national minorities, especially in the field of the integration of Roma communities, by 13 383 573 crowns (detailed description is included in Appendix N. 6). In this period the pilot project *Social Fieldwork in Socially Degraded Roma Communities* was tested. Within the framework of the reform of social services the Ministry communicates with non-governmental non-profit organisations; as providing social services is independent on the principle of ethnicity, it is not possible to inform about the character of co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities. The exception is the Roma minority which the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs helps in submitting an application for grants. In this context it organised two seminars for the representatives of the Roma minority with respect to submitting an application for grants.

#### **4.5. Grants from the State Budget for the publication of periodicals of national minorities**

The grants for the publication of minority periodicals are provided by the Ministry of Culture. In 2002 it provided grants 30 000 000 crowns for the publication of minority periodicals on the basis of the recommendation of the Council. The above amount was divided for 18 periodicals, i.e. 1 Bulgarian, 1 Hungarian, 2 German, 4 Polish, 4 Roma, 1 Russian, 4 Slovak and 1 Ukrainian.

##### **4.5.1. Bulgarian minority**

###### ***Roden glas***

In 2002 this was the only supported Bulgarian periodical. Its publisher is *Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Organisation in the Czech Republic*. The periodical was published as a monthly (32 pages, announced number 5 000 copies, one copy sales price 15 crowns). The grant was 548 000 crowns.

The periodical presented commentaries on the social and cultural activities of the Bulgarian minority. At the end of 2002 the publisher asked for the alteration of the Decision on Providing Grant (hereinafter „Decision“); because of the decrease of overhead expenses his application was admitted. The publisher reduced the periodicity of this title to five-times a year. The settlement of the grant showed that its percentage of total expenses was 88,07%, the

percentage of overhead expenses was 49,63% and the percentage of unsold copies was 7%. As a half-year account revealed discrepancies in drawing from the grant, the publisher did not receive the last part payment for 2002. Finally he submitted the account and respective audit did not reveal any serious insufficiency with respect to the economical utilisation of the grant. Conclusion: no measure is suggested, inter alia because of the failure of the publisher's project to publish *Roden glas* in 2003.

#### 4.5.2. Hungarian minority

##### ***Prágai Tükör***

A periodical issued regularly five-times a year is published by *Union of the Hungarians Living in Bohemia*. The grant was 1 135 000 crowns (around 96 pages, announced number 1 000 copies, one copy sales price 25 crowns).

The periodical deals in social and cultural issues. It is the only supported Hungarian periodical which has been published since 1993 (since 2001 with an inset). The periodical maps the cultural and social life of the Hungarian minority and deals in Czech-Hungarian relations in the field of culture and history. Every copy includes the résumé in Czech and English languages. The settlement of the grant showed that the total number of copies was 5 000, number of pages 120 and one copy sales price 25 crowns. The grant's percentage of total expenses determined in the Decision (76,3%) was not observed because in fact it reached 90,54%. The percentage of overhead expenses was 57,04% and the percentage of unsold copies was 25%. The publisher stated lower actual income from sale than the budgeted one.

Conclusion: the audit of the grants did not reveal any serious insufficiency. Nevertheless, the publisher should look for other sources of income in order to decrease the grant's percentage of the project. If the half-year account shows that the grant's percentage of the project does not accord with the Decision, it will be recommended to reduce the grant in the 3rd and 4th quarters.

#### 4.5.3. German Minority

##### ***Landes-Zeitung***

The periodical is published by *Assembly of the Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia*. The grant in 2002 was 2 200 000 crowns. (8+4 pages, announced number 4 000 copies, one copy sales price 6,50 crowns).

The periodical is addressed to the German national minority in the Czech Republic. As a fortnightly it gives information about the life of the German minority and other actual issues. The settlement of the grant in 2002 showed the low percentage of sold copies (the percentage of unsold copies is 44,80%). The publisher stated that the percentage of overhead expenses was 57,31%; in comparison with budgeted production expenses the actual ones were higher (expenses on a medial assistant were 436 075 crowns). Actual income from sale was much lower than the budgeted one while total overhead expenses did not exceed those of the budget.

Conclusion: due to the high percentage of unsold copies it is advisable to decrease of the total number of copies and pay more attention to the marketability of the above periodical. If the modifications in the half-year settlement of the grant are not implemented, it will be recommended to reduce the grant in the 3rd and 4th quarters.

##### ***Prager Volkzeitung***

This fortnightly is published by *Cultural Association of the German Minority Citizens of the Czech Republic*. The grant in 2002 was 2 100 000 crowns (12 pages, announced number 3 500 copies, one copy sales price 8 crowns).

The periodical gives reports and actual commentaries concerning the problem of the position of the German minority in Bohemia. The grant's percentage of total expenses was 85,91% while in the Decision it was determined to be 85,4%; the percentage of unsold copies was 20%. Actual income from sale was satisfactory; the publisher utilised the grant in accordance with conditions mentioned in the decision except distribution - in comparison with the budgeted amount the publisher stated 228 354 crowns. Overhead expenses did not exceed the budgeted ones.

Conclusion: no measure is proposed.

#### 4.5.4 Polish minority

##### ***Głos Ludu***

The periodical is published by *Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic*. The grant was 1 300 000 crowns. It was published every other day (8-16 pages, announced number 5 400 - 5 800 copies, one copy sales price 6 crowns).

The periodical contributes to the preservation and knowledge of Polish language. It is published by professionals and accessible in public shops. The grant's percentage of total expenses was 44,25% which is the most favourable value in comparison with all projects of the publishers of minority periodicals. 44% of total overhead expenses were represented by wages. The amounts for lease and telephone were much lower than the budgeted ones. The main sources of income were subscription and insertion. Income from sale covered 41% of total expenses. Total overhead expenses did not exceed the budgeted ones.

Conclusion: no measure is proposed.

##### ***Zwrot***

The cultural monthly is published by *Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic*. The grant was 1 300 000 crowns (80 page, announced number 1 800 copies, one copy sales price 15 crowns).

The monthly focuses mainly on the history and cultural activities of the Polish minority. The published did not keep the grant's percentage of total expenses which should have been 70%. The grant covers 75,25% of the project, the percentage of unsold copies is 12,55% in comparison with presumed 7%. Nevertheless, the publisher succeeded in obtaining other resources for financing the project. In addition to income from sale that covers 22% of total expenses he obtains resources from Polish sponsors and advertisement. In comparison with the budget the lease increased evidently. Other conditions stipulated in the Decision were met.

Conclusion: no measure is proposed; nevertheless, the publisher should keep the budget of the project.

##### ***Nasza Gazetka***

The cultural fortnightly is published by *Harcerstvo Polskie w Republice Czeskiej*. The grant was 1 200 000 crowns (12 pages, announced number 1 000 copies, one copy sales price 5 crowns).

The periodical is an information media for the organisation of the Harcers in the Czech Republic. The account of the grant in 2002 showed marketability 81%; the grant's percentage of total expenses was kept (86,24%) but income from sale was extremely low, although the expenses on one copy was 79 crowns. The declared number of pages did not correspond the actual one. In addition, amounts in the items „Miscellanea“ and „Lease“ increased. The publisher explained this fact by the rent in the downtown where his publishing house is situated. Total overhead expenses did not exceed the budgeted ones.

Conclusion: it is recommended to the publisher to increase a one copy price, keep planned indicators according to the approved project and pay attention to the economical issue of his periodical.

#### ***Kurier Praski***

The periodical is published by the civil association Prague Courier. The grant was 216 000 crowns (12 pages, announced number 500 copies, one copy sales price 10 crowns).

The monthly focuses above all on the Polish community in Prague, the problem of the position of the Polish minority in the Czech republic and Czech-Polish relations. The grant's percentage of total expenses exceeded the budgeted one. The publisher justified this fact by the problem of marketability of the periodical. While the Decision determined 56,39%, the account showed that it was 99,15%. The copies were distributed free of charge. The publisher stated that income from sale was 850 crowns but the budgeted on was 9 000 crowns. Although the original budget did not included the amount of postal charges, the publisher stated in the account that it was 4 912 crowns. He explained that he was not able to sale the periodical because he did not receive money from sponsors and had not any other source of income.

Conclusion: it is necessary for the publisher to focus on the increase of marketability of the periodical and look for other resources. If the half-year settlement of the grant does not prove that the grant's percentage of total expenses accords with the Decision, it will be recommended to reduce the grant in the 3rd and 4th quarters.

#### 4.5.5 Roma minority

##### ***Amaro gendalos***

The monthly is published by *Dženo Association*. The grant was 1 940 000 crowns (32 pages, announced number 3 000 copies, one copy sales price 15 crowns).

The periodical presents contributions in Czech and Roma languages with the résumé in English. The publisher decreased the sales price of one copy to 15 crowns. Although he kept grant's percentage of total expenses 69,30%, the percentage of overhead expenses was 86,15%. On the basis of the application of the grant's provider he added some data to the account. Like other Roma periodicals also this one faces the problem of distribution, marketability and the number of unsold copies. The percentage of unsold copies was 92%. The actual price of the periodical did not correspond with the one stated in the project (17 crowns and 15 crowns for subscribers). The publisher did not keep the level of overhead expenses determined in the Decision, exceeded telephone expenses, wages and the item „Miscellanea“. The difference between budgeted overhead expenses and the actual ones was 152 329 crowns.

Conclusion. it is necessary for the publisher to keep the budget and focus on the problem of distribution and marketability of the periodical. If the percentage of overhead expenses is not modified in accordance with the Decision, it will be recommended to reduce the grant in the 3rd and 4th quarters.

##### ***Kereka***

In 2002 the montly was published by *Democratic Alliance of the Roma in the Czech Republic*. The grant was 1 620 000 crowns (36 pages, announced number 4 700 copies, one copy sales price 10 crowns).

The contributions in this periodicals are in Czech and Roma languages. The periodical served as a teaching aid at schools attended by Roma pupils. The publisher stated in his application that the announced number was 4 700 copies but the account showed that the actual number

was 3 300 copies. Although the budget did not include any royalties, the account showed that 203 113 crowns were paid for them. Travelling expenses were higher by 15 000 crowns than the budgeted ones and in comparison with the budget also telephone expenses increased evidently. The publisher did not keep grant 's percentage of total expenses which the Decision determined to be 62,20% - its actual value was 78,09%. The percentage of overhead expenses was 42,54% and the percentage of unsold copies was 25%.

Conclusion:

It is necessary for the publisher to keep the budget, focus on looking for other sources of income and decrease the grant 's percentage of expenses on the issue of the periodical.

### ***Romano hangos***

The fortnightly is published by *Association of the Roma in Moravia*. The grant in 2002 was 1 420 000 (8 pages, announced number 3 600 copies, one copy sales price 4 crowns).

The periodical has been issued since 1999. Articles are published in Czech and Roma languages. The grant 's percentage of total expenses was 66,26%, the percentage of overhead expenses was 86,95%. The publisher increased the sales price from 4 to 6 crowns. He stated high amounts for royalties and distribution. The percentage of unsold copies was 17%. Income from sale was very low (only 13 014 crowns) while distribution expenses are inadequately high (271 468 crowns). Although the Decision determined operation costs to be 150 000 crowns, the account showed that they were 171 816 crowns. Total overhead expenses exceeded a little the budgeted ones. At a request the publisher submitted the commentary on the implementation of the project.

Conclusion: it is necessary for the publisher to keep the budget. If the percentage of overhead expenses is not modified in accordance with the Decision, it will be recommended to reduce the grant for the 3rd and 4th quarters.

### ***Romano kurko***

The periodical was published by *Civil Association for Roma National Press in the Czech Republic* as a fortnightly (8 pages /Christmas copy 12 pages/, announced number 4 000 copies, one copy sales price 5 crowns). The grant was 1 400 000 crowns.

The periodical was distributed free of charge. The publisher stated that distribution expenses were 120 188 crowns and income 3 480 crowns. During the year the publisher applied for the change of the Decision and his application was admitted. Nevertheless, even the revisioned budget exceeded expenses on wages and consequently total overhead expenses. The grant 's percentage of total expenses was 99,68% which represented the highest one of all grants in 2002; the percentage of overhead expenses was 72,13%.

Conclusion: the Tax Office Brno applies the publisher for the recovery of a claim. Its „Protocol on the Results of the Audit of Drawing from Grants Provided in 1999 - 2001 for Minority Press Carried Out in the Civil Association for Roma National Press in the Czech Republic“ shows that the publisher is obliged to return to the State Budget total amount 207 152 crowns which were utilised and retained unwarrantedly. The Tax Office Brno has not determined any instalment including money penalty yet (the dispute is being resolved). The publisher failed with his project to issue the periodical in 2003.

#### 4.5.6. Russian minority

##### ***Vesti***

The periodical is published by *Russian Institute in the Czech Republic*. According to the project the periodical should have been issued as a fortnightly (12 pages, announced number 3 500 copies, one copy sales price 8 crowns), The grant was 574 000 crowns.

The task of the publisher was to inform about the Russian national minority. He made serious mistakes in drawing from the grant during the whole year. At variance with legal regulations he did not apply for the change of the Decision although before the half-year settlement of the grant his periodical was issued only three-times. The grant 's percentage of total expenses which the Decision determined to be 23,61% was in fact 94,90% . The percentage of overhead expenses was 54,67% and the percentage of unsold copies was not stated at all. The publisher increased the sales price of one copy to 18,40 crowns and then to 20,40 crowns. At the end of the year this price was increased even to 25 crowns. Within the half-year accounting the publisher was informed that it was necessary to decrease overhead expenses and obtain finances from other sources than a grant. The publisher stated income 23 149 crowns. In comparison with the original project insufficiencies were found in drawing from the grant. For these reasons the last instalment of the grant for 2002 (143 000 crowns) was not paid to him.

Conclusion: after repeated reminders and corrections in the account the provider of the grant accepted the settlement of the grant for 2002 after the deadline. Nevertheless, due to the above discrepancies the publisher failed with his project to issue the periodical in 2003.

#### 5.5.7. Slovak minority

##### ***Listy 2002***

The monthly is published by *Club of the Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic*. The grant was 3 148 000 crowns (36 pages /+ eight-page literary inset/ announced number 4 100 copies, one copy sales price 19,90 crowns).

As Club of the Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic has both Czech and Slovak readers, the periodical addressed also the Czech public. The contributions are published in Slovak and Czech languages. The percentage of overhead expenses was 49,07%, the grant 's percentage of total expenses was 83,65%, although the Decision determined it to be 76,96%. The publisher justified this fact by low income from sale and advertisement (the percentage of unsold copies was 20%). The publisher sent the detailed account and information materials. When drawing from the grant he increased travelling and distribution expenses in comparison with the budgeted ones. On the other hand, overhead expenses and total expenses were not exceeded.

Conclusion: no measure is proposed.

##### ***Slovenské dotyky***

The monthly is published by *Slovak-Czech Club in the Czech Republic*. The grant was 2 880 000 crowns (28 pages, announced number 8 000 copies, one copy sales price 18 crowns).

The periodical focuses not only on the community of the Slovak minority in the Czech Republic but also the Czech public. During the year the publisher applied for the change of the Decision and his application was admitted. Nevertheless, even after the issue of the new Decision overhead expenses were exceeded; the publisher kept the grant 's percentage of total expenses; the percentage of overhead expenses was 48,74%. Income from sale was lower than the budgeted one; expenses on telephone and the item „Miscellanea“ increased more than twice. The publisher explained it by increased expenses on stationery and maintenance. The budgeted overhead expenses were exceeded by 63 682 crowns.

Conclusion: it is recommended to decrease overhead expenses and keep the approved budget.

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regulations - did not apply for the change of the Decision and his half-year account revealed discrepancies in drawing from the grant, the last instalment of the grant for 2002 (47 250 crowns) was not paid to him.

Conclusion: the settlement of the grant and the audit showed the repeated serious insufficiencies in drawing the grant from the State Budget in spite of many reminders of the provider. That is why Grant Selection Commission of the Ministry of Culture recommended not to provide any grant for the issue of this periodical.

4.5.8. Ukrainian minority

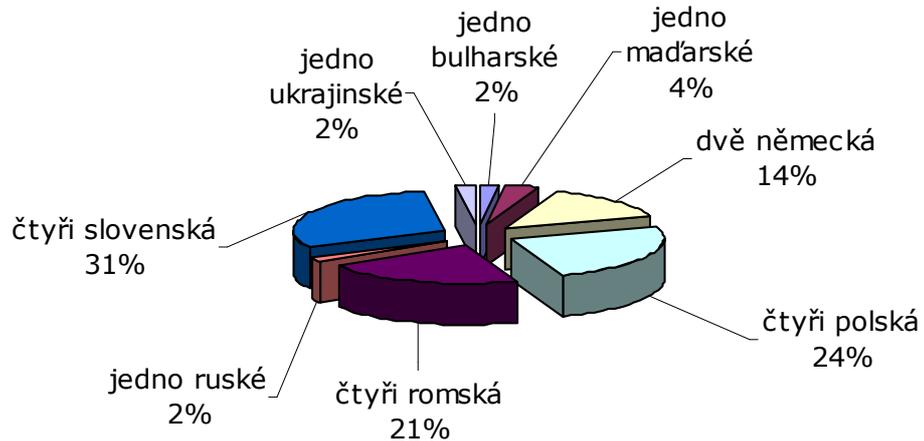
**Porohy**

The periodical is published four-times a year by *Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic*. The grant in 2002 was 650 000 crowns (36 pages, announced number 850 copies, one copy sales price 20 crowns).

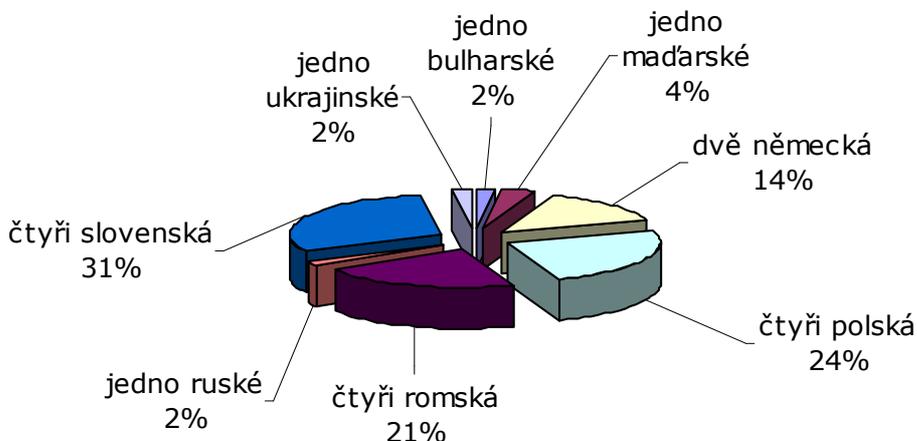
The periodical is focused on the activities of the Ukrainian minority in the Czech Republic and all over the world. The grant 's percentage of total expenses was not kept because of low income from sale. While in the Decision it was determined to be 76,8%, according to the account it was 83,10%. The precentage of overhead expenses was 78,60% and the percentage of unsold copies was 35%.

Conclusion: it is necessary for the publisher to pay attention to the marketability of his periodical and keep the approved budget. If the half-year settlement of the grant does not show out the decrease of overhead expenses, it will be recommended to reduce the grant in the 3rd and 4th quarters.

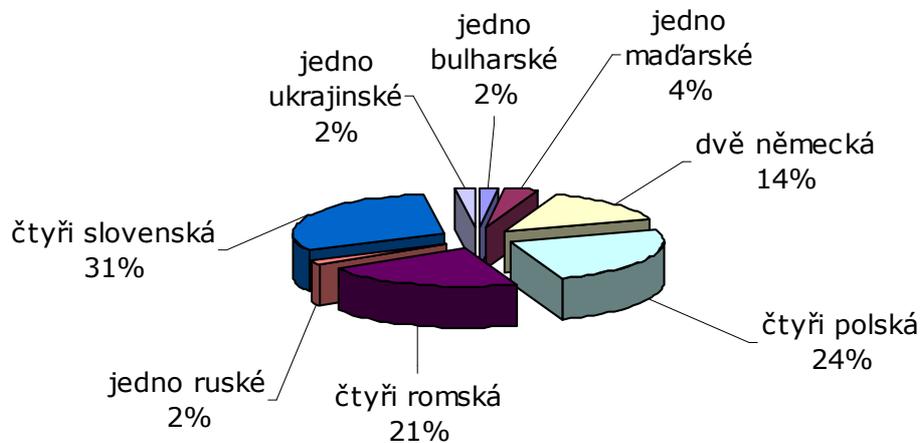
**Poměr výše dotací ze státního rozpočtu na vydávání periodik národnostních menšin v roce 2002**



**Poměr výše dotací ze státního rozpočtu na vydávání periodik národnostních menšin v roce 2002**



**Poměr výše dotací ze státního rozpočtu na vydávání periodik národnostních menšin v roce 2002**



**The share of grants from the State Budget of the issue of the periodicals of national minorities in 2002 in %**

**The account of grants for the issue of periodicals of national minorities in 2002**

Periodical expenses	Production expenses	Overhead expenses	Distribution expenses	Total expenses
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Income	Other income	Grants 02	Total income	Difference
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Returned grant	Grant's percentage of the project	Percentage of overhead expenses	Percentage of additional expenses
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## **5. The participation of the members of national minorities in the solution of problems relating to them**

### **5.1. State administration bodies**

In *Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic* the issues of national minorities fall within the province of Sub-Committee for National Minorities of Petition Committee which was re-established after parliament elections in 2002.<sup>46)</sup> Nevertheless, its communication with the representatives of national minorities is minimal. In *Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic* these issues fall within the province of Committee for Human Rights, Science, Education and Culture.

The agenda of the president and his Office (hereinafter „PO“) included in 2002 monitoring the situation of national minorities in the Czech Republic, observing their rights, activities of their organisations and their co-existence with the majority society. The president decorated Milena Hübschmannová, the Roma scholar, with the medal for scientific results and pedagogical activity and Karel Holomek, the Roma activist, with the medal for gaining recognition for the Czech Republic. He communicated (either in personal or by means of the workers of PO) with the representatives of national minorities and took part in cultural activities and negotiations on the problems of national minorities (music or song festivals, the openings of exhibitions, art works and new publications) seminars and discussion fora. The representatives of national minorities asked the president for aid or support, especially with respect to the observance of rights of national minorities or protection from racism and intolerance. In addition, the president disposed of applications for legal aid, consultancy and even applications for pardon. The president and the employees of PO paid attention to the explanation of historical context, especially the Roma and Jewish Holocaust in Bohemia within the project *Phenomenon Holocaust* initiated by Václav Havel. This long-term comprehensive project is being developed in co-operation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and non-governmental non-profit organisations within the framework of the membership of the Czech Republic in International Task Force for Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research. This co-operation resulted in initiative to declare 27 January the Day of the Commemoration of the Victims of Holocaust and Fight against Crimes against Humanity.

*Public Guardian of Rights* (hereinafter „Guardian“) received in 2002 5 422 complaints. Like in the last year most complainants were the citizens of the Czech Republic; 126 of them were foreigners. The Guardian started several proceedings (either by himself or on the basis of the notice of fieldworkers or the representatives of Roma organisations) concerning the housing problem of Roma citizens in Brno, the social and legal protection of children and social benefits. In addition, he dealt in the problem of communication with authorities in minority languages. He found that a right stipulated by Article 37, clause 4 of Charter of Rights and Freedoms („who declares that he does not speak a language in which a trial is conducted has right to an interpreter“) is not executed. Act N. 117/1995 Coll. on State Welfare Benefits stipulates that all trials on benefits are conducted in Czech language. The applicants for benefits are people with low wages who can not afford the trial in their mother tongue because the authority asks them for covering expenses on an interpreter. As the problem of

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<sup>46)</sup> According to § 44, clause 1 of Act N. 90/1995 Coll. on the Rules of Order of Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Sub-Committee for National Minorities of Petition Committee was established by Resolution N.8/2002 from 7 August. The Sub-Committee has 8 members; 5 deputies are also the members of Petition Committee.

the use of mother tongue in the trial has not been resolved (because of the absence of the unambiguous definition of right to interpreting and expenses on it), the Guardian decided to give notice of it. On the basis of the complaint of a German citizen living on the territory of the Czech Republic co-operation with the members of *Assembly* was linked up. A complainant asked the employees of respective administrative authorities to communicate with him in German language during the trial concerning his welfare benefits.

#### 5.1.1 Government Council for National Minorities

After parliamentary elections in 2002 the composition of the Council changed. According to the status of the Council the new government dismissed its chairman (who was Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Legislative Council of the Government) and nominated Deputy Prime Minister for Research and Development, Human Rights and Human Resources Pavel Mareš. Other changes in the composition of the Council related to the representatives of public administration bodies (the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) and the representatives of national minorities (Polish, Roma and Russian). The new Council was nominated by Government Resolution N. 1094 from 6 November 2002. The chairman also nominated new vice-chairman Jarmila Balážová, the member of the Roma national minority and the representative of national minorities.

According to the Status the Council established two its bodies, i.e. Committee for Grant Policy and Committee for Co-operation with Local and Regional Elected Authorities (Government Resolution N. 8 from 5 March 2002). After negotiations in the government (Government Resolution N. 14 from 14 May) the chairman of the Council nominated chairpersons of these committees: in case of Committee for Grant Policy in addition to the representatives of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs also the representatives of individual national minorities, i.e. those ones that have their representatives in the Council (the Committee has 15 members); in case of Committee for Co-operation with Local and Regional Elected Authorities the representatives of regional and local elected authorities (i.e. the members of councils that established within their competence committees for national minorities) and the representatives of individual national minorities like in case of Committee for Grant Policy (the Committee has 20 members). The composition of Committee for Co-operation with Local and Regional Elected Authorities was changed after local elections because of their results.

The activity of the Council as such (agenda, the activity of Committees, the competence of the Secretariat of the Council) is described in detail in Report of the Activity of the Council in 2002.<sup>47)</sup> That is why we focus here only on activities which relate to concrete measures for the assurance of conditions for the execution of the rights of national minorities, i.e. the measures which relate to the implementation of state minority policy.

Further to Minority Act in 2002 an administrative task relating to state grant policy with regard to the activities of the members of national minorities was fulfilled. Government Resolution n. 159 from 20 February approved the draft of a government decree which stipulated conditions and way of providing grants from the State Budget for the activities of the members of national minorities and the support of the integration of the members of the Roma community.<sup>48)</sup> This decree entered into force on 15 April 2002. The main non-

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<sup>47)</sup> According to Government Decree N.175 from 20 February 2002 since 2003 all consultative bodies of the government have been submitting reports of their activity up till 31 May. These reports serve as information documents for the members of the government.

<sup>48)</sup> See Part 1.2. of this Report, pp.7.

legislative task of the Council in 2002 was submitting *Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2002* to the government.<sup>49)</sup> As it was the first comprehensive report on the situation of national minorities in the Czech Republic since 1995, this document did not confine to the year 2000 but it related to the whole functional period 1998 - 2002 (especially in cases of the fulfilment of long-term tasks, i.e. the application of principles determined by Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities). In 2002 the Council paid special attention to the problem of creating the conditions for education in the languages of national minorities. In co-operation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports the issues concerning the determination of conditions for education in the mother tongues of national minorities were discussed within the framework of the legislation of the new Education Act. Existing problems, especially those in the system of pre-school facilities and primary school with Polish as a teaching language and the education of Roma children are explained in detail in the second section of this Report.

The Council (especially its Committee for Grant Policy) co-operates significantly with the Ministry of Culture in organising grant competitive biddings for the support of projects focused on the preservation, development and presentation of the cultures of national minorities and projects focused on disseminating and receiving information in the languages of national minorities. Similar co-operation relates to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in the field of the support of education in the languages of national minorities and multicultural upbringing.

In 2002 Council dealt in impulses to the improvement of co-operation between the Czech Television and national minorities. Nevertheless, the management of the Czech Television has not shown any interest in co-operation with national minorities up till November 2002. After consultations with the members of Council of the Czech Television which charged on 27 November 2002 its chairman with the initiation of negotiations with the representatives of national minorities the working group of the representatives of national minorities was established as a consultative body of the Programme Director of the Czech Television.

In co-operation with Commission of the Council of the Capital Prague the Council participated significantly in the application of a proposal to establish *House of National Minorities* in Prague. The real property (i.e. a house in Vocelová street 3 in Prague 2) was transferred from former Fund of Children and Young People to the capital Prague and the chairman of the Council ensured earmarking 20 000 000 crowns from the State Budget 2003 for the reconstruction of the building and the establishment of the minority centre as an investment grant for the capital Prague. To this effect the above item of the State Budget 2003 was approved. Co-operation between the Council and Prague Metropolitan Authority in the implementation of the project will continue even in the future.

#### 5.1.2. The ministry panels for national minorities

Further to the government decree on providing grants for the activities of national minorities in 2002 the Ministry of Culture established *Commission for Cultural Activities of the Members of National Minorities*. Along with the consultative body for the issues of minority culture it is a consultative body of the first Deputy Minister. The task of this panel is to monitor and evaluate the cultural needs of the members of national minorities and examine projects registered for competitive biddings within the above grant programme for the support of the activities of the members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic. As opposed to the former consultative body the Commission was extended with the

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<sup>49)</sup> Government Resolution N. 600 from 12 June 2002.

representatives of further national minorities. It means that its members represent in addition to the Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Slovak and Ukrainian minorities also Czech citizens who are the members of Bulgarian, Croatian, Ruthenian and Greek national minorities.

A similar commission whose members are the members of national minorities was established in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports as *Consultative Body of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports for the Issues of Minority Education*.

## **5.2. Local and regional elected authorities**

This section characterises minority policy in regions, statutory towns and communities in the last year. This policy is based on the stands of respective local and regional elected authorities, i.e. committees for national minorities (hereinafter „Committees“) or commissions in the form of answers to questions asked by the Secretariat of the Council. Although these stands come directly from within public administration, it is remarkable that they do not reflect problems to which the representatives of national minorities refer (and in many cases the members of these authorities themselves): in case of the Polish national minority the problem relates to the position of schools with Polish as a teaching language or efforts focused on establishing bilingual Czech-Polish titles and enjoying large publicity in regional press in Těšín Silesia from the beginning of 2003; in case of the German national minority the problem relates to the unwillingness of local and regional elected authorities in the course of dealing with minority matters etc. In this context the representatives of national minorities state that the communication with the representatives of these authorities within the process of the transformation of public administration is difficult.

The below text is elaborated on the basis of collected documents; its content is not corrected, only stylistically refined.

### **5.2.1. Regional councils**

In 2002 the committees for national minorities were established in the regions of South Moravia, Liberec, Moravia-Silesia and Ústí nad Labem. In the latter neither the committee nor the commission for the affairs of national minorities was established after local elections in autumn 2002. The Council of the capital Prague established Commission for the Affairs of national Minorities because there are no legal reasons for the establishment of a committee.

### **South-Moravian region**

#### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

The legislation of the rights of the members of national minorities seems to be sufficient. According to the opinion of individual minorities no insufficiencies are found in this respect.

#### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

Grant policy is implemented on the basis of rules for providing grants approved by the Council of the region. Last year finances were provided for individual cultural activities from the budget of the region to all associations of national minorities which submitted their projects during the year. Total grants were 170 000 crowns although their requested amount was 320 000 crowns (200 000 crowns to *Museum of the Roma Culture*, 50 000 to *Jewish Community*, 30 000 to *Lycée of the Greeks* and 20 000 to *Union of the Hungarians*).

#### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

This co-operation can be evaluated to be very good. The Committee entered into contacts with the representatives of all national minorities in the region and acquainted with the

activity and problems of individual associations. It organises common meetings with the representatives of national minorities and its members participate in activities of the associations of national minorities. In addition, co-operation between the Committee and the representatives of national minorities focused on the evaluation and recommendation of projects for obtaining finances for their implementation from the budget of the region. For this year the common multiethnic meeting is planned along with the concert of national minorities living in the region.

#### ***5. Opened issues (problems)***

According to the opinion of the Committee and the representatives of national minorities open problems of minority policy and the manifestations of intolerance or racial discrimination do not occur except rare cases of the Roma minority with respect to communication with authorities, looking for job, admittance to restaurants and racial attacks.

### **Liberec region**

#### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

According to the legal regulation on association the members of national minorities establish unlimitedly their organisation - civil associations which act as non-governmental non-profit organisations of national minorities. Due to the fact that within civil activities the minorities establish various types of organisations which declare a minority programme but do not implement any activity in this respect, it is not possible to record the organisations of the members of national minorities exactly. As for registration and co-operation of the associations of national minorities in the region, only the Roma and German minorities and the Jewish community are active. There are good conditions for the unperturbed co-existence of minorities with the majority society. The only exception is the Roma minority which faces traditional problems of education and socio-cultural standard. In addition, it faces unemployment, drugs, discrimination and other problems resulting from the liberalisation and democratisation of our society after 1989.

The Committee states that national minorities in Liberec region represent the integrated groups of inhabitants who have no problems with co-existence with the majority population. In this context they criticise the failure of effort to keep all Roma consultants in their functions at District Offices and create them appropriate conditions. According to the Committee, Government Council for the Affairs of National Minorities does not communicate with district co-ordinators and has not relevant information about the actual situation of the Roma in the Czech Republic; it criticises the separated conception of Roma integration which does not result from the collective work of all parties concerned.

In former districts consultative committees were established and the Roma had their representatives in them. The Committee considers the heterogeneity of solutions of problems within these bodies to be a mistake. The Roma themselves have ever considered these committees to be purely formal. Most of minorities had their representatives in the Commission for National Minorities of Liberec Metropolitan Authority. This commission solved the problems of minorities and foreigners and organised various exhibitions and meetings for the members of national minorities. At the regional level the Roma have two representatives (one regional co-ordinator and one worker in Social Committee). At present „communities with extended competence“ are being formed and it is presumed that they will assume the function of consultative bodies (if needed).

#### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

The grant programme *Support of the Minorities and Programmes Improving the Mutual Co-existence between the Majority and Minority Society* approved by the Council of the Region

on 4 February 2003 243 000 crowns were earmarked for 2003. As for 2002, no projects and grant programmes were mentioned. Grants will be utilised for the support of activities aimed at the improvement of life in the region by means of providing organisations and individuals with not-repeated non-investment resources. These resources will be provided for an individual approved activity as a part of the account of the regional budget for 2003. Individual grant programmes are administered by respective departments of the Regional Authority.

### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

The Committee is not aware of close co-operation of minorities and their organisations. Nevertheless, they take part in common activities, for example cultural ones.

The German minority is the best organised one in the region. Its aim is the preservation the German culture, traditions and dialects, teaching German language, mutual understanding with Czech fellow-citizens and the preservation and care of historical monuments. The problem of the German minority is its dispersed settlement and the older age of its members. The proposals and requirements of this minority relate to cultural activities, newspapers, information about education, preserving and developing the knowledge of German language, preserving the cultural heritage and co-operation with other non-governmental non-profit organisations.

The activities of Jews are administered by Jewish community in Liberec. Its aim is to contribute to the creation of sane multicultural environment, propagate Israel, explain contemporary events and their circumstances, remember the Holocaust, bring up to racial tolerance and in the spirit of judaism and teach Hebrew language. In addition, the Jewish community asked the region to care of the Jewish cemetery, support the synagogue and provide resources for its cultural activities.

## **Moravian-Silesian region**

### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

In accordance with § 67 f) of Act N. 129/2000 Coll. on Regions, the Department of Culture and Care of Monuments of Regional Authority established the function of a coordinator for national minorities and the affairs of the Roma community. One of his essential tasks was to find how the Roma consultants execute their function in local authorities within communities with the extended competence and enter into contacts with them. The agenda of Roma consultants of former district authorities was assumed by the employees of the local authorities of 13 communities with extended competence within the region. These employees work in the Department of Social Affairs or other departments of local authorities. The function of a Roma consultant is mostly combined with other functions. As in some local authorities of communities with extended competence the function of a Roma consultant has not been established and the problem of the mutual co-existence of the Roma community and the majority society necessitated increased attention in these localities, the mayors of 9 communities with extended competence within the region where the activity of a Roma consultant was not ensured were addressed to take correctional measures according to Act N. 320/2002 Coll. on the amendment or dissolution of some acts because of the termination of the activity of District authorities, i.e. Act N. 273/2001 Coll. on the Rights of the Members of National Minorities. Nowadays all local authorities of communities with extended competence within the region employ Roma consultants or persons to whom a regional co-ordinator can turn in case of necessary co-ordination in fulfilling an individual task.

### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

The regional council approved the announcement of the grant programme for the support of the activities of the members of national minorities living on its territory for 2003; the Committee did not demonstrate the situation of 2002.

### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

Co-operation with the representatives of national minorities in the region is very good. The representatives of the Polish and Roma minorities are the members of Committee for national Minorities of Regional Council.<sup>50)</sup> More efficient contact with the representatives of national minorities will be supported by the function of a co-ordinator for national minorities and the affairs of the Roma community.

### ***4. Open issues (problems)***

One of open problems of national minorities living in the region is the education of the Polish national minority which is being solved by the Department of Education, Youth and Sports of the Regional Authority. Another problem is the social (especially housing) situation of the members of the Roma community in some regional localities. The task of a regional co-ordinator for national minorities is inter alia to analyse the social situation of the Roma community in these localities and draw up the draft of its possible solution.

## **Capital Prague**

### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

Legislative measures relating the rights of the members of national minorities are based upon:

- a) Act N. 273/2001 Coll. on the Rights of the Members of National Minorities, as amended;
- b) Act n. 131/2000 Coll. on the Capital Prague;
- c) Programme Resolution of the Council of the Capital Prague for the electoral period 2002 - 2006 (Part X - Education, Youth and Sports)
- d) Strategic Plan of the Capital Prague.

These legal documents are applied in Conception of the Policy of the Capital Prague towards National Minorities which was approved by the Council of the Capital Prague by its Resolution N. 47/11 from 17 October 2002.

Non-legislative measures relating national minorities result from long-term communication and co-operation with their representatives and individual civil associations on the territory of the capital Prague. Since the beginning of 1990s active co-operation has been developing with national minorities whose representatives are the delegates of the Commission of the Council of the Capital Prague for national Minorities on the Territory of the Capital Prague (hereinafter „Commission“); in this context the main aims of the policy of capital Prague towards national minorities were specified:

- a) to facilitate the integration of the members of national minorities in the social life of the town;
- b) to support equal attitude towards the members of national minorities as the citizens of the Czech Republic and the capital Prague;

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<sup>50)</sup> According to the results of the census in 2001 the most numerous national minority in the region is the Slovak one. Nevertheless, the representatives of the Slovck minority in the Council announced that the Slovaks had no representative in the asbove Committee.

c) to ensure the activity of the Commission by means of which the authorities guarantee national minorities their participation in the social life of the town.<sup>51)</sup>

## **2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)**

Grant policy has been ensured by every-year financial support of national minorities by means of *Municipal Programmes of the Support of the Activities of National Minorities*. In 2002 3 000 000 crowns were earmarked from the budget of the capital Prague. These programmes consist in two thematic circles within which

the civil associations of national minorities can submit their projects: *Programme of the Support of Cultural Activities* and *Programme of the Support of Educational and Publication Activities*.

The results of the financial policy of the capital Prague with respect to national minorities are as follows:

- a) the support of the multicultural and intercultural activities of national minorities, i.e. the festivals *Prague - the Heart of Nations*, *Rendezvous of Cultures* and *Khamoro World Roma Festival*. In addition to these largest cultural activities of national minorities many partial ones are supported including those of the Roma national minority;
- b) the educational activity of national minorities financed by the capital Prague focuses on the presentation of national minorities by means of seminars, conferences, exhibitions, lectures etc. Thanks to the financial support of the capital Prague also publication activity is being developed significantly (since 1999 until 2002 the associations of national minorities have been issued about 50 publications). The commission co-operates in this field with experts and scientists from national minorities as well as with independent ones. In 1996 - 2002 the activities of national minorities have been supported by 12 796 502 crowns. The budget for 2003 presumes that 3 038 000 crowns will be earmarked for these purposes.

In 2002 the investment plan of the reconstruction of *House of National Minorities* was drawn up and sent on 20 December 2002 to the Ministry of Finance as a source material for drawing 20 000 000 crowns, the amount approved by the government of the Czech Republic in 2002 for covering reconstruction expenses. In addition to this sum the capital Prague earmarked 15 000 000 crowns for the above reconstruction as well as respective amount covering expenses on the equipment and operation of this facility.

## **3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities**

Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of national minorities is ensured by the Commission. For the purposes of its deepening the mayors of individual districts were addressed and asked for information about the assurance of communication with national minorities on their territories. The mayors provided information about Commissions for National Minorities in some quarters of the capital Prague and consultants for national minorities whose majority is represented by the Roma ones. Further communication with municipal authorities will be deepened by plenary sessions of the representatives of individual quarters and the Commission. These plenary sessions will be attended by all representatives of the civil associations of national minorities who will have chance to express their opinion of the activity of the Commission, the policy of the capital Prague towards national minorities and its intentions.

## **4. Open issues (problems)**

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<sup>51)</sup> See Conception of the Policy of the Capital Prague, pp. 16.

The open problems of the minority policy of the capital Prague are evaluated both during the above activities, i.e. the plenary sessions of the representatives of individual quarters and civil associations of national minorities, and by the activities of the capital Prague and publications that analyse the situation of national minorities on its territory. Important contribution to this evaluation is organising seminars and conferences which have been taking place in Prague since 1998. In 2002 their theme was *Policy of Prague and Other Czech and European Towns towards National Minorities*.

#### 5.2.2. The councils of statutory towns and metropolitan authorities<sup>52)</sup>

### Brno

#### 1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities

After local elections in 2002 the council elected the Committee consisting of 5 persons (2 members of the Council and 3 representatives of national minorities - Roma, Greek and Slovak).

#### 2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)

In 2002 national minorities and organisations which dealt in them received 690 000 crowns from the budget of Brno for 21 projects submitted by 16 organisations (including Roma ones). Most of grants were provided for the rent of rooms, covering overhead expenses and telephone charges, the purchase of stationery, photographic documentation, copying, the print of club magazines, financing trips and cultural performances, work with children (leisure activities). In addition, 10 000 crowns from the budget of Brno was provided to the beneficiary association *Man in Need* for the 4th film festival *One World*.

The grant to the Roma Community in 2002 was provided also by Co-ordination Centre for Prevention from Criminality within Brno Metropolitan Authority:

Společenství Romů na Moravě	Společně, ale diferencovaně	72 tis. Kč
Armáda spásy	Dživipen	25 tis. Kč
DRROM	Veřejný přístup k Internetu	30 tis. Kč
PETROV, občanské sdružení	Vybavení klubu na faře v Zábrdovicích	133 tis. Kč

The Roma Community in Moravia	Together but with appropriate differentiation	72 000 crowns
Salvation Army	Dživipen	25 000 crowns
DRROM	Public access to Internet	30 000 crowns
PETROV, the civil association	The equipment of the club of the rectory in Zábrdovice	133 000 crowns

#### 3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities

In Brno there is traditionally good co-operation with the organisations of national minorities. The meetings of the chairpersons of individual organisations are included in the workplan of the Committee for respective calendar year. In 2002 the round-table meeting was held in

<sup>52)</sup> Brno, Karviná, Liberec and Most were the only statutory towns which in 2002 established the Committee.

April. Its aim was the exchange of experience of 13 local organisations of national minorities, the solution of actual problems (the procurement of a place for meetings, grants for important activities etc.) and participation in social activities (Catherine Ball of the Hungarians, Greek Days, Week of the Bosnian Culture). Invitation to this meeting received the Bulgarians, Hungarians, Germans (*German Cultural Association - Brno Region, German Association for Language and Culture - Brno, Cultural Association of German Citizens in the Czech Republic*), Poles, Roma, Ruthenians, Russians, Greeks, Slovaks, southern Slavs and the representatives of the Jewish community. In March 2002 Bolek Polívka Theatre organised the 2nd minority culture festival *We Live in One Town* where almost all national minorities in Brno took part with dancing and singing performances.

#### **4. Open issues (problems)**

The representatives of the associations of the Moravians are still interested in work in the Brno Committee, especially in *Moravian and Silesian Information Centre* in Brno-Líšeň.

### **Karviná**

#### **1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities**

According to the Committee the evaluation of this item can not be sufficient. The reason is that the Committee does not get important documents relating to acts and measures in advance. In addition, it suffers from the lack of experts in this field.

#### **2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)**

<i>název subjektu</i>
<b>Financování právních subjektů - základní školy:</b>
- polská ZŠ L.Olszaka Ká 1- příspěvek na provoz
- polská ZŠ L.Olszaka Ká 1- dotace státního rozpočtu
- polská ZŠ G. Morcinka Karviná Nové Město včetně provozu MŠ (1 subjekt) - příspěvek na provoz
- polská ZŠ G. Morcinka Karviná Nové Město - dotace státního rozpočtu
- ZŠ ul. Družby - komplexní zlepšení vzdělávání romské populace - dotace ze SR
<b>Z finančních prostředků - příspěvek na kulturu:</b>
- Sdružení Rómů Severní Moravy
<b>Z finančních prostředků - celoměstské akce:</b>
- úhrada nákladů na vystoupení zájmových souborů národnostních menšin v Polsku
<b>Z účelových finančních prostředků - státního rozpočtu:</b>
- Občanské sdružení Rómů Severní Moravy na výstavbu komunitního centra
<b>Prostřednictvím Regionální knihovny Karviná:</b>
- zprostředkování knižní kultury pro občany polské a slovenské menšiny - dotace ze SR
<b>Prostřednictvím odboru sociálních věcí a zdravotnictví:</b>
- příspěvek na ozdravný pobyt volyňských Čechů
<b>Z účelového fondu primátora města:</b>
- pěvecký sbor
<b>Z účelového fondu kultury:</b>
- Obec Slováků
- Svaz česko-slovensko-polského přátelství
- MS PZKO Karviná Fryštát
- MS PZKO Karviná Nové Město
- hlavní výbor PZKO
- pěvecký soubor Przyjaźń
- MS PZKO Karviná Ráj
- pěvecký soubor Dźwięk
- Matice školní polské ZŠ Karviná Nové Město
- polská ZŠ Karviná- Nové Město
- MS PZKO Karviná 4

- Obec Řeků
- hlavní výbor PZKO
- MS PZKO Karviná - Darkov
<b>Z účelového fondu volného času dětí:</b>
- polská ZŠ Karviná - Fryštát
- polská ZŠ Karviná - Nové Město
- romské občanské sdružení Lačno-Lav
- romské občanské sdružení Děti jedné planety
- Demokratická aliance Romů ČR - ZO Karviná
<b>Z účelových prostředků určených na prevenci kriminality:</b>
- Občanské sdružení Rómů Severní Moravy
<b>Z účelového fondu životního prostředí:</b>
- SPS - Technikum Przemyslove
<b>Celkem uvolněno prostřednictvím rozpočtu statutárního města Karviné v roce 2002</b>
z toho kryto: dotací ze státního rozpočtu 17 069 900,- Kč
z vlastních zdrojů města 3 761 800,- Kč

*the name of the subject*

*grants in crowns*

**The financing of legal persons - primary schools**

L.Olszak Polish Primary School - Karviná 1 - a contribution to operation	1 192 000
L.Olszak Polish Primary School - Karviná 1 - a grant from the State Budget	4 320 900
G.Morcinek Polish Primary School - Karviná Nové Město including Kindergarten (1 legal person) - a contribution to operation	1 502 000
G.Morcinek Polish Primary School - Karviná nové Město - a grant from the State Budget	5 515 000
Primary School, Družby street - the complete improvement of the education of the Roma population - a grant from the State Budget	184 000

**A contribution to culture from financial means**

Association of the Roma of Northern Moravia	200 000
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**A contribution to whole-town activities from financial means**

Covering the expenses on the performances of the hobby groups of national minorities in Poland	33 000
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**A contribution from specific financial means of the State Budget**

Civil Association of the Roma of Northern Moravia for the construction of Community Centre	7 000 000
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**A contribution by means of Regional Library Karviná**

books for the members of the Polish and Slovak minorities  
- a grant from the State Budget 50 000

**A contribution by means of the Ministry of Labour  
and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health**

a contribution to the stay of the Volhynia Czechs in a sanatorium 3 000

**A contribution from the specific fund of the Mayor of Brno**

a contribution to the choir 20 000

**A contribution from the specific cultural fund**

Slovak Community 20 000

Union of Czech-Slovak-Polish Friendship 3 000

MS PZKO Karviná-Fryštát 30 000

MS PZKO Karviná-Nové Město 28 000

PZKO Main Committee 60 000

Pryjazn Choir 30 000

MS PZKO Karviná-Ráj 10 000

Dzwiek Choir 25 000

Polish Primary School Foundation Karviná-Nové Město 50 000

Polish Primary School Karviná-Nové Město 8 000

MS PZKO Karviná 4 60 000

Greek Community 30 000

PZKO Main Committee 10 000

MS PZKO Karviná-Darkov 10 000

**A contribution from the Specific Children Leisure Fund**

Polish Primary School Karviná-Fryštát 32 300

Polish Primary School Karviná-Nové Město 63 000

Lačno Lav, the Roma civil association 26 500

Children of One Planet, the Roma civil association 5 000

Roma Democratic Alliance in the Czech Republic  
- basic organisation Karviná 1 000

**A contribution from the specific financial means  
for the prevention from criminality**

Civil Association of the Roma of Northern Moravia 300 000

**A contribution from the Specific Environment Fund**

Technical College - Technikum Przemyslowe 10 000

**Total financial means earmarked from the budget  
of the statutory town Karviná in 2002**

**20 831 700**

expenses covered from the State Budget 17 069 900

expenses covered from the financial means of the town 3 761 800

***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

Co-operation between the town and the representatives of individual national minorities is good. *Regional Community of the Slovaks, Association of the Greek Communities Karviná* and the Polish national minority participate actively in the solution of the problems of national minorities on the territory of the town, especially in the field of culture, educational system and education as such. The problem consists in communication with the Roma community. There are several various associations of Roma organisations in the town but they do not co-operate. The attendance of the representative of the Roma national minority at the Committee's meetings is almost none. That is why the Committee has no detailed information about the situation in this community. In this field hard work with this minority which the Committee likes to engage in its activities lies ahead the self-government bodies.

***4. Open issues (problems)***

These issues are continually discussed at the meetings of the Committee.

**Most**

***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

These measures are sufficient. Most of the members of national minorities know their rights completely and their consultants help to exercise them. The Committee finds certain problem in the fact that some members of national minorities who live in a troublefree way with the majority and accept its scale of values consider some advantaging measures to be humiliating because they want to be rated as the others.

***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

This support is increasing. The grants are provided for the operation of *House of the Roma Culture* (the symbolic rental 1 crown a year), the operation of *Svět*, the Roma cultural and educational centre, the rent of the hall and the procurement of an orchestra for *Ball of the Roma in Most*, the support of *Romfest* which is organised all over the country, the cycle of trips of Roma children under the title „*Path to Knowledge*“, the support of leisure activities from the project of the prevention from criminality and learning trips for adults.

***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisation of the members of national minorities***

Co-operation all organisations of the Roma, i.e. *Dživas, Association of the Roma in Most, Lačho Drom*, the Roma civil association etc. Although the common meetings with the representatives of all these organisations sometimes can be counterproductive, the consensus of opinion is achieved each time.

***4. Open issues (problems)***

The society takes care of the minorities without their responsibility for own affairs. It often leads to irresponsibility and loss of motivation. In spite of all forms of support (projects, financial aid, consultancy), the part of the minority feels to be expelled from the society. In the Committee's opinion the main problems consist in a language barrier (a Roma child attending a primary school understands every third word of his teacher), the low standard of education of the Roma community as a whole, the limited possibility of the Roma to assert

themselves (a Roma child finishing compulsory education must register himself at a Labour Office; thus a Roma family has higher income than in case that a child enters a secondary school or an apprentice training centre; this fact results in decreasing employment), the problem of attendance at work due to the different style of life, the lack of financial means and criminality.

### 5.2.3. Local councils

29 local councils (most of which are situated in Těšín region<sup>53)</sup> established in 2002 Committees for national Minorities.

## **Albrechtice**

### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

Legislative measures are not specified. From among 4071 citizens of the community 957 persons declared their membership in the Polish, 154 in the Slovak, 36 in the Moravian 30 in the Silesian and 2 in the German minority. The only organised minority is the Polish one. It organises many social and cultural activities and disposes of its own educational system. There are one primary school and one kindergarten with Polish as a teaching language within the community. In the school-year 2002/2003 the kindergarten was attended by 20 children and the primary school by 17 pupils. For the school-year 2003/2004 11 children are entered in the first grade. Teaching runs in two classes (one for 1st - 3rd grade, one for 4th - 5th grade). The school has its recreation room. Association of Parents and Friends of School organises many activities within the school foundation *Macierz Szkolna* both for children and parents. Co-operation between the community and the school can be evaluated as very good.

The largest social organisation is PZKO (in 2002 it celebrated 55th anniversary of its foundation) which has about 500 members. Within this organisation many ensembles are active, especially the mixed-voice choir (25 members) which has long-term tradition and the theatres *Dropsik* and *Drops*. The community supports their activity by 5 000 crowns per year. Very good job is also done by the dancing and music ensemble. The organisation itself does not enterprise. Expenses on its operation and maintenance (about 100 000 crowns a year) are covered with membership fees and the lease of its area for organising family celebrations, conferences etc.

### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

From the local budget 8 000 crowns are earmarked every year for the prevention of drugs at the school with Polish as a teaching language; the community contributed to the reconstruction of *PZKO House* with 30 000 crowns. In addition, it supports the activity of the theatres *Drop* and *Dropsik* with 5 000 crowns a year.

### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

The Committee evaluates the co-operation of the community and Committee for National Minorities with the representatives of national minorities as very good. It is regular contact with the primary school with Polish as a teaching language and solves the problems of this school along with the its director. The chairman of the School Foundation is a member of the Committee. The chairman of the Committee is a member of the Committee of PZKO.

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<sup>53)</sup> To the closing date of this text no source materials have been submitted by following communities: Bruzovice, Bukovec, Český Těšín, Horní Lomná, Kadaň, Řeka, Smilovice, Střítež and Trinec.

Most of the buildings of public administration - i.e. the buildings of the Local Authority, Health Centre, Supermarket etc. - dispose of bilingual inscriptions. According to the Committee there are no problems concerning the use of a minority language in public.

#### **4. Open issues (problems)**

One of actual problems consists in the use of bilingual names of communities, streets etc. in Těšín region. The Committee does not consider financing the solution of the problem of bilingual names from their budgets to be appropriate. The situation should contribute to the improvement of the co-existence of national minorities with the majority society. It is almost unquestioned that the majority society will have not heart for the fact that the community spends much money for example for the introduction of the bilingual names of streets. If it is not possible for the state to finance this project fully, the Committee will recommend the community to prefer focusing on the preservation of minority education system and the support of the culture of national minorities.

The Committee would appreciate the decrease of the norm of the number of pupils on one teacher to the ration 10/1. It seems that the teaching of all 5 grades in one class is not quality enough and it would not lead to expected results. Although financing the minority educational system is expensive, the state should not grudge in this respect.

### **Bocanovice**

#### **1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities**

Legislative measures taken by the community are not at variance with the state legislation concerning the rights of the members of national minorities.. The council has 7 members and 2 of them are the members of the Polish national minority. After the census the community has 428 inhabitants. The membership in the Polish national minority is declared by 132 persons (30,8%), the Slovak by 4 ones (1,1%). The community has one Czech-Polish bilingual primary school.

The Poles are organised in PZKO which has 101 members. They organise cultural activities (theatre performances, folklore festivals, anniversaries, parties, balls, trips etc.). The Union disposes of the culture centre which is utilised also by other organisations and private persons. The community contributes to the maintenance of this building by respective amounts according to its possibilities.

#### **2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)**

Grant policy is not specified.

#### **3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities**

Co-operation with PZKO is good without serious complaints.

#### **4. Open issues (problems)**

No problems exist in relations between the members of national minorities and other citizens.

### **Bystrice**

#### **1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities**

As to the evaluation of legislative problems, in the Committee 's opinion the biggest insufficiency of existing legislation is the fact that although the laws guarantee certain rights to the members of national minorities, they must comply with many additional conditions which delay or complicate the solution of those problems. If the legislation was based on the presumption that the laws guaranteed those rights to the members of national minorities

directly, it would undoubtedly make them feel that they would not claim their rights which should have been under normal circumstances a matter of course.

#### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

The Committee has not succeeded yet in obtaining the stand of the community on the support of the activities of national minorities in concrete numbers which would result in an objective information. The Local Authority itself does not possess any initiative, but it is ready to satisfy requirements and solve problems. In addition, it contributes every year to the activity of Polish folklore ensembles which work at the school with Polish as a teaching language or in PZKO and finances the operation, maintenance, repairs, renovation and reconstruction of the primary school and the kindergarten with Polish as a teaching language. The community provided the local association of PZKO with a piece of land adjacent to the building of PZKO.

#### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

This co-operation is evident in the everyday life of the community (the representatives of the community are invited to the meetings of organisations and their cultural activities and co-operate with the managements of schools). The Committee is not aware of other organisations than Polish ones.

#### ***4. Open issues (problems)***

The contemporary minority policy of the community should be more transparent and propagate the activities of national minorities in order to give our fellow-citizens information about events in the region. The Committee intends to suggest at the next session of the local council the optional lessons of Polish language not only for the pupils of Czech primary schools but also for citizens who would be interested in them, their larger propagation in Polish in local mass media (teletext in local TV, local information service, bilingual congratulations on important anniversaries, common Czech-Polish cultural activities which would contribute to the mutual understanding of Czech and Polish citizens etc.). The solution of the problem of bilingual inscriptions and names whose utilisation has been supported by other communities will enjoy priority over other issues.

### **Doubrava**

#### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

The territory of the community is settled with the Polish, Roma and Slovak national minorities. The most numerous minority is the Polish one. This minority has its own organisation - PZKO - whose seat has been situated in the former school up till 2002. As the building was demolished for the purposes of mining, the Local Authority offered the above organisation to utilise the premises of previous „National House“. Other national minorities do not implement any activity by means of their associations.

#### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

The council of the community has ever approved any application of an organisation of respective national minority for financial support.

#### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of national minorities***

The co-existence of national minorities in the community has ever been free of conflict and cooperation with the representatives of national minorities has ever been good. Every application of any national minority for the improvement of a cultural activity bound by meeting contractual terms and conditions has ever been disposed for bipartite satisfaction.

#### ***4. Open issues (problems)***

They have not been mentioned.

## **Horní Suchá**

### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

The most numerous national minority in the community are the Poles (23,2% according to the census in 2001). Other important minority is represented by the Slovaks (4,6%). Within the last census 1,0% of inhabitants of the community declared their membership in the Moravian ethnicity; other ethnicities are represented fractionally. Only 4 citizens (0,1%) declared their membership in the Roma national minority, although in fact the Roma community is more numerous.

There is a primary school and a kindergarten with Polish as a teaching language in the community. The parents of pupils are associated in *Macierz Szkolna*. Polish young people are associated in *Harcerstwie* and elderly people in PZKO which has various hobby groups - for example those of singing, folklore and modern dance - Senior Club etc. In addition, the local organisation of the political movement *Coexistencia - Wspólnota* whose members regularly apply for a mandate in local council elections (since 1990 they have been working in this body) is registered there.

### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of the members of national minority)***

The grant policy of the community for the support of the activities of national minorities is implemented on the basis of the approval of contributions from the local budget to organisations which have submitted their projects complying with approved criteria.

### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

The mutual co-operation of the citizens of the community, i.e. both the relation of the majority society to minorities and the mutual relations of the members of the minorities, is reflected above all in the fact that every citizen has free access to all cultural, sportive or social activities (balls, performances for children and young people, performances of various ensembles, jubilees etc.) regardless his membership in a minority or ethnicity. It can be stated with satisfaction that this principle is not only formal, but it has been applied for a long time. The chairman of *Roma Democratic Alliance* in the community was asked to extend the activities of this association - which have been confined to organising soccer matches and tournaments - to the larger part of the Roma minority. The varied offer of cultural and social activities based on Roma folklore traditions would avail mainly children and young people.

### ***4. Open issues (problems)***

The Committee suggests to extend the scale of the open issues of state minority policy in this region with the problem of the processing of information about the ethnic development in Těšín Silesia in 19th and 20th centuries. This historical analyses which is to be a part of the syllabus of all primary schools would be a boon especially now when the Czech Republic is being integrated to Europe and in this context it has both right and duty to present its identity and cultural specificity.

## **Hrádek**

### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

Due to the legislative changes of the educational system the kindergarten (*Przedszkole*) in the community was merged in one legal person with the primary school with Polish as a teaching language. All public free spaces and buildings of local authorities are marked in both languages (in accordance with Act N. 128/2000 Coll.).

### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

The Polish minority in Hrádek is organised in the local association of PZKO which is very active in the field of culture, sport and the preservation of minority traditions. The Local Authority tries to support its activity by financial means.

### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

The Polish minority participates actively in the solution of public problems of the community. As the members of Polish minority are both the members of local councils and co-organisers of large cultural, sportive and social activities in the community, it is not presumable that their contribution to the promotion of the community would be ignored.

### ***4. Open issues (problems)***

The problem of the acknowledgement of the validity of diplomas of the Polish citizens who graduated at Polish universities has not been resolved yet.

## **Chotěbuz**

### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

Recently the Parliament of the Czech Republic approved many laws relating to the life of minorities. The Committee states that the officers at all levels must be liable to exact rules, otherwise the life of minority will depend on their arbitrariness. It is difficult now is to apply § 29, clause 2 of Act N. 128/2000 Coll. as amended („...and if at least 40% of adult citizens of the community who declare their membership in this national minority ask for it in the petition...“):

- a) who and how will determine by the letter of law the percentage of the members of a national minority in order that the petition will be valid;
- b) if the census determines the percentage of a national minority in the community, how the Act on the Protection of Personal Data will be observed in order that data on its members will not be publicised.<sup>54)</sup>

According to the Committee it is humiliating for the Polish minority to collect the signatures on their petition.

Even more difficult can be the application of § 30 of Act N. 128/200 Coll. saying that „...the marking of streets and other public free spaces will be financed by the community.“ The community has the limited budget and even the members of the Polish minority in the council will hesitate between the application of bilingual principle and - for example - „the reconstruction of a destroyed bridge“. The community has not a school with Polish as a teaching language and that is why the Committee does not express its opinion with respect to the application of Education Act and the interpretation of exceptions relating to the number of pupils.

### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

The community does not support directly the projects and activities of national minorities, but within its budget and on the basis of written applications it tries to satisfy the requirements of all local organisations. It must be said that the Polish minority is well organised and its associations are very active. This fact has a substantial impact on financing its round-the-year activity.

### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

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<sup>54)</sup> See Appendix N.7.

The Polish minority participates actively in the solution of the community's problems. The Poles are the members of the local council and all Polish organisations have their representatives in the Committee. It can be said that co-operation is good.

#### ***4. Open issues (problems)***

It is clear from the experience of the Committee that some individuals infringe purposefully existing laws and try to discriminate the members of the Polish minority. Some clerks of Municipal and Local Authorities deal with callousness with the elderly Polish citizens who do not speak Czech. Some ministries do not acknowledge the validity of university diplomas of Polish citizens who graduated at universities in Poland. In addition, these people must not use their degrees in the Czech Republic and can not find job in their professions. The Czech Republic should ratify Charter of Regional or Minority Languages as soon as possible.

### **Jablunkov**

#### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

The Polish minority has 1 228 members, the Slovak 121 members, the Silesian 91 members, the Moravian 31 members and the German 4 members.

The only organised minority is the Polish one. Their members are organised in the local group of PZKO and *Macierz Szkolna* within the primary school and the kindergarten with Polish as a teaching language. There is one primary school with Polish as a teaching language (1st - 9th grade, 293 pupils in the school-year 2002/2003) and one kindergarten with Polish as a teaching language (46 pupils).

#### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

MS PZKO organises every year various cultural and social activities. The largest one is *Gorolski Swieto* to which the town contributes with 30 000 crowns from its budget. Some other activities of more limited extent are financed by the town by means of grants.

#### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

The members of the Committee for the Polish Minority are also the members of MS PZKO and *Macierz Szkolna*. Thus co-operation between the town and the national minority is ensured.

#### ***4. Open issues (problems)***

The co-existence of the majority society and the minorities is good. Nevertheless, there are still some problems which the Committee intends to solve continually.

### **Komorní Lhotka**

#### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

The percentages of individual minorities in the composition of inhabitants of the community is as follows. the Polish minority 21,4%, the Slovak minority 2,3 %, the Silesian minority 1,5%, others and not-identified minorities 1,9%.

The community is a promoter of T.G.Masaryk Primary School attended by the pupils of 1st - 5th grade and the kindergarten *Predszkole*. The primary school with Polish as a teaching language is situated in the adjacent community Hnojník and attended by pupils of 1st - 9th grade. Financing both schools is ensured.

The largest national minority in the community is the Polish one which participates actively in the solution of the problems of local policy and public affairs. The members of the Polish minority have their representatives in the local council. They co-organise many cultural, sportive and spocial activities in the community, especially within MS PZKO. The minority finances its activities from obtained resources.

**2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)**

The community does not provide any grant from its budget.

**3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities**

Other minorities do not implement any organised activity on the territory of the community. Nevertheless, there is a favourable atmosphere for the trouble-free use of respective minority language in the communication with the Local Authority. Notice boards on the building of the Local Authority and the Local Library are bilingual (Czech-Polish). Regional press (Czech, Polish) regularly informs about events in the community.

**4. Open issues (problems)**

The above facts about the situation of national minorities in the community can be an example of the positive development of mutual co-existence of the members of various minorities and ethnic groups on the territory of Těšín Silesia.

## **Košářska**

**1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities**

Legislative measures are not mentioned. The Polish national minority represents 38,6% of the total number of inhabitants of the community. The Poles have their representatives in the local council.

**2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)**

Grant policy is not mentioned.

**3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities**

The co-existence of minorities with other citizens is very good and trouble-free. The rights of the members of national minorities are not infringed. Most of the Poles are the members of the local organisation of PZKO which co-operates closely with the community and the primary school with Polish as a teaching language.

**4. Open issues (problems)**

One of open issues which should be evaluated is the problem of the local school with Polish as a teaching language. On the basis of the opinion of the officers of Moravian-Silesian Regional Authority (Department of Education, Youth and Sports) it is recommended to merge 1st - 5th grade into one class or to transfer the pupils of 4th and 5th grades to the school in Bystřice.

## **Milíkov**

**1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities**

The exercise of the rights of the members of national minorities is based on lvalid legal regulations. Nowadays one of the problems result from the application of § 29, clause 2 of Act N. 128/2000 Coll. on Communities, as amended, saying : „...and if at least 40% of adult citizens of the community who declare their membership in the national minority ask for in in the petition“. It is not evident who and how will determine by the letter of law the percentage of citizens of the national minority in order that the petition will be valid. Other problem is whether the census determines the percentage of the members of a national minority and how

Act on the Protection of Personal Data will be observed in order that the data of a member of a national minority will not be publicised. More serious impact in case of the infringement of Act N. 273/2001 Coll. , §49, clauses 1 d) and e) has the application of § 30 of Act N. 128/2000 Coll. saying that „the marking of streets and other public free spaces will be financed by the community“. The councils with limited budgets and the majority representation of the Czechs decide by resolution democratically that the draft of the petition can not be applied for financial reasons.

The application of this Act leads to conflicts between the minorities and the minority society. That is why the Committee suggests the amendment of this Act in order that bilingual inscriptions will be applied automatically on the basis of the decision of local councils in such communities where the percentage of the members of the Polish minority exceeds 10%.

Other serious problems consist in the application of Education Act and the interpretation of exceptions relating to the number of pupils. Within the rationalisation of expenses on minority educational facilities the communities merge them into one building without the assurance of the appropriate transport of pupils. With respect to financing there is a permanent conflict between communities without minority educational facilities and communities which have them and place them at the disposal of minority pupils.

With respect to non-legislative measures it is necessary to point out the lack of education relating to both local clerks and regional authorities, ministries and central authorities. At local level this fact is reflected above all in chronicles which omit the activities of national minorities, their associations and ensembles. There are records that misrepresent the history and culture of the Polish minority. In addition, except some cases the atmosphere for the conflict-free use of minority language in communication with authorities is not favourable.

## **2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)**

The evaluation of the grant policy of the community with respect to the income items of its budget is difficult. It must be said that the Polish national minority is well organised in MS PZKO and *Association of Parents and Friends of School*. This fact influences substantially on financing its activities. While MS PZKO Milíkov does not apply for any grant, the budgets of *Firemen Organisation* and *Sportive Club* provide for them in accordance with law.

## **3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities**

The Polish minority participates actively in the solution of public problems in the community. Its members are both the members of local councils and co-organisers of many cultural, sportive and social activities of the community. Thus it is not prosumable that their contribution to the promotion of the community will not be respected.

## **4. Open issues (problems)**

According to *Report on the Situation of Human Rights in the Czech Republic* existing xenophobia and intolerance do not result from the racist stand of individual persons but the practice of institutions which discriminate other ethnic groups against the Czechs. As other forms of discrimination do not occur, this one is justified as the natural consequence of social and economic disadvantages of a minority. According to the above Report „masking“ is the most dangerous expression of institutional intolerance. Therefore it is necessary for majority schools to apply education on the conceptions and principles of human rights and the multicultural upbringing of children and young people. Differences in the knowledge of the issues of humanity and democracy between young people of the majority society and national minorities are evident.

Other key document which determines European standards with respect to the rights of national minorities is *European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages*. Without its

ratification it is not possible to apply sufficiently a constitutional principle which ensures national minorities the right to use their mother tongue in communication with authorities.

### **Mosty u Jablunkova**

#### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

The only active minority in the community is the Polish one. The lengthy process of the ratification of *European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages* is evaluated negatively.

#### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

The community supports the projects of the associations of national minorities in the field of sport and culture according to generally valid criteria.

#### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of national minorities***

The members of national minorities have their representatives in elected bodies of the community; co-operation with the representatives of the community is good.

#### ***4. Open issues (problems)***

Open issues relating to national minorities are discussed in public without any serious comments of their representatives.

### **Návsí**

#### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

No larger minority is registered in the community with the exception of the Polish one. This minority has its own local organisation - PZKO - and the women choir *Melodia*.

#### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

The community regularly supports both organisations according to its possibilities and on request. In return, both organisations contribute to the enrichment of cultural life in the community.

#### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

See above.

#### ***4 Open issues (problems)***

Up till now no conflicts concerning common co-existence have been registered. Most of open issues relating to the national minority are solved continually in the local council.

### **Nýdek**

#### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

See the statement of Milíkov.

#### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

It is difficult to evaluate the grant policy of the community with respect to the income items of its budget. The Polish minority is well organised. This fact influences financing its activities.

#### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

See the statement of Milíkov.

#### ***4. Open issues (problems)***

See the statements of Milíkov and Chotěbuz.

The community points out the circular of an unnamed director of one primary school in a small piedmont village where he banned his employees to communicate in other than Czech language under threat of their dismissal. In another village a community mayor announced that he would liquidate the Poles and his further steps, i.e. the liquidation of Polish classes and pressure on PZKO, proved his announcement.

Also the problem of the stand of some officers of ministries on the acknowledgement of the validity of university diplomas is still unresolved. This problem relates to the members of the Polish minority who graduated at Polish universities. They are not allowed to utilise their degrees in the Czech Republic and it is difficult to them to find a job corresponding their profession. The persons whose diplomas are acknowledged and who apply for the registration of their degrees in personal documents have to ask for the additional certification of their professional competence (according to Resolution of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports N. 14500/2000/20). This is at variance with Convention on the Acknowledgement of Professional Competence from 11 April 1997.

In the Committee 's opinion the amendment of the Constitution (by the adoption of Act N. 359/2001 Coll. amending Act of the Czech National Council N. 1/1993 Coll. (Constitution of the Czech Republic) which entered into force on 1 July 2002) specifies the relation of the state to international laws and Czech laws to international ones to the effect that the Constitution does not attribute to international agreements on human rights and freedoms their privileged position and does not prefer them over law. It is not clear how national minorities can defend their right to corresponding position in the society.<sup>55)</sup>

## **Ropice**

### ***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

On 5 January 2001 the participants of the session of the council of this community which became independent in 2000 established the Committee where the Polish and Slovak minorities had their representatives. According to the results of the census these minorities represent 28,9% (the Polish minority) and 3% (the Slovak one) of the total number of the inhabitants of the community. There is one primary school and two kindergartens with Polish as a teaching language. The community is preparing the bilingual book about its history. In addition, it administers the library where both Czech and Polish books are deposited.

### ***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

The community provides financial support for the activities of minorities and their organisations, for example *Zjazd Gwiazdzisty* and the local PZKO.

### ***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

This co-operation is not mentioned.

### ***4. Open issues (problems)***

No minority problems which necessitate solution occur in the community; the new Committee will focus on the application of bilingual names - for example at the Local Authority and the school.

## **Stonava**

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<sup>55)</sup> This is the evident misunderstanding of Act N. 395/2001 coll. whose Article 10 determines explicitly that international agreements whose ratification is approved by the Parliament and which are binding to the Czech Republic are a part of the legal order. If a provision of an international agreement differs from this of law, the international agreement is applied.

***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

Both legislative and non-legislative measures can be evaluated as respecting the rights of the members of national minorities. Regardless of the legislation and in the interests of its good co-existence with the Polish minority the community has been creating the best conditions for their cultural, social and leisure activities. In addition, it provides financial contributions to the development of the minority educational system.

***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

The community provides regular support from its budget for the activities of hobby associations (choirs, scouting organisations etc.). In addition, it co-finances minority schools including one kindergarten.

***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

Co-operation with the representatives of the organisations of national minorities is very good.

***4. Open issues (problems)***

The atmosphere for national minorities in the community is good, co-operation between the community and the representatives of the organisations of the members of national minorities is free of problems. Their rights to the development of their culture, receiving and disseminating information in their mother tongue, association in minority organisations, education in Polish and participation in the solution of their problems are respected. Some names of the buildings of state administration bodies are bilingual.

**Třanovice**

***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

Legislative measures are sufficient.

***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

The community supports public activities including those of the Polish minority associated in PZKO.

***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

The representatives and organisations of national minorities are active in the field of education, culture, community press and the social life of the community.

***4. Open issues (problems)***

The problem is how to finance minority education (i.e. the increase of expenses per pupil).

**Vejprty**

***1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities***

During the census 2001 11,3% of citizens declared their membership in the German minority; in addition, 4,9% of them declared their membership in the Slovak, 1,8% in the Vietnamese and 1,7% in the Roma minorities. For this reason the local council established on 18 December 2002 the Committee (which consisted of three Czech representatives and six members of the German, Roma and Slovak minorities).

***2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)***

As the Committee's existence is short, the data about it are not mentioned.

***3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities***

The town registers the long-term activity of *Cultural Association of the Germans* and the new civil associations *Savore Roma Kepeske* and *Association of the Citizens for the Support of the Development of Child Personality* established on the basis of the initiative of the pedagogues of Specialised and Practical School Vejprty.

#### **4. Open issues (problems)**

From among open issues the lack of finances, high unemployment (20%) and the weak social and economic position of the members of the Roma community can be mentioned.

### **Vělopolí**

#### **1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities**

The community is one of the smallest communities in the Czech Republic with respect to its area and the number of inhabitants. Nowadays it has 205 inhabitants (39 of them declare their membership in the Polish and one in the Slovak minority). There is no school there and children attend schools in neighbouring communities and towns. Due to the specific character of the community it has not been necessary to take or evaluate any measure relating to the rights of the members of national minorities.

#### **2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)**

The only hobby organisation which associates all citizens is *Czech Union of Amateur Gardeners*. As national minorities have not their separate organisation, grant policy for their activities is not applied.

#### **3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities**

As no separate organisation of the members of national minorities has been established, the Local Authority and the members of the local council co-operate with them in the solution of problems relating to the life of the community as a whole. It can be added that some citizens are members of organisations associating national minorities in neighbouring communities or towns (for example PZKO).

#### **4. Open issues (problems)**

It can be summarised that due to the specific character of the community the open issues of minority policy within the competence of the Local Authority do not exist.

### **Vendryně**

#### **1. Legislative and non-legislative measures relating to the rights of the members of national minorities**

In the community the five-member Committee was established. The largest - and in fact the only one - national minority is the Polish one which represents 35,5% of the total number of the inhabitants. The public buildings are marked in both languages, the issue of the name of the community itself is still open. Its solution depends on the common decision of the Committee, the council and citizens (petitions etc.). The application of Education Act and exceptions relating to the number of pupils is free of conflict. The community has sufficient education facilities for its pupils; such a problem could occur in case of the decrease of their number in the future. Thus the financial situation of the community would be more difficult. The financial aid of the state would contribute to good-coexistence which is so important in the areas inhabited by members of various ethnic groups. Up till now it has not been necessary to solve the problem of common financing the minority educational facilities along with other communities.

#### **2. Grant policy (the support of projects for the activities of national minorities)**

The grant policy of the community is very favourable for the minority population. The implementation of the plan of activities of the national minority (for example PZKO) is granted partly from the community's fund. The Polish minority is well organised and its associations are permanently active. In addition to PZKO it is also the touristic organisation *Beskid Slaski* and *Macierz Szkolna*.

### **3. Co-operation with the representatives and organisations of the members of national minorities**

The Polish minority participates actively in the social life of the community. It has its representatives in the local council, its committees and commissions. In addition, it contributes to cultural, sportive and social activities in the community. Mutual co-operation is free of conflicts which would impact upon the co-existence of the minority with other citizens.

### **4. Open issues (problems)**

The Committee has not solved serious problems of the co-existence of citizens in the community. Its members are of the same opinion that it is necessary to start learning mutual tolerance in childhood, i.e. within pre-school and school education. This is one of the most important tasks which the Committee should solve within its competence in co-operation with other authorised persons. The fact that the Czech-Polish kindergarten has been working perfectly in the community for many years proves that the above statement is not a hollow phrase. Communication in Czech or Polish language (or dialect) is not any obstacle for both teachers and pupils. On the contrary, they return home enriched with another language and larger vocabulary. No doubt that this idea is also the mission of *European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages*.

## **6. The introspection of national minorities**

The Secretariat of the Council asked the representatives of national minorities to update their evaluations from 2001 for the purposes of this Report. The following text has the same structure as Report 2001 and it is only re-edited. Its content is also the same as the original version elaborated by the representatives of national minorities.<sup>56)</sup>

### **6.1. BULGARIAN MINORITY**

*After the meeting of the Council on 15 May 2003 the document of the representative of the Bulgarian minority in the Council was complemented with the comments of the representatives of Bulgarian civil associations in Prague. This text complements the data on the activities of the Bulgarian national minority not only in 2002 but during the whole previous period.*

#### **1. The own estimation of the number of the members of the minority and its settlement**

Nowadays more than 10 000 Bulgarians<sup>57)</sup> live in the Czech Republic. Almost 80% of them are persons older than 18 years. Most of them have Czech citizenship and the large percentage of them have permanent residence in the Czech Republic. Those with temporary residence represent much smaller group. It is difficult to specify the number of the emigrants after November 1989. Some members of the Bulgarian minority in the Czech Republic - especially in large towns - have the status of foreigners with Bulgarian passport.

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<sup>56)</sup> Where no change was registered during 2002 the text was formulated as follows: „the situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed“. The text of the Report 2001 is published on the www page of Government Council for National Minorities (<http://www.vlada.cz/1250/vrk/vrk.htm>).

<sup>57)</sup> According to the final results of the census in 2001 this number is 4 363 persons (see Appendix N. 7).

The Bulgarian national minority is dispersed on the whole territory of the Czech Republic. In Prague live more than 3 500 persons, in Central-Bohemian region about 500 persons, in South-Bohemian region about 300 persons, in Pilsen region about 600 persons, in Karlovy Vary region about 400 persons, in Ústí region about 500 persons, in Liberec region about 300 persons, in Hradec Králové region about 250 persons, in Poděbrady and surroundings about 200 persons, in Vysočina region about 250 persons, in South-Moravian region more than 1900 persons, in Olomouc region about 500 persons, in Moravian-Silesian region about 350 persons and in Znojmo and surroundings about 350 persons.

One of characteristics which singled out the members of the Bulgarian minority from other citizens is their age structure. The large percentage of persons older than 50 years contrasts with the small number of children younger than 15 years and young people in the age between 15 and 20 years. Children younger than 15 years represent only 5-6% of the total number of the members of the Bulgarian minority. Neither the group of young people in the age between 15-50 years is numerous (2-3%). On the contrary, the most numerous group is represented by persons older than 50 years (60%).

The development of the Bulgarian minority in the Czech Republic evidently depends on new immigration. The minority is growing old due to the regulation of migration and its own internal development. The logical consequence of this fact are mixed marriages and further Czechicisation of Bulgarian children. The same change relates to the second and third generation of the descendants of Bulgarian families, even if they preserve the awareness of their origin and family bonds with Bulgaria.

## **2. The survey of organisations**

### **2a) The types of organisations**

The Bulgarian minority began its existence in Bohemia in October 1880 when the association *Bulharska Sedjanka* was established in Prague. Later the compatriot associations - student hobby groups, amateur gardeners groups etc. - have been founded. Since 1948 the Bulgarians have been establishing local compatriot groups which associated persons according to their hobbies, education and professions. In addition, the number of Bulgarian students have been increasing - at that time 950 Bulgarians studied in Prague and others (totally more than 1 800 persons) studied in Brno, Bratislava, Olomouc and Pilsen. In these regions also clubs have been founded. In the end they united and established *Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Organisation (BCEO)*, the successor of *Bulharska Sedjanka*. Today BCEO is a civil association headed by the Council of Chairpersons with the chairman, vice-chairman and executive secretary. The highest body of BCEO is the assembly of *Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Clubs in the Czech Republic (BCEC)*. These clubs are legal persons: BCEC in Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Olomouc, St.Cyril and St.Methodius BCEC in Ústí nad Labem and BCEC in Mladá Boleslav, Chomutov, Kladno and Most have their own managements, 5 - 9 members, the chairman, vice-chairman and organisational secretary. Organisations and clubs have independent revision commissions consisting usually of three members and controlling their activities, complying with their statutes and the flow of finances.

In 1992 *St. Cyril and St. Methodius Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Club* and in October 2001 the civil association *Vazražďane* were registered in Prague. In addition, in 2002 new organisations were established: *Pirin*, the dancing and folklore ensemble in Brno, *Zaedno*, the association of the Bulgarians and their friends in the Czech Republic and *Association for Bulgaria*.

### **2b) Members**

BCEO has about 2 000 persons. Most of them are Bulgarians with Czech citizenship, Bulgarians with permanent residence in the Czech Republic and some members with the

status of foreigners with temporary residence in the Czech republic. BCEC in Prague is the largest club which associates most of members and sympathisers, i.e. more than 800 persons. It has several auxiliary commissions (cultural and educational, organisational, social and building ones) and sections (for young people, women, seniors and the Roma). BCEC in Ostrava has about 250 members, in Brno 150, in Olomouc 120, in Ústí nad Labem 60, in Most 120, in Kladno 90, in Chomutov 50, in Pilsen 100 and in Mladá Boleslav 20 members. St.Cyril and st. Methodius BCEC in Prague has 40 members, *Vazražďane* 30 and *Pirin* 20 members.

### **2c) Priorities**

The priorities are the same as in 2001.

### **2d) Main annual planned activities of the minority 's organisations**

The activities of various Bulgarian organisations in the Czech Republic focus on three main fields:

- a) Bulgarian national days - 1 January (New Year, St.Vasil Day, Vasiljovden); 3 March (the liberation of the Bulgarians from Othman thraldom); 1 May ( Work Day); 6 May (Day of the Bravery of the Bulgarian Army, St.George Day, Gergjovden); 24 May (Day of Bulgarian Education, Culture and Slavonic Literature); 6 September (the union of Bulgaria); 22 September (Independence Day); 24 - 26 December (Christmas Day, The Birth of the Lord);
- b) Bulgarian traditional celebrations: 6 and 7 January (Jordanovden, Ivanovden-days celebrated by all Bulgarians and persons whose names are Jordan, Bogomil and Ivan); 21 January (Midwife Day); 1 or 14 February (Trifon Zarezan, the day of Bulgarian vintners); 1 March (Baba Marta Day); 6 May (Georgjovden); 15 August (Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mother), in addition to Vasilica (1 or 14 January the most important day for Bulgarian Orthodox Roma; 1 - 6 November (Zadušnica, All Souls Days); 21 November (installing the Mother of God in the temple); 6 December (Nikulden, St. Nicholas Day);
- c) specific activities of individual organisations: the Bulgarian House in Prague organises every Friday „Seniors Eve“ and last Friday of every month „Sedjanka“ (Sitting with Friends); on third Thursday of every month the Bulgarian scholars and so-called repatriates meet there; 19 February and 20 April are commemorative days of Bulgarian history; 19 February is a commemorative day of Bulgarian revivalist Vasil Levski; on 14 February and 8 December the young members of the Bulgarian community meet in Prague; 7 May is a commemorative day of the victory over fascism; 1 June is celebrated as International Children Day and 2 June as a Day of the Killed in the Fight for Freedom; on 3 May and 6 - 9 June the team of the Bulgarian community takes part in soccer tournaments for foreigners; since 1999 1 November has been celebrated as Day of Revivalists.

### **2e) The presentation of organisations on the Internet**

BCEO and BCEC in Prague: <http://www.cmail.cz/bgklub>; Vazražďane: <http://sweb.cz/vazrazdane>; Zaedno: <http://www.sweb.cz/3a1>.

## **3. Condititons for the exercise of the rights of national minorities**

### **2a) Association**

According to the representatives of the minority in the Council there are now 5 organisations registered as civil associations. from among the total number of the members of the Bulgarian minority ( 4 500 persons) only 450 persons (i.e.10%) are associated in the above organisations. It is expected that the Minority Act will result in the increase of the number of the members of organisations of the Bulgarian minority.

According to others there are seven active registered organisations. The Bulgarian citizens and their families associate themselves voluntarily in two civil associations, i.e. BCEO and its 10 regional clubs and *Vazraždane*. Other organisations are not exclusively minority ones but they co-operate with all Bulgarian organisations in the Czech Republic. The increase of the number of members is not expected. Nevertheless, this situation can be influenced positively by the liberalisation of conditions for the residence of foreigners in the Czech Republic. If we succeed for example in the establishment of internet clubs in some localities, it will have a positive impact. This step unfortunately depends on increased investments for which we still have not sufficient financial means. Joining the European Union in 2004 in case of the Czech Republic and in 2007 in case of Bulgaria will probably contribute to the increase of the members of the Bulgarian minority in the Czech Republic.

***3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with local and regional elected authorities and state administration bodies, the representation of the minority in local and regional elected authorities and committees for national minorities in regions, statutory towns, communities etc.)***

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed.

***3c) The use of the minority 's language in private and public life***

Since Autumn 2002 *Vazraždane* has been organising the teaching of Bulgarian language for children of mixed marriages.

***3d) The use of name and surname in the language of the national minority***

Most of the members of the Bulgarian minority criticise changing women 's surnames according to gender. That is why Bulgarian women often keep their original surname. Nevertheless, keeping this rule is impossible with regard to female children. This rule makes them foreigners in their second mother country, i.e. Bulgaria, although they speak Bulgarian fluently and feel to be at home there. Some members of the Bulgarian minority do not agree with such a formulation of the above standpoint and point out the fact that there are cases of the registration of women 's surname in personal documents according to Bulgarian usage.

***3e) Education***

The 12-year Bulgarian Petr Beron School within the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria has been working in Prague for 55 years. It is attended by 100 - 120 pupils. Its syllabus conforms to Bulgarian one with the extended teaching of Czech language. Nevertheless, some children attend Czech or foreign language schools. There are many cases when the children of both Bulgarian and mixed families go on their study abroad and even in Bulgaria. For smallest country-fellows who do not attend Petr Beron School *Vazraždane* organises Sunday courses of Bulgarian language.

***3f) Cultural activities***

Individual organisations implement the same cultural activities as in 2001.

***3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the national minorities (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting, Internet etc.)***

The Bulgarian Minority - BCEO in the Czech Republic - issue the periodical *Roden glas*. *Vazraždane* issues the magazine *Balgari*. St. Cyril and St. Methodius Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Club issues occasionally the bulletin *Rodna reč* and Prague BCEO issues the bulletin *Inform* whenever necessary. Clubs within BCEO in Prague, Olomouc and Mladá Boleslav are equipped with sets by means of which it is possible to receive every day from 1,00 p.m. to 12,00 p.m. satellite programmes of the Bulgarian National Television and 24 hours the programmes of the Bulgarian National Radio and Christo Botev Radio. Clubs in Prague and Olomouc are subscribers of Bulgarian dailies distributed one day after their publication (thanks to regular bus-lines Sofia - Prague). By means of State Office for the

Bulgarians Abroad the Bulgarian minority receives some weeklies of the editions Doctor, Everything for Women, Church Newspaper, Literary Forum etc. Bulgarian satellite programmes are received by many Bulgarian families - especially in Prague - and the inhabitants of the premises of Bulgarian Embassy in Prague.

#### ***4. The manifestations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority***

In the opinion of the representatives of Brno organisations of the members of the Bulgarian national minority there is the lack of educational activities in the minority society. In addition, the fact that the state does not cover more than 85% of expenses on minority periodicals prevents from the implementation of the project because resting 15% represent too high percentage for such a small minority as the Bulgarian.

#### ***5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities***

In the opinion of the representatives of the minority in the council the most serious contemporary problem of the Bulgarian minority is the dislocation of their associations in Prague. Even the representatives of Brno organisations point out the same issue.

#### ***6. Problems in the minority's life***

In the opinion of the representatives of BCEO the minority has some internal problems, especially in Prague. Since 1992 four (five) associations have been established there. The problem consists in the co-ordination of activities and prevention of their duplicity in order that all persons who are interested in these activities have chance to participate in them. Unnecessary and unnatural competition avails nobody. It relates to the right to administrate a Bulgarian school and co-operation with Bulgarian Cultural Institute. Fortunately, these problems are being solved. Prague associations undertook that they would not obstruct one another in their activities, tolerate one another and solve their problems rationally. The Bulgarian House in Americká street in Prague is a property of all Bulgarians. There are also financial problems in the community. If no grant is provided for minority press, it will not be possible to issue the periodical *Roden glas* which is the only printed matter of the Bulgarian community. It represents the live bond between the Bulgarians and their families and embues every Compatriot House all over the Czech Republic with Bulgarian spirit.

#### ***7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the minority's development, co-operation with public administration bodies etc.)***

The representatives of the minority appreciate the initiative of the government to reconstruct and provide *House of National Minorities* in Prague for the purposes of minority activities. In addition, the solution of the problem of the support of activities organised by minorities by means of grants from metropolitan authorities, regional administrative bodies, regional and local elected authorities, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the government of the Czech Republic is considered to be an example of good practice.

#### ***8. The minority's position evaluated by its members***

The Bulgarian national minority enjoys in the Czech Republic with good reputation. The positive evaluation of the Bulgarians results above all from their friendly behaviour, industry, adaptability to Czech conditions and environment, national pride and efforts to preserve Bulgarian traditions. „To toil like a Bulgarian“, the truthful Czech simile, can be a key to the understanding of the Bulgarians' motivation to work in Bohemia. This Czech saying reflects the typical features of Bulgarian national identity and social behaviour.

## **6.2. CROATIAN MINORITY**

*The representative of the Croatian minority in the Council did not mention any new fact concerning clauses 2a), 3a), 3c) - g) which would differ from the text published in Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2001.*

***1. The own estimation of the number of the members of the minority and its settlement***

The situation in comparison with 2001 is not changed; only Bohumín was added to the list of communities inhabited in 2002 by the Croatians with Czech citizenship.

***2. The survey of organisations***

***2b) Members***

about 50 persons.

***2c) Priorities***

In accordance with its constitution and programme the essential aim of *Association of the Citizens of the Croatian Minority in the Czech Republic* is to develop educational and cultural activities and folklore traditions of the Croatians, preserve their cultural and historical heritage and co-operate with the Croatians living in Burgenland in Austria and the Republic of Croatia. The fulfilment of this task has ever been difficult because of the dispersed settlement of the Croatians after 1948 and the problems in the era of communist totality marked by the lack of education in mother tongue and any aid.

***2d) Main annual planned activities of the minority's organisations***

At the beginning of September the festival *Croatian Cultural Day* is held every year in Jevišovka (former Frelichov) in Břeclav district. Since 1948 this activity has been reviving Croatian traditions and folklore (for example feasts) in one of the largest Croatian villages in Southern Moravia. In addition, it is the opportunity for the members of evacuated families to meet, remember left homeland and be in contact with the Croatians living in Burgenland in Austria.

***2e) The presentation of the organisation on the Internet***

None.

***3. Conditions for the exercise of the rights of national minorities***

***3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with local and regional elected authorities and state administration bodies, the representation of the minority in local and regional elected authorities and committees for national minorities in regions, statutory towns, communities etc.)***

In the past the problems concerning the rights of the Croatian minority were discussed without the participation of its representatives. This fact was justified by the small number of its members. Government Resolution N. 1163 from 7 November 2001 nominated also the representative of the Croatian minority a member of Government Council for National Minorities. In parliamentary elections in 2002 he was re-nominated a member of the Council.

***4. The manifestations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority***

Due to the communist propaganda the Croatian minority has ever been facing the opinion that it was the hostile minority which collaborated with the Germans during World War II. The manifestations of intolerance still survive among „new settlers“ in Jevišovka, Dobré Pole and Nový Přerov and the employees of South-Moravian archives (on the occasion of every-year *Croatian Culture Day* in Jevišovka the citizens appeal to the Local Authority to prohibit this activity). For this reason it was necessary to inform respective authorities about Government Decree to Resolution N. 1048 from 6 October 1999 on the contemporary situation of the Croatian minority in the Czech Republic. Its members feel to be discriminated especially in the field of Law of Inheritance. Although private property in the Czech Republic is protected by law, in this case it is necessary to seek it before court. The representative of the Croatian

minority states that in spite of the formal independence of courts their decisions are still affected by the inheritance of communism.

#### ***5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities***

No insufficiencies were specified.

#### ***6. Problems in the minority 's life***

The problem of the Croatian minority consists in its dispersed settlement in the Czech Republic after 1948; this results in the fact that the members of the minority are not educated in their mother tongue and they live in forced assimilation as underprivileged citizens of the Czech Republic.

#### ***7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the minority 's development, co-operation with public administration bodies etc.)***

Since 1989 the Croatian minority has been participating fully in social life and making efforts to keep friendly relations to neighbours and the Czech Republic. From the point of view of EU this activity is necessary.

#### ***8. The minority 's position evaluated by its members***

The Croatian minority has been living on the territory of Bohemia since 1531. It has ever influenced Slavonic togetherness and enriched the culture of Podluží in South-Moravian Slovakia. It lives almost 55 years in exile in forced assimilation without right to home. The worst fact is that there has never been political will in the Czech Republic to solve the problem of the Croatian minority. On 30 January 2002 *Association of the Citizens of the Croatian Minority* sent its petition to the chairman of the Petition Committee of Chamber of Deputies, the chairman of the Sub-committee for National Minorities of the Petition Committee and the chairman of the Sub-committee for the Application of Charter of Rights and Freedoms of the Petition Committee (as well as the ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in the Czech Republic). It has been waiting for any response but still in vain. The Croatians hardly cope with the situation when they have to claim their civil and minority rights even before court because the majority society represented by the Parliament of the Czech Republic does not guarantee them.

### ***6.3. HUNGARIAN MINORITY***

*The representative of the Hungarian minority in the Council did not mention any new fact which would differ from the text published in Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2001.*

### ***6.4. GERMAN MINORITY***

#### ***1. The own estimation of the number of the members of the German minority and its settlement***

During the census in 2001 39 106 persons declared their membership in the German minority. Two associations of the minority register about 8 500 persons, i.e. less than 1/4 of the total number of the Germans. This fact results from the post-war situation of German citizens and their status during communist totality, chicanery and fear to acknowledge own ethnicity. Although the situation now is different and the minority is allowed to associate and self-realise, fear and apprehensions still survive.

#### ***2. The survey of organisations***

##### ***2a) The types of organisations and their structure***

The situation has not changed. The minority is organised in two unions, i.e. *Cultural Association of the German Minority Citizens in the Czech Republic (CAGMC)* and *Assembly of the Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia* (hereinafter the „Assembly“). As the

minority was allowed after 1989 to establish new associations roofed with the Assembly, some members decided for double membership.

#### **2b) Members**

GAGMC did not mention any change. The Assembly roofs 21 unions and their 30 regional organisations which have about 5 800 members (children and young people are not included; young people are registered but their number is very changeable and therefore it is not entered into total numbers). Individual unions are civil associations registered by the Ministry of the Interior. They have their own constitution and activities. The number of their members varies. The most numerous are unions in industrial areas and Silesia, i.e. in Cheb (about 1 200 members), Liberec (800), Šumperk (600), Opava (370), Silesia and Chomutov (280), Jablonec, Pilsen and Těšín (260). Other unions have about 100 - 180 members . The average age of their members is 62 years. The average age of the members of GAGMC is 69 years.

#### **2c) Priorities**

One of the priorities of GAGMC is the cultural activity of its members and the preservation of mother tongue including regional dialects. The Association presents itself by means of the weekly *Prager Volkzeitung* and German broadcasting in the Czech Radio. The Association fights against any manifestation of chauvinism and supports every effort aimed at the friendly co-existence of all nations and ethnic groups and unified Europe on the basis of the documents of Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. In order to apply these principles and aims the Association intends to participate in drawing up the bills and regulations relating to the rights of national minorities and ethnic groups.

The main aim of the Assembly is the self-realisation of the German national minority by means of cultural activities, newspapers and information for educational purposes, improving the knowledge of German, preserving the cultural heritage of the German minority and co-operation with other cultural and non-profit institutions. The other aim is the support of granting equal rights to the German minority. During the implementation of this aim the Assembly respects the Constitution of the Czech Republic and international legal standards for human and civil rights and freedoms as well as the rights of national minorities. In addition, it attempts at efficient co-operation not only with Czech fellow-citizens but also other minorities living in the Czech Republic and compatriot associations in Germany.

#### **2d) Main planned annual activities of the minority 's organisations**

For the purposes of the preservation of cultural heritage GAGMC takes care of local dialects and traditional folklore and looks for possibilities to take efficient measures for the preservation of historical monuments on its territory. The Association presents its educational activities regularly in the fortnightly *Prager Volkzeitung*.

The Assembly organises German courses, thematic seminars for young people and seniors and cultural activities for the preservation of cultural traditions - celebrations of Shrovetide, Easter, Mothers Day, Advent and Christmas - as well as children camps, performances of singing and dancing ensembles, exhibitions and Cultural Days. In co-operation with Czech citizens and compatriots it participates in the renovation of churches and monuments and social support of weak and ill persons. Teh Assembly presents itself in its fortnightly *Landes Zeitung* whose issue is financially supported by the Ministry of Culture. Individual unions issue their information bulletins and present themselves in dailies and regional periodicals. Information about the activities of the union are also given to the regional radio which mediates it to the public. In addition, on Thursdays and Saturdays regular 20-minute German programme is broadcasted in the Czech Radio.

#### **2e) The presentation of the minority 's organisations on the Internet**

Some unions and *Landes Zeitung* present themselves on Internet on following address: [www.landeszeitung.cz/index.htm](http://www.landeszeitung.cz/index.htm).

### **3. Conditions for the exercise of the rights of national minorities**

#### **3a) Association**

Registration in individual unions should be more supported in order that every member of the German minority can participate in the solution of problems concerning minority rights. It must be known whether the minority is interested in the solution of its problems. As the census statistics show, practice differs from theory. Interest in the solution of problems relating to minority rights is growing feeble. A German citizen is hardly perceived by the people round him and the membership in the union depends on the attractiveness of the activity of its basic organisation.

**3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with local and regional elected authorities and state administration bodies, the representation of minorities in local and regional elected authorities and committees for national minorities in regions, statutory towns, communities etc.)**

The situation has not changed. Due to the dispersed settlement of the German minority on the whole territory of the Czech Republic conditions for the activity of minority associations are difficult. In the older generation 's opinion a German citizen living on the territory of the Czech Republic is hardly perceived and his rights are not subject to any discussion. In the best case he works in a commission for civil affairs in a community or a town. In regions where minority commissions work the German minority has its representatives (Brno, Ostrava, Prague, Liberec, Krnov and Nové Město pod Smrkem). Metropolitan authorities in Prague, Brno, Ústí nad Labem, Jablonec and Chomutov provides GAGMC with financial support.

In other regions the minority participates according to its possibilities in public life. Nevertheless, its members are not perceived as the Germans but the citizens. The situation after local elections grew worse in some regions in consequence of coming new officials into office. Further deterioration resulted from the cancellation of district towns and the transfer of powers to regions. Some metropolitan authorities announced that the problems of minorities fall within the competence of state administration bodies and not of municipal elected authorities (Jihlava)

#### **3c) The use of the minority 's language in private and public life**

The situation has not changed. The older Germans are reluctant to speak German in public because they are afraid of discrimination which is the residue of the past. Nevertheless, hardly any person is denounced now when speaking foreign language. In smaller towns and communities where people know one another tolerance prevails, inter alia because of tourism which attracts foreigners. In comparison with other minorities the Germans have no opportunity in the Czech Republic to visit cultural centres, theatres, museums and other institutions with programmes in their language.

#### **3d) The use of name and surname in the minority 's language**

The situation has not changed. The problem consists in the use of first names which are transferred to Czech (a person „christened as Hans Maximilian“ is registered as „Jan“).<sup>58)</sup>

#### **3e) Education**

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<sup>58)</sup> This fact proves that the exercise of state administration is not unified. In the opinion of Ministry of the Interior such a situation should be changed.

It would be very helpful for the German minority to apply the extended lessons of German at all schools in regions with the larger number of German families.

Education can be supplemented in *Centres of Czech-German Understanding* and by means of German studies or seminars at *Goethe Institute*. Nevertheless, the minority suffers from the lack of textbooks and financial means for the lease of classrooms and teachers' salaries.

### **3f) Cultural activities**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed.

### **3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the national minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting, Internet etc.)**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed.

### **4. The manifestations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed. In some regions intolerance is demonstrated by the ignorance of local history, misrepresentation of facts, lack of interest in common history and disrespect to ancestors (destruction of graves etc.). Although the protection of graves and common cultural monuments has its theoretical basis in the Czech-German Declaration, the practice is different.

### **5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities**

The minority is aware of legislative insufficiencies and the lack of statutory instruments to the rights of national minorities. This relates above all to the modification of the minority educational system, double citizenship and property affairs (restitution laws are not just to the Germans). In addition, there are no statutory instruments to putting forward a claim to an interpreter for official agenda, especially at the level of regional and local elected authorities.

The regulations of state administration for financing minority organisations including minority press are so limited that they do not enable the operation of the directing body, for example financing the secretariat and covering the expenses on the publication of minority newspapers (only 70%).

Insufficiencies exist also in the provisions of the regulations for the application of the bilingual names of towns and communities. The chronicles of towns and museums mention original names. Why the names of towns and communities could not be bilingual, if they are not prohibited in a commercial advertisement?

### **6. Problems in the community's life**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed. GAGMC has not finances for the operation of its secretariat because the state does not provide them. It leads to difficulties relating to the co-ordination of the activities of basic organisations and the absence of some officials in nation-wide activities of the minority.

### **7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with public administration bodies etc.)**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed.

### **8. The own evaluation of the minority's position**

In 2002 the period before elections was marked by aversion to the German ethnic group roused by the statements of politicians.

## **6.5 POLISH MINORITY**

### **1. The own estimation of the number of the members of the minority and its settlement**

As opposed to other minorities dispersed on the whole territory of the Czech Republic, the Polish minority is concentrated on Těšín Silesia (especially on so-called Zaolží). The census

in 1991 registered 61 542 Poles on the territory of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic; 57 573 of them lived in Bohemia, i.e. contemporary Czech Republic. According to their own calculations the total number of the Poles was 43 479 persons. The last census in 2001 showed the decrease of the number of the members of this minority in the districts Karviná and Frýdek-Místek, totally by 7 995 persons. Nowadays about 37 000 Poles live in Zaozlží. Out of this region (in Prague, Brno and Eastern Bohemia) other 15 000 Poles are settled. If statistical data reflect the reality, it means that the number of the Poles in the Czech Republic is now 51 968 persons. Optimists estimate that this number oscilates between 60 - 65 000 persons. The fact that the Poles are concentrated in Těšín Silesia advantages them in comparison with other minorities. Nevertheless, this homogeneity corrodes continuously.

## **2. The survey of organisations**

### **2a) The types of organisations and their structure**

The Poles in the Czech republic are well organised. All 25 organisations are associated in *Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic*. In addition to the associations mentioned in the previous Report there are following new ones: *polonus - Klub Polski w Brnie*, *Towarzystwo Avion*, *Stowarzyszenie Kurier Praski* and *Zaolzianskie Towarzystwo Fotografyczne*. Very important is PZKO which is active in 87 local groups organising cultural activities of all Polish organisations that work in individual communities and playing the role of local cultural centres.

### **2b) Members**

The members of this minority are both the citizens of the Czech Republic and the persons with Polish citizenship and permanent residence in the Czech Republic.

*Congress of the Poles* was established on 3 March 1990 in Český Těšín at the 1st Congress of the Poles in Czechoslovakia. It represents the Polish national minority in relation to the majority society, state administration bodies, local and regional elected authorities and mass media and co-ordinates the activity of Polish associations in the Czech Republic. It issues „Glos ludu“, the newspaper in Polish language published three-times a week, and books by Polish authors living in the Czech Republic. In addition, it organises discussions, informal meetings with politicians, trainings and seminars for volunteers from civil associations as well as many cultural activities. The representatives of the Congress represent the Polish minority in local elected authorities, Government Council for National Minorities and the consultative body of the Ministry of education, Youth and Sports for the affairs of the minority education system.

*Harcerstwo Polskie w Republice Czeskiej* is the analogy of Scout Organisation associating children and adults further to pre-war Harcerstwo. The organisational structure consists of groups and teams of instructors (now 21 groups of „Zuchs“, 12 groups of „Harcers“ and 4 teams of instructors). The association issues the magazine „Nasza Gazetka“ and organises many activities such as „Festival Piesni Harcerskiej“ (Festival of Harcer Songs), „Zlaz Zuchowy“ (Session of Zuchs), „Harcerski Rajd Beskidski“ (Harcer March across Beskydy Mountains). Its activities consist in organising summer camps and sportive and touristic competitions. The organisation is a member of „Association of Organisations for Young People“ in Prague.

*Klub Polski w Pradze* (Prague Polish Club) renewed its activity in 1991 further to Prague Polish Club established in 1887 as one of the oldest compatriot associations on the territory of Bohemia. The aim of the Club is to strenghten national awareness. In addition, the Club popularises the Polish culture in Bohemia and organises lectures, discussions and meetings. Its members take part in various activities organised by Polish Institute, celebrations of Polish national days and anniversaries organised by Polish Embassy etc.

*Koło Polskich Kombatantów w Republice Czeskiej* (Club of Polish War Veterans in the Czech Republic) was founded in 1991 but its origin falls within the period of so-called „Prague Spring“ 1968 when Club of Polish Veterans was a part of PZKO. In the era of communist normalisation it terminated its activity which was not renewed until the half of 1980s. The Club associates the participants in the fight for freedom and independence in Polish allied troops or in the revolt against

the Nazis between 1939-1945. It helps its members to solve the problems with pensions, organises commemorations, conferences and exhibitions and supports historical research relating to the anti-Nazi revolt. The club has about 140 members and issues the quarterly „Wiarus“. In addition, it is associated in World Organisation of Polish Veterans in London.

**Macierz Szkolna w Republice Czeskiej** was established in 1991 as a successor of the pre-war organisation „Macierz Szkolna w Czechosłowacji“. Nowadays it has about 4 000 members (above all parents and friends of school) Its mission is to take care of the development of the Polish educational system in the Czech Republic and contribute to the equipment of schools and educational facilities with Polish as a teaching language. It organises cultural and sportive activities such as „Bagyniecki Festyn Szkolny“ (Bahenec School Feast) „Górski Wyciąg Rowerowy“ (Mountain Bike Race) and „Turniej Piłki Nożnej o Memorial Alojzego Adamca“ (Alojzy Adamec Soccer Memorial). In addition, it organises the out-of-school- activities of pupils and co-operates with non-governmental organisations in Poland, especially Macierz Ziemi Cieszyńskiej a Wspólnota Polska.

**Polonus - Klub Polski w Brnie** (Polonus - Polish Club in Brno) was registered in 1997. It associates the citizens of the Polish minority living in Brno. Its aim is to strengthen national awareness and popularise the Polish culture in Bohemia. The Club co-operates with the Brno Metropolitan Authority and its consultant for national minorities, Polish Embassy in the Czech Republic, Polish Institute in Prague and the association Wspólnota Polska. In addition, it organises lectures meetings and discussions. In the seat of the Club Sunday School was established. At this school children learn Polish language, habits and traditions. The club also participates in organising Polish Days in Brno. Nowadays it has about 140 members.

**Polski Związek Byłych Więźniów Politycznych** (Polish Union of Previous Political Prisoners) was established in 1998. It co-operates closely with Czech Union of the Fighters for Freedom. The organisation follows the traditions of Klub Gusenowców established in 1947. It organises meetings with politicians, journalists and young people about life under the conditions of occupation. Nowadays it has about 30 members.

**Polskie Towarzystwo Medyczne w Republice Czeskiej** (Polish Association of Health Service Officers in the Czech Republic) was established in 1991. It is the successor of „Klub Medyka“ within HV PZKO which has been working since 1975. It associates the members of the Polish minority who work in health services, i.e. doctor, pharmacists and nurses, and co-operates in health organisations, reputable doctors, Polish associations, associations of the Poles living abroad and young people, especially students of medicine. In addition, it publishes printed matters and organises training courses. It is a member of Federation of Polish Health Associations Abroad which mediates short-term affiliations for its members abroad, especially in Germany, France and Sweden, and for Polish doctors from other countries. Its partner in Poland is Chamber of Doctors.

**Polskie Towarzystwo Artystyczne „Ars Musica“** (Polish Artistic Association „Ars Musica“) was established in 1999. Its aim is to propagate the culture of the Polish national minority in the Czech Republic, especially music, folklore and theatre. It has about 20 members, mainly teachers, artists and entrepreneurs. In addition, it associates 6 ensembles: the student choir „Collegium Iuvenum“, the mixed choir „Canticum Novum“, the choir „Musicae Amantes“, the mountaineer bands „Zorómbek“ and „Sómsiek“ and the student ensemble „Szkapa“. The association organises „Przeгляд Kapel Ludowych“ (Folk Bands Show) and co-organises „Przeгляд Szkolnych Zespólów Spiewaczych“ (Children School Choirs Show), „Festiwal Piesni Dzieciecej“ (Children Song Festival) and the recitation competition „Kresy“.

**Polskie Towarzystwo Spiewacze „Collegium Canticorum“** (Polish Singing Association „Collegium Canticorum“) was established in 1992. It attempts at the propagation of chorus, chamber and solo singing. At the same time it is a promoter of the Polish mixed choir „Collegium Canticorum“ (which was established in 1986 and its first promoter was HV PZKO). The choir is a member of Polish Association of Choirs and Orchestras in Warsaw and Union of Czech Choirs. Its repertoire consists of classic works, adaptations of folk songs and dance, modern and experimental music. The choir succeeded several times in international and national festivals and recorded several CDs. The members of the association take special care of musical education of pupils, especially at primary

schools with Polish as a teaching language. The association is also a sponsor of children choirs „Wiolinki“ and „Crescendo“.

***Polskie Towarzystwo Turystyczne „Beskid Śląski“*** (Polish Touristic and Sportive Association „Beskid Śląski“) was established in 1991 as a successor of „PTTS Beskid Slaski“ in Czechoslovakia which was founded in 1922. The associations propagate tourism and acquaintance with the region. It organises regular touristic activities whose participants are rewarded with touristic badges. The most popular activities of the association are the table-tennis tournament (since 1993), winter mountain march (since 1995), New-Year march (since 1996) and every-year welcoming to Spring. In addition, the association organises „Rajd o Kyrpce Macieja“ (Mathias March), the every-year activity within the folklore festival „Gorolski Swieto“. Since 1999 the association has been working within „Klub 99“ which organises the meetings of senior players of Polish soccer teams and various sportive activities for young people. Nowadays it has 402 members. In 1993 - 2001 it has organised about 230 walking trips and 50 trips by bus, bike trips and other activities.

***Polsko Związek Kulturalno-Oświatowy*** (Polish Cultural and Educational Union - PZKO, PCEU) is with its 16 000 members the most numerous Polish organisation associated in Congress of the Poles. PZKO was established on 27 June 1947. Since this date it has been creating the extensive organisational structure. Both local groups and the Main Committee divided into sections for history, dance, theatre, literature and art implement their activities. Within the association many choirs, theatres and dancing ensembles work. 87 local groups of PZKO along with its Main Committee organise every year many cultural and educational activities on the whole Těšín territory. The most popular activity organised by PZKO every year since 1946 is „Gorolski Swieto“ in Jablunkov. It is the largest folklore show and at the same time the most important cultural and social activity of the Polish national minority. „Gorolski Swieto“ has been organised for several years within the framework of mutual co-operation on Czech-Polish borders as a part of so-called „Week of Culture in Beskydy Mountains“. Once in two years PZKO organises „Festival PZKO“ in which thousands of people take part. In the last festival on 25 May 2002 in Karviná 8 folklore ensembles and 24 choirs of the association performed. In addition, PZKO has its professional puppet theatre „Bajka“ and issues the monthly „Zwrot“, „Kalendarz Slaski“ and other publications. Within the association many dancing ensembles and theatres implement their activities.

***Stowarzyszenie Dziennikarzy Polskich*** (Association of Polish Journalists) was established in 1995. The association is a voluntary non-political organisation of Polish journalists which represents their interests both in the country and abroad.

***Towarzystwo Avion*** was established in 2000 as a Czech-Polish artistic association. Its founders were Renata Putzlacher-Buchtová, Jaromír Nohavica and Zbigniew Siwek. The association followed up with Czech-Polish meetings in the cafe of Těšín Theatre which have been organised since 1996. It organises literary and music programmes, concerts and theatre performances. The association presented its magazine „Silesian Genius Loci“ in 2000 at the theatre „Na zábradlí“ (Theatre on the Railings) in Prague and at the theatre „Husa na provázku“ (A Goose on the String) in Brno (and in 2001 at Těšín Theatre).

***Stowarzyszenie Emerytów Polskich*** (Association of Polish Pensioners) was established in 1991. At present it represents the interests of pensioners all over the Czech Republic who worked in Poland and now get partial or full pension from there. The association has about 120 members.

***Stowarzyszenie „Kurier Praski“ w Pradze*** (Association „Kurier Praski“ in Prague) was established in 1994 for the issue of the monthly „Kurier Praski“ (since 1992 it has been published by the Consular Department of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Prague). The aim of the association is to support the Poles living in Prague and its surroundings and the dissemination of the Polish culture.

***Stowarzyszenie Młodzieży Polskiej*** (Association of Polish Youth) is a successor of an original association which worked in 1947 - 1952 and 1968 - 1970. In addition, it follows up with the activities of „Club of Young People“ within PZKO (when the Association did not exist officially). The Association organises cultural, social and other activities. One of the most popular of them is „Rajd Filipka“, the two-day march to Filipka, „Dni Kultury Studenckiej“ (Students Culture Days) and „Pozegnanie Szkoły“ on the occasion of the termination of the school-year. This activity takes place

in the centre of the Main Committee of PZKO in Košariska. Nowadays the Association has about 120 registered members and many supporters.

***Stowarzyszenie Osób Pracujących i Uczących się za Granicą*** (Association of Persons Working and Studying Abroad) associates the Poles with Czech or Polish citizenship who live permanently on the territory of the Czech Republic and work or study abroad. It helps these persons to solve problems resulting from their situation (for example the problem of social and health insurance, everyday crossing the border etc.). At present it has about 250 members.

***Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciół Polskiej Książki*** (Association of the Friends of Polish Book) was established in 1999. Its aim is to propagate Polish literature including Těšín authors. The most important activity is „Exhibition of Polish Books“ presenting thematically diverse books of the largest Polish publishing houses and also regional literature of Těšín Silesia. From among other activities the readers competition for the pupils of primary schools and „Discussion Forum“ for the students of secondary schools can be mentioned. The association has about 60 members.

***Stowarzyszenie „Rodina Katyńska“*** (Association „Katyń Family“) was established in 1991 as an association of Polish prisoners of war murdered in World War II on the territory of the Soviet Union. The association works in previous districts Karviná and Frýdek-Místek and co-operates with similar associations in Poland. Nowadays it has more than 50 active members.

***Stowarzyszenie „Szkoła Polonijna w Pradze*** ( Association „Polonie School“ in Prague) is a member of Congress of the Poles since 1993. This organisation associates people who are interested in Polish language, culture, science, art and traditions. It organises the teaching of Polish language and acquaints with the events in Poland.

***Towarzystwo Nauczycieli Polskich*** (Association of Polish Teachers) was established in 1990 as a successor of Towarzystwo Nauczycieli Polskich w Czechosłowacji (which has been working since 1921 and after World War II was not allowed to renew its activity). The aim of the association is to protect the interests of Polish teachers and the Polish educational system in the Czech Republic. It helps to prepare syllabuses, textbooks and professional education for its members. In addition, it organises methodical conferences for teachers and participates in various activities of Polish schools. At present it has about 400 members.

***Zaolziańskie Towarzystwo Fotograficzne*** (Photographic Association of Těšín Silesia) was established in 2000. Its photographers publish their photographs in „Zwrocie“, „Kalendarz Śląski“ and „Głos ludu“, organise lectures, art workshops and exhibitions and develop co-operation with similar organisations in the country and abroad.

***Zrzeszenie Literatów Polskich*** (Association of Polish Writers) was established in 1990. The organisation is a member of Association of Writers and Moravian-Silesian Association of Writers. It co-operates with the association „Grupa Literacka 63“ (Literary Group 63), organises literary sessions for writers and literary competitions for young people and issues books. Nowadays it associates about 15 writers.

***Zrzeszenie Śpiewaczo-Muzyczne „Przyjazń“*** (Singing and Music Association „Przyjazń“) associates the mixed choir „Przyjazń“ which was established in 1958. In 1966 - 1993 the choir implemented its activity within Cultural Centre of Czech Army Mine in Karviná. Since 1993 it has been working as a separate ensemble. The ensemble has 51 members and its orchestra has 20 members. Its repertoire is diverse - from sacral and opera compositions to popular and musical ones. During its career the ensemble won several awards.

***Stowarzyszenie Elektrotechników Polskich w Republice Czeskiej*** (Association of Polish Electrotechnicians in the Czech Republic) was established in 1999. The organisation associates electrotechnicians and students of electrotechnical branches of study, organises seminars, trainings, consultations and trips and issues its own „Biuletyn“. It co-operates with the same organisations in the country and abroad. From among the Polish organisations Stowarzyszenie Elektrotechników Polskich w Gliwiciach and SEPG in Bielsko-Biala play the main role.

In addition to the above associations it is necessary to mention one which is not a member of the Congress of the Poles, i.e. Stowarzyszenie Elektrotechników Polskich.

In addition to civil associations there is one beneficiary association **Klub Kultury** seated in Třinec. One of the largest activities of this association is the film festival „Těrlice Film Summer“. The 10th festival was held in September 2002. During its ten-year history more than 300 films have been put on. Another activity is „Zloty Rajd“ (Golden March) for the pupils of primary schools and „Melpomenki“, the show of theatre performances. Along with the Congress of the Poles the Club organises the rock festival „Zlot“.

### **2c) Priorities**

In spite of different points of view and political aims all Polish associations reached an agreement on these priorities of the Polish minority in new conditions after 1989:

- to preserve the ethnic identity and cultural inheritance of the Poles in the Czech Republic in the widest sense of the word (culture, art, traditions, education, young people 's upbringing, educational system);
- to create the common Polish representation for the communication with both Polish and Czech authorities;
- to change Zaolží into the „cultural bridge“ between Poland and the Czech Republic.

### **2d) Main planned annual activities of the minority 's organisations**

See above.

### **2e) The presentation of the minority 's organisations on the Internet**

The well-known are these pages: [www.polonica.cz](http://www.polonica.cz) (Congress of the Poles), [www.pzko.cz](http://www.pzko.cz) (PZKO), [www.arsmusica.cz](http://www.arsmusica.cz) (Ars Musica), [www.moucha](http://www.moucha) (the regional information server with references to the pages of organisations, schools, associations and ensembles), [oczechach.info](http://oczechach.info) and [opolsku.cz](http://opolsku.cz) (commercial pages - information service about Poland and the Czech Republic in Polish and Czech).

## **3. Conditions for the exercise of the rights of national minorities**

### **3a) Association**

Conditions are very good. There are no obstacles to association.

**3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (coo-peration with local and regional elected authorities and state adminsitration bodies, the representation of the minority in local and regional elected authorities and committees for national minorities in regions, statutory towns, communities etc.)**

The Polish minority has their representatives in local councils on the territory of Těšín Silesia, especially those of the political movement „Coexistentia“ and other political parties, and independent candidates. In 38 local councils more than 100 representatives are the members of the Polish minority. Committees for National Minorities in individual communities co-operate actively with Polish organisations. Nevertheless, it must be said that these Committees still look for the aims of their activity. Two representatives of the council of Moravian-Silesian region are the members of the Polish national minority. Even there the Committee for National Minorities was established. One member of the Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic has been working in the Commission of the council of the capital Prague for a long time. Within the Parliament of the Czech Republic the Polish minority has its representative in the Senate (2 senators - one of the Union of Freedom and one of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia). In the Chamber of deputies the Polish minority has one deputy (of the Union of Freedom) Nevertheless, these representatives are not the advocates of Polish interests in the right sense of the word because they defend the interests of their political party. At the parliamentary level there is no body which would guarantee the minorities regular participation in the solution of problems which relate to their rights. At the level of the government and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports there are

consultative bodies where the members of the Polish minority have their representatives (3 members in the Council and 1 member in consultative bodies of respective ministry).

### ***3c) The use of the minority 's language in private and public life***

In private life the members of the Polish minority use Polish (or Těšín dialect) without any inhibition and limitation. In public life and communication with authorities the atmosphere for the trouble-free use of mother tongue is not too favourable. This results from the absence of bilingual inscriptions on the authorities and public buildings on one hand and unwillingness of the clerks on the other.

### ***3d) The use of name and surname in the minority 's language***

Although Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths Act admits the use of names and surnames in Polish language, the authorities still tend to Czechicise them. Registry offices are slow in affirmative disposing the application for granting the certificate of birth with the applicant 's first name in his mother tongue (i.e. in the form in which it was registered in the register of birth).<sup>59)</sup> The only way is to apply for the change of the name which costs 1 000 crowns.

### ***3e) Education***

The Polish educational system in the Czech Republic is a part of the state one. In spite of strong assimilation pressures (in 1960 Polish schools were attended by 10 700 pupils while in 1989 by only 5 400 pupils) the system of Polish schools under Czech conditions is still unique. At the beginning of the school-year 2002/2003 this system consisted of 28 primary schools (16 incomplete ones), 1 grammar school and Polish classes at several secondary schools. In addition, there were 36 kindergartens there. In the school-year 2002/2003 primary schools with Polish as a teaching language were attended by about 3 500 pupils. Since 1 January 2003 this system has been undergoing evident changes. Every school had to become a legal person or - in case of small number of pupils - merge with another school into one legal person. Due to this reform which was implemented in the second half of 2002 almost all Polish kindergartens as separate subjects were liquidated (only 4 of 36 kindergartens remained separate while others merged with the nearest Polish or Czech school into one legal person). Even the number of schools with Polish as a teaching language decreased (only 20 of 28 schools remained separate). 6 small Polish schools merged with larger ones ( as their dislocated workplaces) and 2 schools (in Košariska and Ropice) had to merge into the Czech legal person. This led to the end of the independent Polish educational system. At variance with pro-European integration policy and European standards the state released itself from responsibility for the minority educational system and transferred it to communities which often suffer from the lack of finances for the operation of one school - to say nothing of two ones (i.e. Czech and Polish). Since 1 January 2003 law has not imposing upon neighbouring communities to compensate expenses on pupils of a new school. This measure omits the specific character of Těšín region where are both Czech schools and those with Polish as a teaching language. The teachers of schools with Polish as a teaching language in the Czech Republic are educated above all at the Ostrava university. Since 1995 their postgradual study, preparation of syllabuses, plans and textbooks, selection and translation of textbooks for Polish schools has been ensured by Pedagogical Centre for the Polish Minority Educational System in Český Těšín established by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. For keeping the existing position of the Polish educational system the participation and aid of the state is necessary. Because of the small number of pupils most of Polish schools have to apply for an exception from law with respect to the number of pupils in one class.

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<sup>59)</sup> See Note N.58.

### **3f) Cultural activities**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed.

### **3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the national minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting)**

Thanks to state grants 4 periodicals in Polish are issued, i.e. the every-other daily *Głos Ludu*, the fortnightly *Nasza Gazetka* and the monthlies *Zwrot* and *Kurier Polski*. In addition, the monthlies *Jutrzenka* and *Ogniwo* for pedagogical purposes and the fortnightly of war veterans *Wiarus* (without state subsidies) are published. Radio broadcasting in Polish language (15 minutes a day) is ensured by the Czech Radio Ostrava. The issue of the broadcasting of Polish programmes within the regional programmes of the Ostrava studio of the Czech Television is being discussed.

### **4) The manifestations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority**

The manifestations of intolerance and discrimination towards the Polish minority occur rarely. If any, they are the acts of individuals. For example there were some attempts to limit the long-term practice of the use of Czech and Polish languages in various institutions (the limitation of the use of Polish during liturgies).

### **5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities**

The most problematic legal regulation relating to the Polish minority is the provision § 29 of Act N. 128/2000 Coll. on Communities which charges the members of the community with asking for introducing the names of communities and buildings of state administration bodies in Polish by means of petitions. Such a provision is discriminating. In addition, it incites passions, sets on the Poles against the Czechs and the Czechs against the Poles and instigates creating the lists of the „burdensome“ members of the national minority. The proofs of this fact can be found in many articles in Czech newspapers.

Also the regulation of the minority educational system has negative impact. The establishment, cancellation and operation of primary schools falls fully within the competence of communities and the state releases itself from responsibility for minority schools. In addition, it does not provide the communities with financial contributions to covering the increased expenses on the operation of minority schools.

### **6. Problems in the minority 's life**

In the opinion of the Polish minority the most pressing issue is the superficial awareness of the graduates and students of Czech schools of the history of the Polish national minority in Těšín Silesia. Due to this ignorance the Poles are considered to be immigrants and exotic strangers who „eat Czech bread and sing Polish songs“. Most of the Poles have been pointing out this problem for many years. In the past it was not resolved and therefore it deepens more and more. The graduates of Czech schools do not carry away from their forms any positive picture of the Poles in the Czech Republic. The other big problem is the fact that the Moravian-Silesian region carries out a minority policy which is in contradiction with the minority policy of the government and central authorities. The minority feels it to be wrongdoing because it is not allowed to decide itself on its affairs. For example in case of a competitive bidding with respect to the function of a director of an educational facility it can not delegate its representative to the competitive commission as its legal member. A consultative vote in this commission is not satisfactory for the minority. Much ado results from the problem of permission to the graduates of Polish universities to execute the profession of a doctor in the Czech Republic. Since 1997 the Ministry of Health has been granting the permission to execute the doctor 's profession to a Czech citizen who graduated in Poland only after the validation of his diploma and so-called approbation exam which should „verify the compatibility and level of his education with respect to the requirements of

Czech health services.“ The members of the Polish minority with Czech citizenship consider the duty to pass this exam to be wrongdoing. They are convinced that this measure is the direct discrimination of doctors and the attempt to prevent from increasing the number of Polish intellectuals in Zaolží because the members of the Polish minority with Czech citizenship who ask for the permission to execute the doctor´s profession on the territory of the Czech Republic are evaluated in the same way as the foreigners from exotic countries who have nothing to do with the Czech Republic with the exception of their will to work. In the past similar problems related also to the graduates of Law Faculties. They had solved their problem before court and they succeeded.

**7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with public administration bodies etc.)**

Communication with some central authorities is good. Individual persons show their understanding and good will.

**7. The own evaluation of the minority´s position**

The Polish minority is very active in all fields, well organised and stimulated. As a minority society it requires certain conservatism for its development. From time to time this feature can seem fallaciously to be negative. The Poles are too engaged in their problems which they are not often able to solve by themselves. They expect the support of the Czech society but mostly in vain. The state does not facilitate their position at all.

## **6.6. ROMA MINORITY**

**1. The own estimation of the number of the members of the minority and its settlement**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed. The representative of the minority point out the fact that less and less people in the Czech Republic declare their membership in the Roma minority. This situation is alarming and it is expected that it will even get worse (see clause 4).

**2. The survey of organisations**

**2a) The types of organisations and their structure**

In principle the situation has not changed. Most of organisations have local character and their competence is limited (sometimes within one large family). There are only several organisations whose competence exceeds this framework, i.e. *Democratic Alliance of the Roma* in Valašské Meziříčí, *Dženno* in Prague, *Association of Regional Roma Representatives* in Rokycany and *Association of the Roma in Moravia* in Brno. The more and more Roma associations want to transform into beneficiary associations which have more opportunities (to provide services etc.).

**2b) Members**

In principle the situation has not changed. Only the association of young students *Athinganoi* and new associations of professionally successful young people (*Romea*) worth while mentioning.

**2c) Priorities**

The priority of every Roma association is to implement projects relating to the leisure of children and young people from disadvantaged environment. For the implementation of their aims they have to ensure a worker - for example a Roma consultant within municipal authorities, an activist or a student who deals in Roma problems - who would draw up the project and train the Roma members of civil associations in the field of the association´s

activities, management of property etc. Other priority is to establish community centers where the Roma could implement their activities. It is also necessary to ask elected authorities within municipal and regional authorities for the allocation of non-residential premises to Roma civil associations. A new positive trend starts to occur within Roma organisation. Roma centres (from time to time supported by local Roma communities) which have ever been focused on leisure activities like dance and singing now organise groups whose aim is to give additional training to Roma children and prepare them for school. Nevertheless, in the Roma environment such a preparation is problematic. Within the above activities they sometimes co-operate with the students of secondary schools and universities in a community or a town who then become qualified teachers of children attending similar educational facilities. The state should support this trend and enable to increase the number of such teachers. The additional training groups should focus on the preparation of selected Roma pupils for entrance examinations at secondary schools and universities. Other important foci of interest are sport, culture, social activities and the publication of Roma periodicals, i.e. not only those which get government subsidies (see below) but also those which are published by regional associations - for example *Nevo Dživipen* issued by the association of the same name in České Budějovice.

#### **2d) Main annual planned activities of the minority 's organisations**

See above. Step by step the popularity of International Day of the Roma (8 April) is increasing.

#### **2e) The presentation of the minority 's organisations on the Internet**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed; the only new address is [www.romea.cz](http://www.romea.cz) (the association of professionally successful young people). According to accessible information from non-profit organisations and parties in South-Bohemian region no organisation has its own internet pages. Information about these organisations are accessible on the internet addresses of municipal and metropolitan authorities. It will be necessary to convince these organisations that they should create their own internet pages.

### **3. Conditions for the exercise of the rights of national minorities**

#### **2a) Association**

There are no obstacles to association. Every individual or group can establish his/its association freely.

#### **3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with local and regional elected authorities and state administration bodies, the representation of the minority in local and regional elected authorities and committees for national minorities in regions, statutory towns, communities etc.)**

The members of the Roma minority have no representative in the Chamber of Deputies. At the central level of state administration 5 Roma employees work (2 in the Ministry of the Interior, 1 in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 1 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1 in the Ministry of Transport and Communications and 1 in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports).

In addition, the Roma have their representatives in the consultative bodies of the government:

- a) Government Council for the Affairs of the Roma Community. It has 26 members - 14 of them are the Roma who represent individual regions and 12 - representatives state administration (deputy ministers of key ministries); at the Council Office 3 Roma worked in 2002;
- b) Government Council for National Minorities. The Roma minority is represented there by 3 members; one Roma works in the secretariat of the Council.

At every Regional Authority a new function of Roma co-ordinator of Roma consultants was established. Empowered Local Authorities dispose of specialists, pedagogical assistants and fieldworkers. The number of persons who deal in Roma problems is not still sufficient. After parliamentary elections in 2002 no Roma represents its minority in Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic (Monika Michaličková, the deputy of the Union of Freedom, did not candidate once more).

### ***3c) The use of the minority 's language in private an public life***

Roma language is more and more driven out as a mother tongue and replaced by „Czech“ which has insufficiencies both in vocabulary and grammar. The fact that the Roma leave their language is often connected with the attempt to get rid of the bonds with Roma civilisation („romipen“) because of social atmosphere - i.e. aversion to the Roma - that is hardly born even by those who put up with their ethnicity and that forces them to disown - either partly or totally - their Roma origin.

Driving Roma language out is facilitated also by the fact that the Roma come into touch with their mother tongue only in their households. This problem relates especially to young people: they do not hear Roma language from the television and if they hear it from the radio, it happens very exceptionally. Roma language is not used at school and both Roma and other pupils come to know nothing of the Roma culture. On the other hand, it is possible to meet Roma students of secondary schools and universities who do not speak Roma but they want learn it and revive their bonds with the Roma civilisation. Nevertheless, the chance that their dream will come true is still minimal. It is not difficult to explain why such a tendency is typical of the students of secondary - and not primary - schools: the awareness of own identity always results from the higher level of education which provides not only knowledge but also necessary self-confidence. The Roma pupils of primary schools should have the opportunity to cultivate their language and acquire its written form because at home they can not do it. Nevertheless, the optional teaching of Roma at primary and secondary schools as well as at universities is today almost impossible because of the lack of Roma scholars, i.e. people capable to teach Roma language at the professional level. In this situation the young Roma who would like to revive their bonds with the Roma civilisation remain in the half of their way. The first step towards the realisation of this aim consists in increasing the number od students of Roma studies not only in Prague but also at other universities. Although the representatives of universities have good will, there is still the lack of experts who would be able to teach this branch of study.

In the worst situation are children whose parents do not speak Roma at home but bad Czech. Most of Roma families living on the territory of the Czech Republic speak their „mother“ tongue, especially Slovak (with East-Slovak accent). Recent development in Bohemia is more favourable to the second alternative: Roma language will survive as the language of beautiful stories, songs, folklore and solemn occasions when the Roma will converse with one another in order to express ritually their national identity. Normally - even at home - they will speak the language of the majority and during international meetings they will speak English.

When Lady-Minister of Education, Youth and Sports Petra Buzková appreciated along with other pedagogues also Milena Hübschmannová, the Roma scholar, and Eva Davidová, the well-known ethnographer, it was the expression of respect for Roma language. In addition, the appreciation of ethnographer Eva Davidová by the Minister of Culture can be considered a very positive signal. Nevertheless, the most valuable of all honours is the Order of Merits granted to Milena Hübschmannová and ing. Karel Holomek by president Václav Havel.

### ***3d) The use of name and surname in the minority 's language***

Roma surnames are still preserved but there are some people (in mixed families) who have their surnames changed according to those of their partners from the majority society. Also most current Roma names are still used, but young parents tend more and more to give their children modern ones taken over from Sweden and England or well-known world film stars.

### **3e) Education**

Education has the principal importance for the Roma community. Most of problems, especially social ones, result directly from the low level of education. It is difficult for many Roma children to stand up to the Czech educational system. When they start to attend school in the age of six they have not social, motoric and language skills needed for the entrance at the first grade of primary school. Many Roma children do not speak Czech at home and therefore they do not master it. It means that they do not know the Czech culture and lifestyle and land themselves in troubles, if they want to stand up to the majority of Czech pupils in their class.

Many of these children live in troublesome families suffering from long-term unemployment and financial and social difficulties. Due to this fact the large portion of such families do not trust in the Czech society including schools. They have no motivation to initiate and support the education of their children. That is why relatively many Roma children have not chance to enter the first grade of primary school. If so, they are expelled during the first school-year. In these cases they can be transferred to a „preparatory class“ where the lessons run in small groups consisting of both Roma and Czech children with the postponement of the attendance at school, learning problems and psychical insufficiencies.

The aim of preparatory classes is to prepare pupils during one year for the entrance at the first grade of normal primary school. Nevertheless, only few Roma parents send their five-year or six-year children to preparatory classes. This unwillingness has several reasons.

- Roma parents do not feel that education is important for their children;
- it seems that there is a financial barrier which has negative impact (for example paying dinners, teaching aids, school-fees etc.);
- other barrier consists in the lifestyle of unemployed families. The parents have adopted the changed all-day rhythm and unwillingness to perform any obligation. They are not able to prepare children for school, go and see whether they washed, dressed and took their breakfast and send or accompany them to school. Nevertheless, the problem relates also to children themselves, because they are older than six years and attendance at school is compulsory for them. Absence and cutting lessons are issues to which attention must be paid.

The representatives of the Roma community feel that this is one of issues that has the strongest impact on their position in our country. If the society accepts the fact that most of Roma children enter the first grade of school with the ignorance of language and social (not mental) handicap, it will attempt at the solution of this problem adequately and effectively. One of the solutions this problem is to take advantage of the function of a Roma pedagogical assistant at classes with Roma pupils. At first it is necessary to consider whether such a pedagogue is qualified enough to educate children of the Roma minority. When preparing himself for his profession he does not get in touch with basic information about the Roma culture, history etc. It must be difficult for him to approach Roma pupils at his class. From the very beginning he should prevent from the intolerant responses of other pupils and explain less evident differences between both groups. Unfortunately, teaching at a primary school does not enable to give children objective information about the Roma culture which would allow them the correct insight into the complex problem of the co-existence of the Roma with the majority society and their integration. Information about the Roma culture is absent also

in textbooks for primary schools. Certain progress in the thought of students can be registered at secondary schools for which the organisation *Man in Need* drew up the manual of intercultural upbringing. This manual includes the separate publication „Chapters of the History of the Roma“. The question is whether and how this manual is utilised.

It is a pity that the time for forming future points of view - i.e. the time of attendance at primary school - based upon intercultural upbringing has been wasted. School is still a hostile environment for many Roma. The Roma scholars know that the success of a Roma child at school necessitates friendly personal communication between school (teacher) and family. Without such a communication failures will continue and there will be no chance to change existing situation. Such a change necessitates much more energy and work of teachers but under existing conditions it is not possible to fulfil this task. Nevertheless, more effective variant of taking the load off a teacher´s back than his co-operation with a Roma assistant has not been found yet.

It is evident that certain educational role is played also by some Roma media, especially magazines. In addition, the foundations *New School* and *Vudud* can be helpful. Unfortunately, information about the Roma and other minorities has not been included in the curricula of history, music education, literature etc.<sup>60)</sup>

### **3f) Cultural activities**

The Roma culture is characterised by songs, poems, fairy tales, music, dance, plastic arts and so-called pseudoculture.

There are many poets, writers and musicians among the Roma. They have been working on the top of so-called Roma representative culture for many years. The Roma are traditionally imbued with music and dance. Every Roma is a musician! Although this slogan is not valid absolutely, distinctive and often outstanding music is indoubtedly one of the best contributions of the Roma culture and the traditional corner-stone of the identity of the Roma. The Roma are still perfect professional musicians. Although some of their bands are unique they are not commercially successful and remain „dumb“ with respect to mass media. It is good that at least the tradition of handicrafts, literature etc. has been preserved.

### **3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the national minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting, Internet etc.)**

4 Roma periodicals - partly in Roma language - i.e. *Amaro gendalos*, *Kereka*, *Romano Kurko* and *Romano Hangos* have been published.. In addition, the project for the publication of the magazine *Romano Vodi* was submitted in 2003. Some of those who implement the minority press projects have problems with accountancy and operation. This year a new programme of grants will be announced.

Programmes in Roma (*Roma vakeren*) still have their broadcasting time in the Czech Radio. Thanks to the civil association *Dženo* the first Roma internet radio in the Czech Republic was established under the title *Radio Rota International*. The attractive programme in Roma, Czech and English gives the listeners all over the world new information about world events, the Roma, Roma music hit-parades etc.

As to the Czech Television, it is possible to rebuke it for the absence of any programme in Roma and documents relating to the Roma culture. The best programme of this kind was the previous cycle „Children of the Moment“ (1999) which in 20-minute sequences provided

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<sup>60)</sup> It is worth asking some young Roma to elaborate interesting projects and submit them for approval. The most modern technologies - CDs etc. - should be utilised. One of these projects is being elaborated by the association ROMEA headed by Jarmila Balážová.

documents of high artistic quality on various features of „romipen“ and cultural themes. The Roma can take part only in such discussion programmes of the Czech Television which relate directly to respective Roma issue. The Roma themselves consider this to be a mistake. If they are really an integral part of the society as a whole, why can not they participate in any TV programme which does not deal in Roma problems? The existing situation proves that the society still does not respect them. Are the employees of the Czech television more than ordinary citizens of this state? On the other hand, there are still few programmes which deal in this delicate and actual question on professional and constructive basis (i.e. the solution of concrete problems). The public opinion research shows that the majority society considers co-existence with the Roma to be one of the largest problems. Nevertheless, it seems from TV screen as if this problem is negligible.

The representatives of the minority appreciate opening the shop *Romen* in Prague and organising *Khamoro Roma World Festival*. In the opinion of some people the government subsidies and grants of individual ministries are diffused to no avail in many small festivals instead of the support of long-term projects. In the opinion of others regional cultural activities are necessary because they are accessible to the Roma anywhere out of Prague. The only festival can not contribute to the preservation of the Roma culture in all regions of the Czech Republic.

#### ***4. The manifestations of intolerance and discriminations towards the minority***

The Roma are more and more afraid of the acknowledgement of their origin because it is an obstacle for them. This fact can be proved by the exemplary case of one Roma woman in Hradec Králové whose potential employer mentioned in a Labour Agency form that he refused to admit her to work because of her Roma ethnicity. This case was presented in mass media and the woman has chance to succeed before court.<sup>61)</sup> Nevertheless, her case is a normal thing experienced by many Roma.

Efforts exerted on preventing from continual verbal and physical attacks against the Roma are still vain. In addition, young Roma are still kept out of discothèques, clubs etc. This fact humiliates young Roma and leads them to set themselves up as the members of other ethnicities.<sup>62)</sup> The first steps to the solution of this problem have been made in co-operation with civil initiatives in the Czech Republic: the problems of the refusal of service in restaurants, offences, ordering out of public places, infringement of Act on the Protection of a Consumer etc. are being solved. Unfortunately, the number of the cases physical racism (attacks, deaths etc.) does not decrease.

#### ***5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities***

In the opinion of the Roma - and especially their consultants - the reform of public administration was not efficient because the number of Roma employees dealing in this problem decreased. The function of a Roma assistant and consultant still is not registered in catalogues of jobs in Labour Agencies.

The application of law in the course of sanctioning the various manifestations of racism is not sufficient. In addition, there is no law on the liquidation of all forms of discrimination. Since 1993 the problem of employment and housing of the Roma in the Czech Republic has not been solved. Young Roma families have no chance to buy a house or a flat. This necessitates the extensive support and activity of the Roma non-profit organisations.

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<sup>61)</sup> It would be useful to initiate the establishment of a group which would deal in mapping similar cases, act as a „testing“ team and collect evidentiary facts.

<sup>62)</sup> It is worth considering to engage important Roma and other personalities to participate in organising the campaign against racism and motivate other Roma. In addition, their example could be a positive signal for the majority society.

It is necessary to speed up the preparations and negotiations of Anti-discrimination Act (which is one of the preconditions for the admission of the Czech Republic to EU). Up till now its legislative preparation has not started.<sup>63)</sup> This Act would determine that during the investigation of possible discrimination a burden of proof is on an accused person and not on a victim.

Act on the Rights of National Minorities is formal and insufficient because it does not enable the access of the representatives of national minorities to local and regional elected authorities. Committees for National Minorities consist of the elected representatives of local and regional authorities who need not be the members of these minorities.

In most of cases the Czech Commercial Inspection is not able to punish those who discriminate the Roma (in services and public institutions) including the owners of premises. Even if a wrongful act is repeated, an offender's Trade Permit Certificate is not usually seized. In addition, it is not possible to enter a lawsuit for a harm to dignity. Due to this fact it stands to reason that young Roma break themselves of a habit to visit other than Roma restaurants and clubs. Thus their traditional isolation is becoming deeper and deeper.

The problem of social isolation of the Roma is solved neither by the above steps nor by evicting the troublesome Roma tenants from state flats to slums. This practice is more and more frequent in our country. Deteriorated housing conditions affect above all „troublesome“ Roma children whose successful start to life is jeopardised. On the other hand, the rest of the society does not profit from the eviction of troublesome Roma to slums at all - on the contrary, soon it will face another - and even larger - problem. It is necessary to fall thinking of this situation and prevent from similar trends.

Another insufficiency which can be removed is the fact that both state and municipal policemen are not educated in the field of intercultural issues. The aversion of policemen to the Roma is evident. If this aversion is to be removed in the whole society, it will be necessary to pay special attention to policemen.

Another problem consists in the indolence of the society over the situation of all minorities in our country. Such a phenomenon shows something insane in our society. Due to it this theme should be continuously and reasonably discussed in the state television within the main programme schedule and in appropriate broadcasting times.

#### ***6. Problems in the minority's life***

Large unemployment results in the poverty of the Roma inhabitants. The government of the Czech Republic should elaborate certain programme (conception) for removing the threat of unemployment. In the field of education it is necessary to convince the Roma inhabitants on the importance of self-education and pay attention to the education of children and young people. Educational process should start in the pre-school age of a child by means of his placing in kindergartens and pre-school classes which are available in almost every town in the Czech Republic. The largest problem of the Roma community is housing. The lack of finances for paying rentals and services causes the Roma many problems with keeping families together. Young families should attempt at obtaining own flats (by means of building save, mortgages, loans etc.).

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<sup>63)</sup> The remark of the sponsor of a bill: in accordance with the legislative plan of the government the bill on the ensurance of equal treatment and protection against discrimination is to be submitted until 30 March 2003 (the interdepartmental circulation of a draft bill for comments ended on 14 March 2003). The bill reduced to sections will be submitted to the government until 31 August 2003.

Another problem is racism. It is necessary to liquidate all extremistic organisations, prevent from their demonstrations and attacks against all citizens regardless their race and points of view, liquidate so-called latent racism against other citizens and adapt the thought of people to the conditions of a multicultural society before the admission of the Czech Republic to EU. Nevertheless, according to some people the liquidation of extremistic organisations does not solve the problem. Thus the society does not get rid of extremists. The only result is their change-over to illegality where they will go on harming. In addition, their well-wishers would consider them to be „heroes“. It is necessary to have these organisations under control and therefore it is recommended to permit their demonstrations during which they will be under surveillance of arms of the law. This variant is better than their conspirations.

#### ***7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with public administration bodies etc.)***

Since 1990 the solution of Roma problems has been progressing. Many Roma study at secondary schools and universities and their number increases continuously. More and more young people are interested in their contribution to common efforts in this field. The attitude of the state towards the Roma starts to be open and there is a chance that the problems will be really solved. It is necessary to appreciate the approved new conception of the intergration of the Roma community into the society and the realisation of various programmes of the government of the Czech Republic concernig this issue (for example Programme of the Support of Roma Students of Secondary Schools and Universities, fieldwork programmes, introduction of 14 coordinators into Regional Authorities all over the Czech Republic, preparatory classes, support to the non-profit sector, the continuous implementation of the pilot programme concerning the admission of the members of national minorities to the function of the employees of the Police of the Czech Republic and Roma pedagogical assistants etc.). Many procedures are still slow and co-ordinated insufficiently.

#### ***8. The own evaluation of the minority´s position***

Many indices are better but much more of them necessitate their improvement.

### ***6.7. RUTHENIAN MINORITY***

#### ***1. The own estimation of the numner of the members of the minority and its settlement***

The qualified estimation is very difficult because the number of the Ruthenians in the Czech Republic is very variable (even from the historical point of view). Hardly any ethnicity was affected by such an official liquidation of its „name“. It happened to the Ruthenians after Worls War II when the territory of Sub-Carpathian Ukraine was annexed by the USSR. While according to the census in 2001 1 106 Ruthenians live in the Czech Republic, in fact this number is much higher. It results from the fact that the Ruthenian ethnicity was officially „abolished“ and its members in the whole „Eastern block“ had to accept either Ukrainian or Czech/ Slovak citizenship. Although it is proved that after the annexation of Sub-Carpathian Ukraine to the USSR many Ruthenians decided to resettle to Czechoslovakia, during following years they had to put up with the fact that their ethnicity in fact did not exist. It is understandable that they preferred either Czech or Slovak ethnicity over the Ukrainian one (census-papers did not include the column „Ruthenian“).

These people - and their descendats - gradually assimilated or during the communist era resided from their origin and lost any motivation and need to identify themselves with an ethnicity to which they have ever belonged. This situation more or less survives even now.

Nevertheless, many Ruthenians have been resettling to the Czech Republic from Slovakia and Romania (these people live now in the northern regions of the Czech Republic).

In addition, many persons from Sub-Carpathia who - within occasional „non-official communication“ - declared their membership in the Ruthenian minority have been living and working in the Czech Republic for a long time (although their number is difficult to estimate).

The settlement of the Ruthenians in the Czech Republic is dispersed. Most of them live in Prague, Northern Bohemia and Northern Moravia and some of them in Central and Southern Moravia.

The relatively reliable „indicator“ of the number of the Ruthenians is the Roman Catholic or Orthodox church and their liturgies and pilgrimages in which many believers of church communities from all regions of the Czech Republic take part.

## **2. The survey of organisations**

### **2a) The types of organisations and their structure**

*Association of the Friends of Sub-Carpathian Ukraine* (AFSU) with its Ruthenian section was founded in 1990. By its original name it followed up with the similar organisation working in the Czechoslovak Republic before World War II. AFSU associates both the members of the Ruthenian minority and the Czech well-wishers of Sub-Carpathian region, its natives and people who are interested in the history, present and nature of Sub-Carpathia and tourism on its territory. AFSU is a member of *World Organisation of the Ruthenians* and has representatives in its supreme body, i.e. *World Council of the Ruthenians*. It has its branches in Brno, Jindřichův Hradec and Český Těšín. Every year it organises its regular general meeting which evaluates the activities of the previous period, approves the action programme and elects the Executive Committee.

Other organisation is *Obščestvo Rusinov* which associates the Ruthenians on the territory of the Czech Republic.<sup>64)</sup>

### **2b) Members**

AFSU has now 902 members and tens of non-organised well-wishers (for example the subscribers of its magazine). Totally it has about 1000 members and well-wishers.

In addition, the organisation has members abroad. They participate in its activities inter alia by articles in the magazine *Podkarpatská Rus* (Sub-Carpathian Ukraine), lectures organised by the National Museum and donations (mostly for the humanitarian aid to the Ruthenians in Sub-Carpathian Ukraine).

### **2c) Priorities**

The main priorities are the restoration and development of the Ruthenian identity, the support of activities in the country and abroad, the cognition and study of the history and actual problems of the Ruthenians, cultural, educational and editorial activities, the support of cognitive and touristic trips across Sub-Carpathian Ukraine and co-operation with the organisations of Ruthenian national minorities in Slovakia, Hungary, Sub-Carpathian Ukraine, Poland, U.S.A. and Canada. Further priorities are the collection of documents, photographs and artifacts from their history of the Ruthenians (several years ago an agreement was concluded with Department of Modern History of the National Museum in Prague which aids in the collection and registration of the above documents), the increase of the number of the members of AFSU (including non-organised persons who are interested in the activity of

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<sup>64)</sup> AFSU has no concrete information about the real number of the members of *Obščestvo Rusinov*. Nevertheless, it co-operates with this organisation, inter alia the preparation of the common exhibition on Ruthenians in 2003.

this organisation) recruited from the members of the Ruthenian minority, and the more active participation of young people in the organisation 's activities.

#### **2d) Main planned annual activities of the minority 's organisation**

Educational and editorial activities are being preferred. Other priorities are lectures and informal meetings and co-operation with other organisations (National Museum, Masaryk Democratic Movement, cultural institutions) in organising lectures and exhibitions, especially the exhibitions of photographs (for example the travelling exhibition of snaps by photographer Rudolf Štursa in Sub-Carpathian Ukraine; this exhibition succeeded in many towns in the Czech Republic including Brno and Prague and interest in it has not fallen off up till now. Other exhibitions were - and will be - held in Jindřichův Hradec, Nové Strašecí, Mělník and many other localities of the Czech Republic). AFSU issues the series *Podkarpatská Rus* which include many scientific studies, memorial volumes, documents, historical and politological studies and even belles lettres (within the edition *Verchovina*). Six times a year the magazine *Podkarpatská Rus* is issued, since 2003 partly in Ruthenian language. Along with other Ruthenian organisations in Trans-Carpatian region AFSU issues Czech-Ruthenian Calendar. In 2002 the bust of president T.G.Masaryk made by sculptor Josef Vaice was unveiled in Užhorod in co-operation with these organisations (especially Club of T.G.Masaryk) and in the presence of Petr Pithart, the Chairman of the Senate of the Czech Republic, and other politicians. AFSU supports organising cognitive and touristic trips to Sub-Carpathian Ukraine (organised by the travel „miniagency“ within SPPR Sub-Carpatia - about 10 trips a year). For several seasons the trips have been complicated by introducing the duty of visas with Ukraine. In spite of this fact the trips are still organised.

#### **2e) The presentation of the minority 's organisations on the Internet**

The internet pages of these organisations are being created.

### **3. Conditions for the exercise of the rights of national minorities**

#### **3a) Association**

As mentioned above, the members of the Ruthenian national minority live dispersed on the whole territory of the Czech Republic. They keep up mutual contacts by means of regular general meetings of AFSU, meetings and informal meetings organised by its branches as well as cultural and social activities (for example regular meetings in the café *Lávka*). An important platform for discussions and mutual communication is a magazine. The members of the Ruthenian minority communicate by means of churches (the Greek-Catholic church with which the organisation maintain contacts but which have to be strenghtened and also the Orthodox one with which the contacts are being established).

#### **3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with local and regional elected authorities and state administration bodies, the representation of the minority in local and regional elected authorities and committees for national minorities in regions, statutory towns, communities etc.)**

The minority co-operates with Government Council for National Minorities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Foreign Institute, Prague and Brno Metropolitan Authorities and elected authorities of other towns (for example Karviná).

#### **3c) The use of the minority 's language in private and public life**

Because of the small number of the Ruthenians living on the territory of the Czech Republic there is no problem; the bilingual *Czech-Ruthenian Calendar* has been published for several years.

#### **3d) The use of name and surname in the minority 's language**

This item is not specified.

#### **3e) Education**

The cycles of lectures about the history and present of the Ruthenians, the territory on which they lived (live) and the actual issues of Sub-Carpathian Ukraine have been organised for several years. In co-operation with Department of Modern History of the National Museum a similar project is being elaborated. Some activities (informal meetings, lectures) within *Masaryk Democratic Movement* and the publications of the edition *Podkarpatská Rus* as well as the lectures and editorial activities of the representatives of AFSU in the mass media and on the occasion of cultural and educational activities have educational character.

### **3f) Cultural activities**

See above 2c) and 2d).

### **3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the national minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting, Internet etc.)**

See above 3c).

### **4. The manifestations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority**

The members of the Ruthenian minority have no experience with the manifestations of intolerance or discrimination. In the Czech majority society they meet with good will, understanding, support and aid, if needed. This fact can be proved by the spontaneous response to appeals for humanitarian aid (for example in case of floods and landslip in Sub-Carpathian Ukraine several years ago). Such a sympathy results inter alia from the awareness of the fact that thousands of the Ruthenians fought bravely in the Czech troops during World War II.

As to the attitude of the representatives of official organisations, AFSU meets with understanding and support. It is worth while mentioning that on the occasion of unveiling the bust of T.G.Masaryk several Czech politicians came to Užhorod. This mutual respect is intensified also by the fact that the Ruthenians in Sub-Carpathian Ukraine take up a realistic - not a romantic - attitude towards their history, present and especially future. It is also remarkable that the awareness of the membership in the Czech society prevents the Ruthenians from any contact with mafias from former Soviet Union.

### **5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities**

This item is not specified.

### **6. Problems in the minority's life**

Recently the Czech party entered into contact with the Embassy of Ukraine and some organisations which associate the members of the Ukrainian national minority. The edges of mutual relations which sometimes had occurred were brushed up, inter alia thanks to favourable atmosphere in Government Council for National Minorities. It is possible to believe that in the early future useful co-operation with the Ukrainians will be established.

### **7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with public administration bodies etc.)**

In addition to the activity of Government Council for National Minorities it is possible to mention also the activity of Commission for National Minorities in Prague Metropolitan Authority and interest of Brno authorities in the work of the local branch of AFSU.

### **8. The own evaluation of the minority's position.**

It is evident from the above facts that the Ruthenian national minority in the Czech Republic is not numerous. Although their position in the society corresponds it, the Ruthenians could be more active in all respects. A lot of artists of Ruthenian origin (according to the family tree of one of both parents) play an important role in the cultural life of the Czech Republic (for example guitar player Štěpán Rak, painter Jiří Sopko, film and theatre director Ladislav

Smoljak etc.) When queried by newspapermen during interviews they willingly acknowledge their origin but in public they scarcely ever act as the members of the Ruthenian ethnicity. This fact does not relate to VIPs only. What a pity that the Ruthenians living in the Czech Republic neither feel pride in their ethnicity nor put it over in cultural and other fields.

## **6.8. RUSSIAN MINORITY**

### **1. The own estimation of the number of the members of the minority and its settlement**

The estimation oscillates between 16 - 20 000 persons; the exact calculation is difficult for many reasons.<sup>65)</sup> Most of Russian-speaking emigrants do not feel the need to acknowledge their ethnicity, inter alia because both in Russian Empire and Soviet Union the ethnic groups mixed within the culture presented in Russian language. The Russians are settled on the whole territory of the Czech Republic. Most of them live in Prague, Karlovy Vary, Brno and other larger towns.

### **2. The survey of organisations**

#### **2a) The types of organisations and their structure**

Most of organisations are civil associations (*Russian Tradition, Russian Institute, Russian Občina, Očag*). Some associations are informal and unregistered.

#### **2b) Members**

The estimation of registered members is about 3 000 persons.

#### **2c) Priorities**

Priorities vary according to the activity of individual organisations. All these organisations attempt at good relations and better mutual understanding with the majority society as well as good mutual relations and confidence among individual groups of Russian-speaking emigrants which differ one another by the motives of emigration, living experience and culture, mutual cultural enrichment, interest in good and useful relations between the Czech Republic and their mother country and the admission of the Czech republic to EU which promises economic prosperity and access to other cultures.

#### **2d) Main plannes anual activities of the minority ´s organisations**

Such activities are meetings on the occasion of important festivals, cultural programmes (concerts of classical music, the presentation of prose and poetry by Russian authors, exhibitions of plastic arts etc.) and the issue of periodicals and works of local authors in Russian language.

#### **2e) The presentation of the minority ´s organisations on Internet**

In 2002 the web pages of Association of Russian-language Students ARTEK and Russian Institute were cancelled for financial reasons. Other web pages are utilised on the commercial basis, i.e. [www.i-ru.cz](http://www.i-ru.cz), [www.gazeta.cz](http://www.gazeta.cz), [www.prahaclub.cz](http://www.prahaclub.cz), [www.delparga.cz](http://www.delparga.cz) etc. Some of them are the platform for discussion fora and the communication of the non-organised members of the minority. Because of the increasing importance of this medium the organisations associated within the editorial board of „Russian Word“ prepare opening common multilingual web pages.

### **3. Conditions for the exercise of the rights of national minorities**

#### **3a) Association**

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<sup>65)</sup> According to final results of the census in 2001 their number is 12 369 persons (see Appendix N. 7).

The biggest obstacle to the association of the members of the Russian national minority is the lack of finances and the absence of appropriate premises for libraries, videothèques, phonothèques and archives, organising social and cultural activities and work with young people for the purposes of deepening the knowledge of the Czech history, nationalhood, culture and social habits as well as following up with the cultural traditions of Russia broken by Bolshevik coup d'état.

The Russian minority has been traditionally associated more within the Orthodox church than in civil associations. It is a paradox that the Orthodox church is the only church in Bohemia where the number of believers has been increasing. Nowadays it is estimated to be about 100 000 persons. This church unites in Bohemia both the Russian and the Ukrainian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Greek, Serbian, Ruthenian and other minorities (in 10 last years other churches have registered the decrease of the number of their believers by 30 - 50%).

The Orthodox church in Bohemia at the head of freeman Christoph, the Prague archbishop, pays considerable attention to work with new immigrants and young people and makes them familiar with the moral and ethical values of the Christian civilisation and democratic society. The increasing number of people who are interested in Christianity causes that most of them can not get into the temples and often have to stand in front of them in every weather. The lack of premises prevents from organising informal meetings, Sunday classes etc. The Orthodox church owned before the War a piece of land in Maria Square in Prague 1 for building the cathedral. On the basis of agreement with the Metropolitan Authority it provided this land to the town for building the new Town Hall. The Metropolitan Authority promised in the above agreement to allocate to the Orthodox church a new piece of land as soon as building the cathedral is possible. Due to political development it is topical just now but the Metropolitan Authority does not feel to be bound by the agreement from the twenties of the last century. Unfortunately, during negotiations on the purchase of an appropriate piece of land the commercial interests of entrepreneurs are preferred. This step is considered to be short-sighted, inter alia because of the contemporary increase of the criminality and drug-dependence of young people. In addition, the criminality of the citizens of the former Soviet Union is increasing as well. These people arrive in the Czech Republic to look for job, but they live here in terrible conditions and social isolation and therefore they are often misused by criminals. The Orthodox church has sufficient experience, interest and will to deal in these problems and prevent them. That is why the people who come from the former Soviet Union and find themselves in a difficult situation take shelter at it. Nevertheless, without appropriate premises and technical equipment which would be a part of the new cathedral it is not possible to ensure effective aid and prevention. In the opinion of the members of the Russian minority the solution of this problem enables to solve burdensome problems of both this minority and the Czech Republic with minimal expenses and their prompt returnability.

***3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with local and regional elected authorities and state administration bodies, the representation of the minority in local and regional elected authorities and committees for national minorities in regions, statutory towns, communities etc.)***

The chairman of the civil association *Russian Tradition* works as a member of the Commission of the Council of the Capital Prague for National Minorities. In other communities such a participation relates to the solution of individual problems and organising individual activities.

***3c) The use of the minority's language in private and public life***

In the private life of the minority Russian language is utilised to the large extent, even during communication with the Russian diaspora all over the world. In the public life all members of the Russian minority attempt at learning and speaking Czech as soon as possible.

Nevertheless, the similar character of both languages allures to omitting literary Czech and consequently leads to mistaking the terms and misunderstandings which complicate communication with authorities. It depends exclusively on the willingness of clerks or policemen whether a misunderstanding does not change into a conflict. That is why the Russian minority wants to remove these complications by means of seminars on mutual adaptability for which it wants to gain the financial support of the state.

### **3d) *The use of name and surname in the minority 's language***

Complications occur especially in the transcription of women 's surnames to Czech - but this is not the problem only of the Russian minority.

### **3e) *Education***

In the Czech Republic there is several secondary schools and universities with Russian as a teaching language. Lessons are usually paid and therefore it is not accessible to all social strata of the minority. The representative of *Russian Institute* negotiates with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on the establishment of a grammar school with extended lessons of Russian language.. In our opinion this problem could be solved with the increasing demand for the teaching of Russian language motivated by the economic interest of Czech and foreign companies in expansion to Russian markets.

### **3f) *Cultural activities***

In 2002 the civil association *Russian Tradition* succeeded in gaining the financial support of the Metropolitan Authority to several successful projects, i.e. the publication of books mapping the destiny of the Russian emigrants, the series of concerts of classical music under the title „Mutual Permeation and Enrichment of Czech and Russian Music in 19th and 20th Centuries“, creating the editorial board and preparing the publication of *Russian Word*, the magazine serving as a source of information and unification of the Russian diaspora and its organisations. The above association organises meetings which usually include concerts, the presentation of books by Prague Russian-speaking authors, music and poetry programmes etc. The limiting factor of these activities is the lack of appropriate and cheap premises in Prague. This problem should be partially solved by building the House of National Minorities in Prague.

### **3g) *The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the the national minorities (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting, Internet etc.)***

Many commercial periodicals which deal also in the issues of the minority 's life, adaptability and culture, are published in Russian language. The Czech Radio broadcasts the 30-minute programme in Russian language, while the Czech Television has the only programme intended for the Roma minority. In 2002 the civil association *Russian Institute* issued five-times the news magazine *Vesti*. As it did not comply with conditions for providing a grant from the State Budget, it had to interrupt this activity in the end of the year.

## **4. *The manifestations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority***

These problems are perceived sensitively especially by the young people. There are sporadic cases of discrimination when organisers refuse to allow the Ukrainians and Russians to enter discothèques. Much more serious problem is the behaviour of some members of the Foreign or Transport Police. Although these cases are sporadic, they are discussed inside the minority. The distrust of the objectivity of state administrative bodies leads to the fear of the affected people to witness and thus their cases can not be investigated. The first case when an affected person was ready to witness was registered in 2003. The minority evaluates negatively the behaviour of some policemen who should protect their compatriots working here in inhuman conditions and on the basis of an expensive work permit and drawing minimal wages from

extortioners and criminals. Instead of this the policemen themselves require bribes. For many people this is the first experience with western democracy.

#### ***5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public activities***

The large part of the members of the minority perceive the attitude of the majority society (and state administration bodies) towards the minority as a „tolerated evil“. This fact strenghtens the tendency to seclude themselves from the others and assume a reserved attitude both towards state administration bodies and those of the members of the minority who try to improve these relations.

#### ***6. Problems in the minority ´s life***

The problem is the diversity of opinions, scepticism and distrust resulting from previous historical experience. The emigrants who looked here for their asylum from political persecution and who tried to prevent by education from the communist putsch in Czechoslovakia were for these manifestations of loyalty with their new mother country punished in 1945 - 1946 either by illegal deportation to Gulags or execution. The dislike of the majority society to distinguish between victims and offenders was intensified with the Soviet occupation in 1968 and guilty conscience because of colaboration with occupants. In addition, the contemporary sensation-seeking mass media depicts the Russian minority as the community of criminals.

#### ***7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with public administration bodies etc.)***

The minority appreciates the steps of the Prague Metropolitan Authority, Pardubice Metropolitan Authority and the Ministry of Culture which provided financial support for the publication of the book *Prague and Russia out of Russia* by Mgr. I.P.Savickij and the series of concerts under the title „Mutual Permeation and Enrichment of Czech and Russian Music in 19th and 20th Centuries“, the promise of financial support for the publication of the periodical *Russian Word* in Russian language and providing premises for the social activities of the associations of the minority etc. Very good is co-operation with the radio station ČRO 7 - Radio Prague which supports its activities, *Czech Association of Russian Scholars* and a lot of Czech publicists. This co-operation helps better mutual knowledge of the minority and the majority. As soon as the financial situation allows, we would like to take advantage of this knowledge for organising seminars on mutual adaptability.

#### ***8. The own evaluation of the minority ´s position***

The position of the Russian national minority is far from satisfactory situation. The reasons are mentioned above. On the other hand it must be said that the situation since 2002 has been improving. The most important fact is that this trend continues and strenghtens thanks to the attitude of Government Council for National Minorities, Prague Metropolitan Authority and other state administration bodies and local and regional elected authorities. Some negative excesses of individuals are compensated by the friendly attitude of many VIPs of cultural, social and political life. Unfortunately, the support of the government of the Russian Federation to Russian-speaking minorities abroad is not still more than a statement. That is why the members of the minority appreciate any support provided by the government of the Czech republic and local elected authorities.

### **6.9 GREEK MINORITY**

*The representative of the Greek minority did not mention any new fact to clauses 2a), 2c) 2d), 3a), 4. and 8. which would differ from the text published in report on the Situation of national Minorities in the Czech republic in 2001.*

### **1. The own estimation of the members of the minority and its settlement**

The Greek community is settled on the territory of the whole Czech Republic. Most of the Greeks live in Moravian-Silesian region (Krnov, Ostrava, Šumperk, Jeseník, Třinec, Karviná, Bohumín, Havířov, Vrbno pod Pradědem, Albrechtice, Osoblaha, Dívčí Hrad, Rudoltice, Krásné Loučky, Staré Purkartice, Jindřichov, Zlaté Hory), South-Moravian region (Brno, Znojmo, Mikulov, Hevlín) and Prague. Separated families live in other localities (for example Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Hradec Králové, Jihlava, Vyškov, Olomouc, Strážnice).

All Greek organisations attempt at the long-term and systematic registration of the members of the Greek minority on the territory of the Czech Republic. Individual *Greek Communities* elaborate their own surveys of citizens. On the basis of mutual co-operation the total number of the members of the Greek minority is estimated to be about 5 000 persons.<sup>66)</sup>

#### ***The survey of organisations***

##### **2b) Members**

*Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic* has 775 members in 12 communities (Prague - 110 /not updated/, Krnov - 100 /not updated/, Ostrava - 87, Brno - 70, Šumperk - 69, Jeseník - 62, Třinec - 61 /not updated/, Krnov-city - 58, Karviná - 54, Bohumín - 50 /not updated/, Havířov - 36, Vrbno pod Pradědem - 18 /not updated/, *Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic* has 109 members, *Czech Society of Modern Greek Studies* has 50 members, *Society of the Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis* has 51 members (not updated) and *Club of the Friends of Greece* has 164 members.

##### **2c) The presentation of the minority 's organisations on Internet**

[www.dialogos-kpr.cz](http://www.dialogos-kpr.cz) (*Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic, Greek Community Prague, Club of the Friends of Greece*), [www.sweb.cz/hellenika](http://www.sweb.cz/hellenika) (*Hellenika Foundation Fund, Greek Minority Brno, Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic, Czech Association of Modern Greek Studies*), [www.rokm.aktualne.cz](http://www.rokm.aktualne.cz) (*Greek Community Ostrava*), <http://mujweb.cz/www/csspnk/index.htm> (*Association of the Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis*).

### **3. Conditions for the exercise of the rights of national minorities**

**3b) Participation in the solution of problems relating to the rights of minorities (co-operation with local and regional elected authorities and state administration bodies, the representation of the minority in local and regional elected authorities and committees for national minorities in regions, statutory towns, communities etc.)**

The Greek minority is represented in Government Council for National Minorities by one representative who is at the same time the member of the Committee of Government Council for National Minorities for co-operation with local and regional elected authorities. Since 2002 the minority has been represented also in the Committee of Government Council for National Minorities for grant policy, in the consultative body of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for the affairs of national minorities, in the consultative body of the Deputy Ministry of Culture for the affairs of minority culture and in the Media Commission of the Radio. The chairman of *Greek Community Prague* and one member of the board of directors are the members of Commission for National Minorities on the Territory of the Capital Prague of the Council of the Capital Prague. The chairman of *Greek Community Brno* is the member of the committee for National Minorities of the Brno Council, the member of *Greek Community Karviná* is the member of the Committee for National Minorities in Karviná. *Greek Community Jeseník* is represented in the Commission for the Solution of the Problems of National Minorities in the municipal authority Jeseník.

##### **3c) The use of the minority 's language in private and public life**

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<sup>66)</sup> According to the final results of the census in 2001 this number is 3 219 persons (see Appendix N. 7).

In private life Greek language is used individually according to its knowledge. In public life it is not used. The Ministry of Justice registers 21 interpreters in Modern Greek language.

**3d) The use of name and surname in the minority 's language**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed. The Greek minority insists on right to record women 's first names into registers in original form.

**3e) Education**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed. The teaching of Greek for pre-school children is organised also by *Greek Community Brno*.

**3f) Cultural activities**

The cultural activities of the Greek minority are very diversified and all organisations participate in them. The most important cultural festivals which enriched significantly the cultural life in the Czech Republic are the seventh Greek festival in Krnov (organised by *Greek Community Krnov-city* authorised by *Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic*), the fifth Greek days in Brno (*Greek Community Brno, Hellenika Foundation Fund, Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic, Czech Society of Modern Greek Studies* and *Institute of Classical Studies of Masaryk University Brno*), the first Festival of Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic (*Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic* with the support of *Hellenika Foundation Fund*). The organisers mediated their fellow-citizens not only Greek history but also its present, folk culture, films and gastronomy. They organised lectures of university pedagogues, informal meetongs with VIPs, performances of music and dance and theatre, exhibitions and folk costumes parades. all Greek communities prepare cultural and social programmes for the celebrations of legal holidays of the Greek Republic on 25 March and 28 October which culminate in the folk party with music and dance.

**3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the national minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, eadio and television broadcasting, Internet etc.)**

The reception of information in Greek language is considered necessary but very expensive and presently insufficient. *Greek Community Prague* issues the quarterly *Kalimera* supported by the Prague Metropolitan Authority. *Greek Community Brno* presents the summary of events in electronic form under the title *Mantaforos tou Brno*. Actual information can be obtained on www pages of *Greek Community Krnov-city*. The reception of the signal of the Greek satellite station EPT is individual. The television and radio boradcasting in Greek language is not ensured at all.

**5. Insufficiencis in legislation and the activity of public authorities**

Although the Greeks have been living on the territory of the Czech Republic for 55 years some our compatriots who have not Czech citizenship are registered as foreigners whose duty is to prolong regularly their residence. These fellow-citizens have problems during their study. In addition, they are not allowed to conclude employment contract for an indefinite period of time and have limited possibility to obtain a loan or a mortgage on a flat.

**6. Problems in the minority 's life**

The unresolved problem is still the settlement of the lease of non-residential premises for the activities of Greek organisations with the exception of Prague and Krnov.

**7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with public administration bodies etc.)**

Good-co-operation with the local elected authorities is appreciated by the representatives of *Greek Community Brno*; for example they mention co-operation in *Seventh Greek Festival in Krnov* in June 2002 during which a partnership agreement was concluded between Krnov

and Athens (Pefki) and Krnov provided non-residential premises for the activity of the local Greek community free of charge. In addition to the above community the only *Greek Community Jeseník* considers co-operation with public administration bodies to be good.

#### **6.10. SLOVAK MINORITY**

*The representatives of the Slovak minority in the Council did not mention - except clause 1 - any new fact which would differ from the text published in Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic 2001.*

##### **1. The own estimation of the number of the members of the minority and its settlement**

According to the final results of the census on 1 March 2001 193 190 members of the Slovak national minority live in the Czech Republic (according to the census 1991 - for the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic - their number was more than 314 000 persons). Most of the Slovaks live in Moravian-Silesian region (43 637), Ústí nad Labem region (22 214), Prague (19 275), South-Moravian region (16 029), Middle-Bohemian region (15 287) and Karlovy Vary region (14 079).

#### **6.11. UKRAINIAN MINORITY**

*The representative of the Ukrainian minority did not mention any new fact to clauses 1, 2d), 2e),3a),-3f), 5. and 8. which would differ from the text published in Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2001.*

##### **2. The survey of organisations**

###### **2a) The types of organisations and their structure**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed. *Association of Compatriots and Friends of Ukraine* was established before 2002. Their members are the citizens of Ukraine. In the future they want to focus their activities mostly on the groups of foreign workers.

###### **2b) Members**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed. *Association of Ukrainian Women* has 70 members, *Association of the Ukrainians and the Friends of Ukraine* has 150 members and *Forum of the Ukrainians* has 10 members.

###### **2c) Priorities**

The situation in comparison with 2001 has not changed. The minority still issues its periodical *Porohy*.

##### **3. Conditions for the exercise of the rights of national minorities**

###### **3e) Education**

Because of the dispersed settlement of the minority it is not possible to take advantage from the possibilities offered by the state, for example in the field of the primary educational system. The children of the compatriots attend *Ridna Škola* supported by *Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic (UICR)*. In 2002 the project received the grant from the fund of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

###### **3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the minority 's language (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting, Internet etc.)**

The situation has not changed. Unfortunately, the broadcasting of Regina Radio station in Ukrainian language was terminated after 10 years in 2002 probably because of the lack of interest of an operator in this programme. Almost all minorities in the Czech Republic feel that in fact they have not chance for access to regional radio broadcasting. Therefore the

possibility to broadcast for minorities - even short programmes out of the main „attractive“ broadcasting times - would be considered a break point.

#### ***4. The manifestations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority***

The community registers some manifestations of intolerance and xenophobia of certain groups towards the Ukrainian minority. Nevertheless, such manifestations can not be considered to be collective. On the other hand it is startling that the commercial television can broadcast an „amusing“ programme with jokes on the account of the Ukrainians (some „artists“ can - according to their own explanation of „artistic licence“ - even offend them).

#### ***6. Problems in the minority 's life***

At the end of the year a meeting of the representatives of Ukrainian organisations in the Czech Republic was called on the basis of the initiative of UICR. Although the meeting did not aimed at the unification of these organisations, it came to concrete results, i.e. the possibility to present all organisations on the pages of the periodical *Porohy*, removing the duplicity of some cultural activities, more frequent common presentations during these and other activities and the free move of the members of these organisations according to their interests. It can be expected that this agreement will contribute to the solution of some problems within organisations. It was stated during the meeting that it would be necessary to enter into contact with the Ruthenian community because of the need to remove „inherited“ discrepancies and co-operate.

#### ***7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with state administration bodies etc.)***

The Ukrainian minority has good experience with the co-operation with the Prague Metropolitan Authority, the Ministry of Culture and other institutions. In 2002 the PO supported the creation of the tablet which will be installed in 2003 in Užhorod as the expression of thanks to former fellow-citizens for their participation in the liberation of Czechoslovakia; this act removes the long-term moral Czech-Soviet debt to their former fellow-citizens born in this region.