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**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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## **Fifth Report submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 2 of the Framework  
Convention for the Protection of National Minorities –  
received on 31 August 2022**

THE FIFTH PERIODIC REPORT  
OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ON LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MEASURES FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

**Sarajevo, December 2020**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to obligations under Article 25 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe, aimed at implementing the Programme Tasks of the Council of Ministers of BiH for 2020, the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina has prepared **the Fifth Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the legislative and other measures to implement the principles set forth in Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe** (hereinafter: The Fifth Report).

2. Four periodic reports have been comprised so far (2004, 2007, 2012, and 2016, and the Fifth Report was discussed and adopted on the 28.07.2022. at 54<sup>th</sup> session of the Council of Ministers of BiH. This Report includes the data from 2016 to 2020.

3. The reporting process will serve to inform the local institutions, as well as the wider public on achievements of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the reporting period **2016 to 2020** in improving and enhancing the status of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: BiH) in different areas.

4. During the preparation of the Fifth Periodic Report, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, as the coordinating Ministry, cooperated with the following competent ministries and institutions:

1. Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH,
2. Ministry of Justice of BiH,
3. Constitutional Court of BiH,
4. Communications Regulatory Agency of BiH,
5. Civil Service Agency of BiH,
6. Press Council in BiH,
7. BiH Central Election Commission,
8. Agency for Statistics of BiH
9. Radio and Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina
10. Ministry of Justice of BiH,
11. Civil Service Agency of the FBiH,
12. The FBiH Ministry of Education and Science,
13. RS Ministry of Justice,
14. RS Ministry of Education and Culture,
15. Ministry of European Integrations and International Cooperation of the RS,
16. RS Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Government,
17. RS Institute of Statistics,
18. The Council of National Minorities of the RS,
19. Radio Television of the RS,
20. Judicial Commission of the Brcko District of BiH,
21. Department for Economic Development, Sports and Culture, the Brcko District of BiH,
22. The Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Justice and Administration,
23. The Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Justice, Administration and Self-Government,
24. The Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Justice and Administration,
25. The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Justice and Administration,
26. The Canton 10 Ministry of Justice and Administration,

27. The Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Justice, Administration, Self-Government and Labour Relations
28. The Bosnian Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport,
29. The West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport,
30. The Posavina Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport,
31. The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport,
32. City of Sarajevo,
33. City of Zenica,
34. City of Mostar,
35. Municipality of Travnik,
36. City of Bijeljina,
37. City of Prijedor,
38. City of Trebinje.

## **2. PART I**

### **2.1. Background Information**

5. In the period after Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its Fourth Report in 2016, and after the adoption of the Resolution on monitoring the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, i.e. the period of four years, we have met all relevant entities working on the implementation of the Framework Convention and the BiH Law on the Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities with the Resolution, and initiated activities for the implementation of recommendations laid down in the Resolution. The priority was given to completing the legislative system in terms of better protection and improvement of national minorities' status in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Resolution with recommendations for Bosnia and Herzegovina was also uploaded to the webpage of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH in English and one of the languages in official use in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6. A number of project and programme activities have been implemented, and the joint actions by the European Union and the Council of Europe "Promotion of human rights and minorities protection in Southeast Europe" (2014-2016), "Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (2018-2019) and "Promotion of Diversities and Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (2019-2022) should be noted, the projects which, in partnership with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, focused and are focusing on improving the exercise of minority rights in accordance with the standards of the Council of Europe in this area, aimed particularly at continuing the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages at local level.

### **2.2. Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe ACFC/OP/IV(2017)007**

7. Based on the Fourth Report, the periodic report of Bosnia and Herzegovina on legislative and other measures aimed at implementing the principles set forth in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe, the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe adopted the Fourth Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina on 9 November 2017 and submitted detailed observations and recommendations contained in Parts I and II of the Fourth Opinion of the Advisory Committee.

8. Issues that require immediate attention

1. amend without further delay the Constitution and other relevant legal provisions to eliminate the exclusion of "Others", including persons belonging to national minorities and persons belonging to constituent peoples whose ethnic affiliation does not match their place of residency, from running for and holding public offices;  
Relevant data provided in Chapter 3.3

2. unequivocally condemn public statements of politicians and other public figures that incite ethnic hatred or discord and take resolute measures to promote intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding between the different ethnic and religious communities;  
Relevant data provided in Chapter 6.2

3. take all necessary steps to eliminate segregation in education in all forms, in particular by abolishing all remaining cases of "two schools under one roof" and replacing them with integrated education based on the common core curriculum covering history and geography that would be taught following an inclusive and multi-perspective approach;

Relevant data provided in Chapter 6.3

4. ensure adequate access of Roma to housing, employment, health services and education; increase efforts to remedy shortcomings faced by Roma children in accessing education.

Relevant data provided in Chapters 4.4 and 10.2

#### 9. Further recommendations of the Advisory Committee:

1. publish without any further delay, census results relating to the ethnic breakdown of the persons included in the "Others"; review in advance of the next census, the methodology of the census, the wording of the questions asked and the safeguards for voluntary and informed answers; ensure that the respondents are given the possibility to indicate multiple ethnic affiliations;

Relevant data provided in Chapter 3.4

2. continue to support the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina in particular as regards the enforcement of the ombudspersons' recommendations and consider expanding the powers of the ombudspersons;

Relevant data provided in Chapter 4.1

3. adopt the Action Plan for Roma 2017-2020; regularly evaluate and review the implementation of the Strategy for Addressing the Issues of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina and accompanying action plans for the inclusion of Roma; make specific budgetary provision allowing the implementation of the measures for the inclusion of Roma;

Relevant data provided in Chapter 4.4

4. provide more structured, substantial and regular support for cultural projects of national minorities; ensure that public radio and television stations fulfil their legal obligations regarding the inclusion of programmes for national minorities in their programming schedules; take determined measures to stimulate broadcasting and publications in minority languages;

Relevant data provided in Chapter 7.1

5. prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute and sanction effectively all racially or ethnically motivated acts; take into account local sensitivities when naming streets, schools and other toponyms;

Relevant data provided in Chapter 6.2

6. take more proactive measures in order to ensure that the provisions for the use of minority languages in dealings with the administrative authorities and for topographical indications are effectively implemented in municipalities inhabited traditionally or in substantial numbers by persons belonging to national minorities;

Relevant data provided in Chapters 8.1 and 9.1

7. address comprehensively the continued obstacles to equal access to education experienced by Roma children including through the employment of adequately trained educational assistants, and by ensuring access to preschool facilities for all Roma children and while guaranteeing that the curriculum in such kindergartens corresponds to the diverse needs and multilingual composition of the groups concerned;

Relevant data provided in Chapter 10.2

8. take a more proactive approach to develop teaching in and of minority languages in areas where persons belonging to national minorities are settled traditionally or in substantial numbers; provide increased and more active support to the development of school textbooks and other materials designed specifically for the teaching of minority languages;

Relevant data provided in Chapters 10.1 and 11.1

9. review the provisions governing the membership of the State Council for National Minorities and other similar councils in order to ensure that minorities themselves designate their representatives; consider expanding the councils' mandates, to allow them to influence decision making on issues affecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

Relevant data provided in Chapter 12.2

### **3. PART II - Article 3 of the Convention**

#### **3.1 Scope**

*Paragraph 1 Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercise of the rights which are connected to that choice.*

*Paragraph 2 Persons belonging to national minorities may exercise the rights and enjoy the freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention individually as well as in community with others.*

10. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country in which, in addition to the three constituent peoples: Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs, members of numerous national minorities and the "Others" live. Their

status, i.e. the status of national minorities has been determined and affirmed under the Law on the Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities from 2003 (Official Gazette of BiH, 12/03). A common feature of all minority groups is that they continue to form appropriate associations of their members (citizens' associations, clubs, cultural associations or other forms of assembly) in accordance with the relevant legislation as non-governmental organizations. Their number increases each year.

11. The Council of National Minorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina - pursuant to Article 3 paragraph (1) of the Law on the Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities (Official Gazette of BiH, 12/03, 76/05, and 93/08): "A national minority, in terms of this Law, shall be a part of the population - citizens of BiH who do not belong to any of the three constituent peoples and shall include people of the same or similar ethnic origin, same or similar tradition, customs, religion, language, culture and spirituality, and close or related history and other characteristics."

Pursuant to Article 22 paragraph (1) of the Law: "The Council of National Minorities of BiH shall give opinions, advice and proposals to the BiH Parliamentary Assembly on all matters regarding the rights, status and interest of national minorities in BiH."

In accordance with these provisions, the Council of National Minorities of BiH does not have a mandate regarding the status of persons whose BH citizenship has not been confirmed. Furthermore, the Council of National Minorities of BiH does not dispose of official information on what has been done so that the persons displaced due to the conflicts in the 1990s, whose citizenship has not been confirmed, are included in the protection under the Framework Convention.

The Council of National Minorities of BiH certainly supports inclusion of as many internally and externally displaced persons as possible, regardless of their citizenship status, in the protection provided by the Framework Convention.

The Council of National Minorities of BiH, as an advisory body, has limited mandate with regard to the scope of the Framework Convention and ensuring access to the rights for members of national minorities not specified in the Law on the Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities from 2003 (Official Gazette of BiH, 12/03, 76/05, and 93/08). Furthermore, the Council does not dispose of official information with regard to the scope of the Framework Convention and ensuring access to the rights for members of national minorities not specified in the aforementioned Law.

The Council of National Minorities of BiH certainly supports an inclusive approach with regard to the Framework Convention application and ensuring access to the rights for members of national minorities that are not explicitly mentioned in Article 3 paragraph (2) of the Law on the Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities from 2003 (Official Gazette of BiH, 12/03, 76/05, and 93/08). In this regard, it should be noted that the representative of Austrian national minority is a member of the Council of National Minorities of BiH in the current term.

### **3.2. Persons belonging to constituent peoples representing national minority**

12. Neither the BiH Constitution, nor the constitutions of the entities, or cantons recognize the constituent people representing national minority or general minorities. They are recognized only as the constituent peoples or the Others.

13. The Council of National Minorities of BiH - According to information officially available to the Council of National Minorities of BiH, little has been done with regard to broader application of the Framework Convention to members of the constituent peoples representing minority in communities they live in.

Due to lack of political will, the judgement of the European Court on Human Rights as of 17.05.2016 in the case *Pilav v. Bosnia and Herzegovina* (application 41939/07), lodged due to legally being impossible for the appellant, a Bosniak from the Republika Srpska, to run for the BiH Presidency, or to vote for a member of his community running for the said post; as in the case *Svetozar Pudaric v.*

Bosnia and Herzegovina (application no, 55799/18), lodged due to legally being impossible for the appellant, a Serb with the place of residence in the Federation BiH, to run for the BiH Presidency. The Council of National Minorities of BiH, outlines that, pursuant to the Law on the Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities from 2003 (Official Gazette of BiH, 12/03, 76/05, and 93/08), the status of members of constituent peoples representing minority in communities they live in, i.e. the constitutional and legal framework regulating this area is not within the competence of the Council.

### 3.3. National minorities in the state and entity constitutions

14. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH - The principle of equality and non-discrimination is enshrined in all international human rights treaties. For example, the Charter of the United Nations obliges all Members to "respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion." Furthermore, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees all people freedom and equality in dignity and rights, without distinction of "any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the Constitution of the Republika Srpska (RS), the Constitution of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), and the Statute of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BD BiH) contain provisions on prohibition of discrimination. Furthermore, the Constitution guarantees direct application of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights in BiH. Following the international standards, BiH has incorporated the principle of equal treatment into its legal system and, with the adoption of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination, has recognized discrimination as a social problem. In 2003, BiH adopted the Law on Gender Equality in BiH, which is the legal basis for the prevention and prosecution of all forms of discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation. This way, legal preconditions have been created for effective prevention and protection against discrimination.

15. The Council of National Minorities of BiH - Due to lack of will and engagement of leading political actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina there have been no appropriate amendments to the BiH Constitution aimed at guaranteeing equality of all citizens of BiH and explicit prohibition of discrimination based on nationality.

Despite insistence and frequent pressures from international officials, the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights in the case *Sejdic and Finci vs Bosnia and Herzegovina* of 22 December 2009 was not implemented, which established there is a constitutionally grounded inability of the applicants to run in the elections for the House of Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina, i.e. the inability of the applicants to run in the elections for the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Furthermore, entity constitutions were not amended to guarantee equality of all citizens, i.e. explicit prohibition of discrimination based on nationality. The Sarajevo Canton Assembly has amended the basic legal act of the Canton, i.e. in 31 January 2013, it adopted Amendments XLIII-XLIX to the Constitution of the Sarajevo Canton (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, 06/13) which, among others, guarantee one seat in the Sarajevo Canton Assembly to national minorities.

16. The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Justice - Acts related to the recommendation "*amend the constitution and other relevant legal provisions to eliminate the exclusion of "Others", including persons belonging to national minorities*", contained in the Resolution CM/RecCMN(2015)5 on the implementation OF the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, *adopted by the Committee of Ministers at the 1227th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies*), could be following documents:

- **The initiative by Amil Buljubašić, a former member of the seventh convocation of the Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly, to amend the Zenica-Doboj Canton Constitution, submitted at the 22nd session of the seventh convocation of the Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly held on 28 December 2015, has not yet been implemented**

- **The initiative by a group of members of the seventh convocation of the Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly, to amend the Constitution of the Zenica-Doboj Canton**, submitted on 9 May 2016, at the Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly has not yet been implemented

17. The Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Goražde Ministry of Justice, Administration and Labour Relations - As for the legislative activities, we note that the Bosnian Podrinje Canton Goražde Assembly, on 2 May 2012, adopted the Law on the Protection of Rights of National Minorities in the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Goražde, which was published in the Official Gazette of the Bosnian Podrinje Canton Goražde, No, 8/12. This laws regulates in detail the manner, the dynamics and the institutions for exercising the rights and obligations of members of national minorities in the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Goražde, and the obligations of the cantonal authorities to respect and protect, preserve and and develop ethnic, cultural, language and religious identity of each member of national minority in the Canton who is a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina and a resident of the Canton.

Article 3 of this Law prescribes: " (1) A national minority, in terms of this Law, shall be a part of citizens of BiH, who do not declare as any of the three constituent peoples and shall include people of the same or similar ethnic origin, same or similar tradition, customs, religion, language, culture and spirituality, and close or related history and other characteristics. (2) The Canton shall protect the status and the equality of members of national minorities, who meet the requirements referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article."

Article 23 of this Law prescribes: "The Cantonal Assembly forms the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Goražde Council of National Minorities, as a special advisory body of the Cantonal Assembly, composed of members of national minorities referred to in Article 3 of this Law, by meeting the requirements provided for by the provisions of this Law."

Article 24 paragraph 1 prescribes: "The Council shall consist of one representative-delegate of each national minority referred to in Article 3 of this Law", paragraph 2. "A delegate to the Council shall be proposed by individual national minority association with the seat registered on the territory of the Canton, and shall be elected in a manner determined by the association", and paragraph 3 that the Council shall minimally consist of at least one representative-delegate from at least three associations of different national minorities referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article."

Article 26 paragraph 2 of the Law on Associations and Foundations (Official Gazette of the FBiH, 45/02) prescribes: "The Registers of Association is kept by the FBiH Ministry if the statute of the association stipulates that the association will conduct its activities on the territory of one canton, and the register of associations will be kept by a cantonal body." Furthermore, Article 2 Rulebook on the Way of Keeping the Register of Associations and Foundations and Foreign and International Non-Governmental Organizations (Official Gazette of the FBiH, 61/02) prescribes that the entry in the register of associations is kept by a cantonal body in charge of administrative affairs. As of today, there are no national minority associations registered with the Register kept by Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Goražde the Ministry of Justice, Administration and Labor Relations.

### 3.4. Census

18. The Agency for Statistics of BiH - Data on ethnicity - detailed classification were published in with the necessary data protection measures. The possibility of multiple declaration in terms of ethnicity existed in the 2013 Census as well, i.e. citizens could provide answer they wanted, and the duty of census takers was to write down such answers. Preparation for the next census are not yet in a phase to conduct consultations, but it is likely that this practice will be in the next census as well. The great quantities of data have been published and is publicly available, and when necessary, upon request, additional data are delivered to institutions, organisations and individuals. Questions on ethnicity are continuously asked in censuses, and by cross-referencing it with other census questions, different characteristics are obtained for the entire population, and thus for the national minorities.

Data on the number and territorial distribution of the population according to the ethnic/national affiliation, are presented for 20 ethnic/national affiliations in the territory of the Republika Srpska. In addition to the modalities specified in the census forms, data are presented for national minorities defined in the article 2 of the Law on Protection of National Minorities („Official Gazette of Republika Srpska“, no. 2/05).

Preparations for the next census are still not at the stage where consultations with representatives of national minorities would be carried out. The preparation of the census forms will be carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing.

The results of the 2013 Census have been published and available on the website of the Institute of Statistics of Republika Srpska. Data that are not published on the website of the Institute of Statistics of Republika Srpska, are presented at the user's request in the manner of respecting the protective measures.

The population census is a statistical activity that is carried out every 10 years, and as part of that activity, the countries conducting the census are given the opportunity to collect data on supplementary characteristics in relation to the Recommendations, which prescribe which of the characteristics are collected (basic and additional). Additional refer to data from various fields, including data on ethno-cultural characteristics of the population: ethnic/national affiliation, religion and language. Depending on the needs for a certain type of data of the country where the census is being conducted, the content of the data that will be collected during the census and thus be part of the census is also conceived.

19. The City of Trebinje - According to official data from the 2013 Census, out of total 28,239 inhabitants on the Trebinje territory, 398 persons declared as national minority, while 180 persons did not declare nationality. Although the percentage of the inhabitants declaring as national minority is low, each member of national minority has a guaranteed right to freely choose to be treated or not treated as such, and will not be put in a disadvantaged position due to his/her affiliation.

Members of the Roma national minority have been recognized as a particularly vulnerable group, and therefore, a special attention has been paid to them.

20. The Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Goražde Ministry of Education, Youth, Science, Culture and Sport - The results of Bosnia and Herzegovina census in 2013, showed that, in terms of population, the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton of Goražde, in relation to other cantons, ranks last in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this regard, in the context of the published results and facts, it is clear a large number of members of national minorities do not live in the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton of Goražde region. According to the said census, the population structure is as follows: Bosniaks: 22,313, Croats: 24, Serbs: 885, the Others: **512** or **2.2%** of total population in the Canton. As for the 'Others' category, national composition of population is as follows: Macedonian: 2, Slovenian: 3, Montenegrin: 6, Yugoslav: 8, Unknown: 9, Albanian: 15, **Roma: 30**, Bosnian-Herzegovinian: 40, etc.

#### 4. PART III - Article 4 of the Convention

*Paragraph 1 The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.*

*Paragraph 2 The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.*

*Paragraph 3 The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.*

#### **4.1. Anti-discrimination legislation and existing remedies**

21. The Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina - The most recent amendments to the Law on the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina were made in 2006. We remind that Article 8 paragraph 7 of the Law on the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina reads:

"(7) The Ombudsmen shall be appointed from among the three constituent peoples (Serb, Bosniak, and Croat), which shall not preclude the possibility of appointing the Ombudsmen from among the Others."

As priory stated, there have been no amendments to the Law on the Human Rights Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2006, and thus, there has been no extension of the ombudsman's competencies. The competences of ombudsman regarding the possibility of instituting court proceedings and provide assistance for the victims before courts are contained in provisions of Article 4 of the Law on the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Article 7 of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination. According to the provisions of the relevant Rules of internal organization and systematization, the Institution of the Ombudsman has 90 systematised jobs, of which 62 positions are for indefinite period, and one is for fixed-term. In the light of the above, and all powers and duties of the Institution, arising from the Law on the Human Rights Ombudsman of BiH, the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination, the Law on Freedom of Access to Information, and the Law on Ministerial and Government Appointments, it is clear the financial and human resources, the Institution of the Ombudsman currently disposes of, are insufficient for the Institution to carry out its duties effectively and efficiently.

Funds for the work of the Institutions are provided within the Budget of the institutions of BiH, and ombudsmen have no influence over its adoption.

The Institution of the Ombudsman prepared a Special Report on the Status of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina with concrete recommendations, and it repeated the report after some time to confirm if the recommendations had been implemented (2014).

[https://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/documents/obmudsmen\\_doc2013121011144464eng.pdf](https://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/documents/obmudsmen_doc2013121011144464eng.pdf)

The report on the implementation of recommendations (2017):

[https://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/documents/obmudsmen\\_doc2017070515172836eng.pdf](https://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/documents/obmudsmen_doc2017070515172836eng.pdf)

Acting on individual complaints and opening cases ex officio, the Institution of the Ombudsman issued recommendations regarding hate speech against Roma national minority that, among others, required consistent compliance with the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination in the media.

Other activities aimed at raising awareness of relevant officials, particularly of Roma of applicable anti-discrimination standards, according to the annual reports of the Institution of the Ombudsman are:

- education for activists and representatives of associations
- promotional activities aimed at bringing the mandate of the Institution of the Ombudsman closer to vulnerable categories
- guest appearances on shows on the topic related to protection of marginalized groups
- visits to residential areas and educational institutions with Roma Population represented
- enabling special web portal (within LYRA) of the project for registering discrimination cases in the simplest possible way

Annual reports of the Institution of the Ombudsman, containing a chapter on protection of national minorities' rights are prepared regularly by March for the previous calendar year, however they refer exclusively to complaints addressed to the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman. According to currently available information, Bosnia and Herzegovina has not adopted a strategy on human rights,

nor the program for the suppression of discrimination, which is an obligation arising from the Progress Report (EU) from 2016.

22. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH - The Law on Prohibition of Discrimination (Official Gazette of BiH, 66/16), largely in line with the *acquis* and international human rights standards. However, the mere existence of the law does not provide sufficient guarantee that the protection against discrimination will be complete or efficient. As an optimal option, the need for adoption of a special public policy that would focus on the prevention and improving capacities of anti-discrimination mechanisms arose. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, included in the Ministry's Program for 2016 and 2019, development of the Strategy for the Fight Against Discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Council of Ministers of BiH, at its 115th session held 21 September 2017, acknowledged the information from the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH on activities related to development of the Strategy for the Fight Against Discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with a conclusion, it tasked the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH to develop a Medium-Term Programme for Combating Discrimination in BiH, that will include the Training Programme for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in BiH for the period 2017 – 2020.

In order to implement the aforementioned conclusion of the Council of Ministers of BiH, all the necessary activities have been undertaken to develop a Medium-Term Programme for Combating Discrimination in BiH, which will include the Training Programme for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in BiH for the period 2017-2020, and, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to BiH, the Operational Plan for Anti-Discrimination Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina was prepared.

The Medium-Term Programme for Combating Discrimination in BiH will encompass the Training Programme for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in BiH for the period 2017 - 2020, is still in the phase of reaching agreement with regard to its adoption by the Council of Ministers of BiH.

Under the auspices of the Council of Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Anti-Discrimination Manual for civil servants, civil society organisations and the media was developed on how to recognise and act in cases of discrimination.

The working group for the development of the Anti-Discrimination Manual for Civil Servants on how to act in case of potential discrimination consisted of representatives of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the BiH Human Rights Institution and the non-governmental sector.

The purpose of the manual is to familiarize civil servants, the civil society and the media, in an understandable manner, with the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination and make its implementation easier.

The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH undertakes other activities as well, in accordance with its competences as prescribed in Article 8 of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination. A new report on discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been prepared.

Activities have been undertaken to establish a Central Database for committed acts of discrimination with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH. Software solutions have been developed aimed at ensuring easier collection, processing and sharing data which has significantly strengthened technical and institutional capacity of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH.

#### **4.2. Discrimination in access to political functions**

23. The Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Activities related to elimination of discriminatory provisions from the BiH Constitution that would allow the 'Others' who do not belong to constituent peoples, including national minorities, to run for political functions have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in accordance with the Action Plan for the implementation of the 14 opinions from the Opinion of the European Commission on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for the EU membership.

At the recommendation on the need to prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute and efficiently sanction all racially or ethnically motivated criminal offences, we outline the preventive role of criminal legislation in terms of prevention of commission of socially unacceptable behaviour, which is done through incrimination of such behaviour in criminal legislation, which includes racial or ethnically motivated actions. To that end, the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes criminal offence of infringement of equality of individuals and a citizens (Article 145) and criminal offence of inciting national, racial and religious hatred, conflict and intolerance (Article 145a).<sup>1</sup>

24. The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Justice - The only acts related to the recommendation *"amend the constitution and other relevant legal provisions to eliminate the exclusion of "Others", including persons belonging to national minorities"*, contained in the Resolution CM/RecCMN(2015)5 on the implementation OF the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, *adopted by the Committee of Ministers at the 1227th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies*), could be following documents:

- **The initiative by Amil Buljubašić, former representative of the seventh convocation of the Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly, to amend the Constitution of the Zenica-Doboj Canton**, was submitted at the 22nd session of the seventh convocation of the Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly held on 28 December 2015, has not yet been implemented
- **The initiative by a group of representatives of the seventh convocation of the Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly, to amend the Constitution of the Zenica-Doboj Canton**, submitted on 9 May 2016.

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<sup>1</sup>Infringement of equality of individuals and citizens  
Article 145

(1) An official or responsible person in the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who on the ground of differences in race, skin colour, national or ethnic background, religion, political or other belief, sex, sexual orientation, language, education or social status or social origins, denies or restricts the civil rights as provided by the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ratified international agreement, law of Bosnia and Herzegovina, another regulation of Bosnia and Herzegovina or general act of Bosnia and Herzegovina or, whoever on the ground of these differences or background or other status grants unjustified privileges or does unjustified favours to individuals, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term between six months and five years.

(2) An official or responsible person in the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who in contravention of the regulations of Bosnia and Herzegovina on equal use of languages and alphabets of the constituent peoples and others living on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, restricts or denies to a citizen the use of his/her language or alphabet while addressing bodies or institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, business enterprises or other legal persons in order to exercise his rights, shall be punished by a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

(3) An official or responsible person in the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who denies or limits the right of citizens to be freely employed within the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina and under the same prescribed terms, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term between six months and five years.

Inciting national, racial and religious conflict and intolerance  
Article 145a

(1) Whoever publicly provokes or inflames national, racial or religious hatred, conflicts or intolerance among the constituent peoples and others, as well as among other people living or residing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, shall be punished by a prison sentence ranging from three months to three years.

(2) Whoever perpetrates the criminal offence referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article by abusing his office or official authority, shall be punished by a prison sentence between one and ten years.

The above initiatives propose amendments to the Zenica-Doboj Canton Constitution so that the Constitution envisages formation of the Others caucus at the Cantonal Assembly, and not only of the constituent peoples, and determines the rights of the Others caucus to nominate one candidate from among its members for the post of the Speaker of Deputy Speaker confirmed by the Cantonal Assembly, as well as determining the rights of the Others caucus to invoke the vital national interest, because the constituent peoples have the right to their vital interest, whilst it is not provided for other peoples.

#### **4.3. Registration and access to personal documentations, in particular for the Roma**

25. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH stipulates that Bosnia and Herzegovina and its both entities, in relation to absence of personal documents for Roma, ensures by directly applying international standards and harmonising them with local legislation, giving priority to all international conventions and their protocols<sup>2</sup>.

After the adoption of the Zagreb Declaration on Access to Civil Documentation and Registration in 2011, a great progress has been made. Mainly, in addition to already adopted Law on Registers of the Brčko District and the Law on Registers of the RS, and accompanying by-laws, a new Law on Registers of the FBiH has been adopted, as well as have by-laws for its implementation. The new laws ensure security of public documents, unlimited validity of documents (Birth Certificate), entity electronic registers of citizens have been established, completing the legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (the FBiH, the RS and the Brčko District) related to registration, however it is not fully in line with international standards.

As regards to Roma minority, according to the relevant register of the MHRR, there are 50 persons for whom the registration process should be completed. These are mostly persons who have returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina on basis of readmission and whose children were born abroad and do not have birth certificates in an international form or Apostille. In terms of adults, the issue is noticeable with persons who have the citizenship of some of the neighbouring countries, for whom the registration process should be conducted in those countries, or persons who cannot obtain identification documents of the countries they are citizens of.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cases of members the Roma national minority, who are at risk of statelessness, Bosnia and Herzegovina, within development of the Action Plan for Social Inclusion of Roma in BiH for the period 2021-2025, as well as in the operational conclusions from the European Commission's Workshop on future policies for Roma, has adopted a set of measures to facilitate access to civil documentation, as well as the measures to harmonize and/or amend the legislation in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The initiative for amendments to the FBiH Law on Books of Registry has been referred to the FBiH House of Representatives by the 'Vaša prava BiH' (Your Rights) association, in the part regarding Article 13, which refers to the enrolment of children born outside a health facility and children and/or parents born abroad, and Article 47, which refers to the correction of the data after conclusion of a basic contract.

26. The RS Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Government - Registration in the Republika Srpska is done in accordance with the Law on Registers (Official Gazette of the RS, 1111/09, 43/13, and 66/18). In accordance with provisions of the said law, all persons, regardless of whether they belong to the constituent peoples or minorities, under the same conditions, can be registered in the registry of births in the Republika Srpska, which implied that Roma or children of migrants, as well as other citizens, enjoy the same rights regarding the registration and issuance of certificates from the registers. The Law on Registers has completed the registration process and a way to determine

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<sup>2</sup> (Universal Declaration on Human Rights from 1948, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons from 1954, the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness from 1961, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights from 1966, the Convention on the Rights of the Child from 1989, the International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination from 1965, the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women from 1979, the European Convention on Nationality from 1997, as well as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from 2006).

the identity of a newborn, in a way that it prescribes who is required to register and name the newborn. If persons authorized to name the baby fail to do so, the name of the baby is determined by a relevant guardianship body. This allows registration of children in registry books, and, thus, obtaining, excerpts from registry books as precondition for exercising other rights, such as obtaining personal documents, etc. In this respect, a significant breakthrough for registration of children in registry books has been made by adoption of the Law on amendments to the Law on Non-Litigation Procedure (Official Gazette of the RS, 91/16), which allows the time and the place of birth to be determined via court proceedings.

27. The City of Trebinje - Registration in registry books and access to personal documents does not exist separately for Roma, and is conducted in the same way for all citizens, whether they are Roma or not. Roma children born in a hospital are registered ex officio.

#### **4.4. Implementation of the principles of equality and non-discrimination**

28. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH - On 19 July 2017, the Council of Ministers of BiH adopted Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Addressing Roma Issues in the Fields of Employment, Housing and Health Care 2017 - 2020, which is in line with the 2020 EU Roma Inclusion Strategy. With regard to the implementation and monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH submitted once a year to the Council of Ministers of BiH the report on implementation of the Action Plan measures and the use of grant funds.

During 2020, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH has launched activities (meetings, consultations) related to development of the Action Plan for Social Inclusion of Roma in BiH for the period 2021 -2025.

Representatives of relevant institutions and Roma non-governmental sector participated in the Action Plan Development, represented through the work of an inter-agency and five expert-thematic working groups. The content of the Action Plan is directly based on the goals from the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation and the Declaration on Roma integration signed on 5 July 2019 by the Western Balkans leaders. The Declaration envisages a series of measures aimed at improving the status of Roma in these countries in employment, housing, education, health protection, civil registration, non-discrimination and health care. This AP includes five strategic goals as follows:

Goal 1: Strengthening the system of support, coordination and monitoring of the AP BiH, 21/25, by reducing discrimination of Roma, and suppression of 'antigypsism'

Goal 2: Improving the employability and employment of Roma

Goal 3: Improvement of housing conditions of the Roma population in BiH

Goal 4: Improvement, availability and quality of healthcare for members of the Roma population

Goal 5: Improvement encompasses education of Roma in BiH with more effective implementation of the Framework Plan on Educational Needs.

As for the progress in the process of development and adoption of local action plans for Roma (hereinafter: LAP), nine out of ten LAPs for Roma planned for 2018 were adopted by local communities with the support of international, local and Roma organizations: Tuzla, Visoko, Prnjavor, Centar-Sarajevo, Donji Vakuf, Travnik, Bijeljina, Kakanj, the Brčko District of BiH. Currently, there are seven action plans in development phase, one cantonal and two local action plans on educational needs of Roma in the Zenica-Doboj Canton and the Sarajevo Canton. Lobbying and development of LAPs was participated by: The Council of Europe, the Caritas Switzerland, the World Vision, the Care International, the OSCE, the FOD, the Citizens' Association "Be My Friend" Visoko, the Kali Sara - the RIC Sarajevo and the Support Center for Roma "Romalen" Kakanj.

Since 2020, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH has been allocating funds within its Budget for the education of Roma. During November 2020, the Ministry of Human Rights and

Refugees of BiH announced Public Call for grants for education of Roma for 2020, amounting to 48,000.00 BAM. The purpose of the funds is the support to pedagogical institutes of the entities and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina in non-governmental organizations for the purpose of implementing the objectives from the Framework Action Plan on educational needs of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2022.

Eight NGOs, i.e. eight projects met the criteria from the public call. They are expected to be implemented in 2021.

The selected projects are directed on reducing prejudice, stereotype and discrimination against Roma by including at least 20 Roma children in primary education and reducing the drop-out rate among children who are already in the education system for minimum of 30%, bringing children who have passed the age of regular enrolment back to the regular education system, recognizing the issue of inadequate education of Roma and intensive work on solving that issue, raising awareness on importance of the fight against discrimination against Roma children in the education process, increasing enrolment rate, attendance rate, retention rate and academic success of the Roma students in primary school by improving their school achievements and including their parents in the education process, developing of a platform to assist and reduce discrimination against Roma and encourage their education and communication on the territory of BiH, reducing level of discrimination, stereotype and prejudice the Roma children face in primary school.

29. The City of Prijedor - The Action Plan for Addressing Roma Issues in Employment, Housing, Education and Culture, Social and Health Protection in the City of Prijedor for the period 2019-2023, adopted in October 2019, ensures better conditions in:

- employment

Out of the total number of persons employed in 2020, two members of Roma minority were employed within the "Support to Roma Employment in the RS" programme, announced by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH in cooperation with the RS Public Employment Service, Branch Office Prijedor - Bureau of Employment. In 2021, a request for one Roma persons has been submitted (programmes ongoing).

Currently, 17 members of Roma minority are registered with the RS Public Employment Service, Branch Office Prijedor - Bureau of Employment. Of these, nine persons are without qualifications, seven with qualifications and one with university degree.

- health protection

Positive legislation in BiH ensures this population the right to health protection, because the Law on Health Protection ensures the right of every citizen to health protection, and the Law on Health Insurance ensures the right to compulsory health insurance on some basis.

The Association of Roma from Prijedor has, through its members who are in contact with the Roma population in the City of Prijedor determined the conditions Roma live in. These conditions are very difficult and are far below the average in the community, and are reflected in the health and social status of this population, both the youngest and adults.

Access to primary and secondary health care services in public health institutions the Prijedor Health Care Center and the PHI 'Dr. Mladen Stojanovic' hospital in Prijedor is ensured for all citizens of Prijedor under the same conditions.

- Health care services are provided in a non-discriminatory manner, and due to the above, official records in the healthcare institutions do not recognize beneficiaries according to their nationality.

- housing

The City of Prijedor has for years successfully implemented 'Roma Housing' projects, through which housing has been provided for numerous Roma families. During 2020, a residential building with nine flats was constructed (The Association of Roma from Prijedor, Rudnicka bb) In the period 2008-2016, 40 families who had land were provided housing through a number of projects; the City of Prijedor applied for public calls, and after the approval, the City of Prijedor implemented these projects, together with the donor, co-financed and issued necessary permits, approvals and provided connection to infrastructure. The City Budget includes the line item for Roma housing in the City of Prijedor. 18 new housing units have been constructed, and 22 have been reconstructed. It should be noted that, in addition to construction of houses, five families were provided with drinking water supply wells.

Eleven Roma families from Kosovo, who do not have property or personal identification documents, live in the City of Prijedor. The 2015 Law on Civil Documents, adopted in the RS, allows the issuance of personal documents. Currently, in the City of Prijedor, the issuance of personal documents for these families is being resolved through the office "Your Rights in BiH".

- social protection

The Law on Social Protection of the Republica Srpska regulates the social protection system, carriers, beneficiaries and the rights of social protection beneficiaries in the City. The Law on Social Protection defines social protection as an activity of general interest for the Republika Srpska, that provides assistance to persons in social need and undertakes necessary measures to prevent or eliminate consequences of such situation. A situation of social need is a situation in which a person needs assistance to overcome social and other difficulties and create conditions for meeting their basic living needs, and under condition those needs cannot be met in other systems of social protection.

Roma, as all other citizens, uninterruptedly and fully exercise their rights related to social protection through the competence of the Centre for Social Protection which implements measures and coordinates social protection activities in the local community. In addition to the Centre for Social Protection, other entities, such as humanitarian organisations, user associations and private institutions also work on social protection. Although there are many institutions dealing social protection, none of them has any concrete programmes or developed measures directed exclusively to social protection of the Roma population.

- education and culture

The Action Plan for Roma education should include larger number of Roma children, increased by at least 20% compared to 2018. The city, in cooperation with the Association of Roma Prijedor, allocates funds on annual basis for the purchase of textbooks for primary and secondary students and school supplies for Roma children. Roma children with good school achievements, as well as their parents, should be encouraged to continue their education by providing scholarships and teaching aids. When enrolling in higher schools or faculties, it is necessary to apply an affirmative approach in

which Roma students are given priority, provided that they meet the same requirements as other candidates.

The City of Prijedor provides scholarships to secondary school and university Roma national minority students, through public scholarships contest. Furthermore, it provides one-off financial assistance for Roma students.

Culture plays a key role in the affirmation of individuals and the state, it outlines the values of an identity and diversities, peculiarities and traditions. Culture, which is a specific form of expressing human creativity, skills and talents, is becoming a tool for creative industries.

Permanent assistance for the Roma population:

- They exercise the right to child benefit.
- The right to health insurance (they are protected category)
- They have the right to financial support (1 to 4 children)
- They are registered with the Public Employment Service
- Use of space of city public cultural institutions free of charge
- Participation in city, cultural, and tourist events
- Allocation of funds for the traditional Evening of National Minorities event
- Financial support for projects and programmes through regular competitions and allocation of extraordinary funds
- The city regularly supports every visit of Slovenian folklore groups in Prijedor
- One-off financial assistance for socially vulnerable families with three and more children
- One-off financial support for newborns
- Awarding scholarships
- One-off financial assistance for students at university and in school
- The 'Produd Cards' project for families with three and more children
- Use of soup kitchen
- Free textbooks, school bags and school supply for Roma children
- Financial assistance for socially vulnerable persons
- Provision of food and hygiene packages for International Roma Day

We have a representative of national minorities at the Prijedor Assembly.

22,500 BAM is allocated from the City Budget every year for co-financing of the work of national minority associations.

The Association of Roma Prijedor

The Association conducts its activities in the City of Prijedor. It was founded in 2001. The Association works preserving the Roma tradition, culture and improving social, health, economic and living conditions Roma citizens. Target groups are Roma families and individuals who live in on the Prijedor territory. The Association gathers around 750 members.

The City of Prijedor and the City of Mostar have been awarded for their cooperation with the Roma (Brussels 2010)

For years, the City has been allocating funds from the budget for the Association of Roma aimed at financing work programmes and planned activities by distributing funds to national minority associations. Furthermore, the City provides its support via public open call for cooperation with associations and foundations through financing of project proposals that apply to the said open call.

Around 750 members of the Roma national minority live in the City of Prijedor. In addition to other forms of assistance (education - provision of textbooks and other teaching aids) there is also financial assistance, provision of housing for Roma, etc.

According to the relevant data of the Prijedor City Administration, 40 Roma families own land (1/1).

#### Association of Slovenians "Lipa"

The Association nurtures cultural tradition of the Slovenian people in the City of Prijedor. The Association includes a folk dance ensemble, choir, acting, recitation and similar groups. The Association has become a bridge that connects the City of Prijedor with cities in Slovenia, in cultural, sports and economic sense. Members of the Association are Slovenians and all citizens of Prijedor, i.e. 280 members. Activities, i.e. projects the Association implements regularly during year are: Slovenian cultural holiday in cooperation with the City of Prijedor with the co-financing by the Office for Slovenians, Participation in the Cultural Summer Manifestation, Radio show "Slovenia with us", Christmas party, concerts and children's workshops.

For years, the City has been allocating funds from the budget for the Association Slovenians "Lipa" aimed at financing work programmes and planned activities by distributing funds to national minority associations. Furthermore, the City provides its support via public open call for cooperation with associations and foundations through financing of project proposals that apply to the said open call.

#### Association of Ukrainians "Kozak" Trnopolje

The Association nurtures cultural tradition of Ukrainians in the City of Prijedor. It was founded in 2003. Members of the Association are Ukrainians and citizens from Trnopolje and Prijedor, i.e. around 350 members.

For longer period of time, the City of Prijedor has been allocating funds for the Association of Ukrainians "Kozak" aimed at financing work programmes and planned activities by distributing funds to national minority associations. Furthermore, as well as for the other national minority associations, the City provides its support via public open call for cooperation with associations and foundations through financing of project proposals that apply to the said open call.

#### Association of the Czechs "Česka beseda"

The Association nurtures cultural and language tradition and customs of Czechs in the City of Prijedor. There are 150 members of the Association, 70 of them are active.

The City of Prijedor also allocates funds for the "Česka beseda" aimed at financing work programmes and planned activities by distributing funds to national minority associations. Furthermore, the City provides its support via public open call for cooperation with associations and foundations through financing of project proposals that apply to the said open call.

30. The Zavidovići Municipality - In 2019, the Zavidovići Municipal Council adopted the Action Plan of the Zavidovici Municipality for improving the status of Roma in the fields of education, social and health protection, employment, housing and culture for the period 2019-2023.

31. The City of Mostar - Every year, the City allocates certain funds from its Budget for financing individual Roma associations, i.e. the Roma Association "Neretva"

## 5. PART V - Article 5 of the Convention

*Paragraph 1 The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.*

*Paragraph 2 Without prejudice to measures taken in pursuance of their general integration policy, the Parties shall refrain from policies or practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities against their will and shall protect these persons from any action aimed at such assimilation.*

### 5.1. Conditions allowing minorities to nurture and develop their culture

32. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH - The state Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to ensuring national minorities that live in Bosnia and Herzegovina are truly equal part of our society. Accordingly, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH ensures grants for national minority associations amounting to 150,000.00 BAM for the purpose of improving the position of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The aim the grants to improve the integration, affirmation and visibility of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and prevent their assimilation through following activities:

- a) organizing trainings for professional development of members of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- b) preparing brochures, publishing magazines and printed information for members of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to promote language, culture, literature and history of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- c) marking holidays and important dates of individual national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- d) organizing educational workshops on the fight against assimilation and discrimination of members of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- e) organizing festivals, fairs, cultural events, competitions and other events with broader significance for the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

33. The Council of Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Joint projects of the Council of Europe and the European Union "Promotion of Human Rights and Minorities protection in Southeast Europe", the "Strengthening Protection of National Minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (5 grants amounting to maximum EUR 10,000) and the "Promotion of Diversity and Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (2019-2022) (3 grants amounting to maximum EUR 10,000, additional 6 planned for 2021) have supported small local communities and non-governmental organization with small grants in promotion and protection of the rights of national minorities.

In order to encourage promotion of national minorities in BiH, the joint project of the Council of Europe and the European Union "Strengthening Protection of National Minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina" made in 2019 a documentary film on national minorities from Bosnia and

Herzegovina, titled "When We Are Fewer". The film was selected and screened at the Sarajevo Film Festival in 2019. Furthermore, the film was broadcast by at least seven TV broadcasting houses in BiH and was approved and forwarded by five cantonal ministries of education to be screened at primary and secondary schools with over 67,000 students.

34. The RS Ministry of Education and Culture - In March 2020, the RS adopted the *Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities in the Republika Srpska for the period 2020-2024*. The *Strategy*, among others, states with regard to culture "members of national minorities have the right to found libraries, video stores, cultural centres, museum, archives, cultural, artistic and folk societies, and all other forms of freedom of cultural expression, and take care of maintaining their cultural monuments and cultural heritage. In cities, municipalities and local communities where members of national minorities make up over one third of the population, cultural institutions provide content in languages of national minorities. Archives, museums and institutions for protection of cultural monuments in the Reepublika Srpska need to ensure proportional representation of all national minorities in the Republika Srpska by their programmes and to protect the monumental treasures and cultural heritage of national minorities.

The Republika Srpska also has the Cultural Development Strategy of the Republika Srpska 2017-2020. Special section is dedicated to the cultural and artistic amateurism and national minorities. There is a large number of citizens' associations in the Republika Srpska that work with cultural and artistic amateurism, and the most numerous are associations that nurture the folklore tradition. They include national minority associations that nurture their tradition, dance and song through continuous work. Cultural amateurism also takes place in contemporary art, particularly in music and theatre. The RS Ministry of Education and Culture nurtures the work and cultural creativity of national minorities in the Republika Srpska. This are is based on the Law on the Protection of Rights of National Minorities in the RS (2005). There are 17 national minorities in the Republika Srpska, gathered in national minority associations, and all associations are members of the Alliance of National Minorities of the RS. Language of national minorities in the Republika Srpska, in majority of cases, is used in communication among the members of national minorities, it is taught through different activities in associations, and is learnt to extend in regular and compulsory education. Associations and members of national minorities inherit 14 different languages of national minorities. During the calendar year, national minority associations print numerous magazines, bulletins, books, etc. The content of such materials is, in majority of cases, prepared in two languages, Serbian language and the language of national minority. With the help of their members, almost all associations have libraries (books, manuals, encyclopedias, magazines, etc.), donated or provided with the support of their home countries. The issue is storing of the library materials, due to limited space they dispose of. International cooperation is reflected in continuous contact with similar associations and institutions in their home countries, cultural programme exchange, participation in language schools and other study programmes, provision of books, magazines and teaching aids, and all other activities which contribute to the promotion and preservation of the language. Furthermore, associations also participate in programmes of other associations and institutions related to culture - folklore festivals, choral encounters.

The Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska, in accordance with the Rules on co-financing of cultural creativity of national minorities of the Reublika Srpska (2015), co-finances projects of national minorities every year.

In 2016, 30,000 BAM was allocated for co-financing 22 projects

In 2017, 40,000 BAM was allocated for co-financing 23 projects

In 2018, 25 projects were co-financed with 40,000 BAM

In 2019, 40,000 BAM was allocated for co-financing 23 projects, and

In 2020, 17 projects were co-financed with 32,000 BAM

Among the projects co-financed by the RS Ministry of Education and Culture, projects of the Roma associations take an important place. Among others, the following projects were co-financed: "Romski jezik" (Roma language), "Sačuvajmo istoriju, tradiciju i kulturu zaborava" (Let's preserve

the Roma language, tradition and culture from oblivion), "Romska početnica" (Romani Alphabet), Marking of 8 April – International Roma Day - 5 November, Day of Romani Language.

35. In 2017 and 2018, The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Labour, Social Policy and Refugees provided financial assistance for the implementation of activities aimed at social inclusion and marking of significant dates, such as the International Roma Day and the St. George's Feast Day, to following associations: Association "Romano Cetno" Zenica (2,500 BAM) and the Centre for Mothers "Utjeha" Zenica (500.00 BAM), as well as the Association "Srce istine" Zavidovići (2,000 BAM). We note that members of national minorities exercise their rights in accordance with the Law on Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of the War and Protection of families with Children (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 13/07, 13/11, 3/15, and 2/16) including health protection and financial assistance of intervening nature and support for non-governmental organizations. In this regard, in 2020, this Ministry gave positive opinion on the application by the Roma Support Centre "Romalen" Kakanj to the Public Call for financing and co-financing of programs / projects of cantonal non-governmental organizations from Zenica-Doboj Canton.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports co-finances, among others, projects of members of national minorities from the Budget at its disposal, its part for transfer for cultural events and publishing. Projects national minority associations apply are mainly related to marking of significant dates, promoting cultural heritage, etc. This is additionally scored, which encourages members of national minorities to engage more frequently in preserving and developing their culture. Distribution of funds for co-financing of projects in culture is done on the basis of procedures established by law which do not provide for the representation of national minorities.

If members of national minorities make up over one third of the population in the Canton, content of cultural activities in languages of national minorities will be provided in cantonal public institutions in the field of culture. (Article 18 Ensuring the content of cultural activities in the language of a national minority).

36. The City of Trebinje - Since the very beginning of activities of national minority associations in the City of Trebinje, the Trebinje City Administration allocates budget funds for financing part of their activities related to protection of cultural heritage.

Firstly, the City Budget envisages funds that are directly allocated to associations of national minorities, while since 2017, due to the introduction of the LOD methodology, the method of financing has changed.

Namely, to increase transparency of the budget funds distribution to civil society organisations, the City of Trebinje has adopted the LOD methodology for the distribution of funds as part of the ReLOaD program. The LOD methodology stipulates that budget funds are allocated through project applications to the public call.

Overview of allocation of funds by years:

- in 2017, the City of Trebinje budget included grants for associations of national minorities and returnees, amounting to 4,000 BAM.
- in 2018, the City of Trebinje budget included funds for projects of citizens' associations/foundations that in the field of social care for the elderly, national minorities and returnees, amounting to 91,600 BAM.
- in 2019, the City of Trebinje budget included funds for projects of citizens' associations/foundations that in the field of social care for the elderly, national minorities and returnees, amounting to 90,000 BAM.
- in 2020, the City of Trebinje budget included funds for projects of citizens' associations/foundations that in the field of social care for the elderly, national minorities and returnees, amounting to 90,000 BAM.

It needs to be noted that distribution of funds depends exclusively on the national minority associations them and their engagement in the development of quality projects, and the City Administration is always ready to support their work.

It should also be noted that the City Administration participated on several occasions in co-financing cultural events organized by national minority associations, which national minority associations did not include in their projects when applying to the public call for funding.

National minority associations that were included in the budget funds distribution are:

- Association of Montenegrins "Petar Petrović Njegoš",
- Association of Montenegrins "Vuk Mićunović",
- Association of National Minorities of East Herzegovina, and
- Alliance of National Minorities of the RS (marking of International Roma Day).

37. The City of Prijedor - Diversity of nations and national minorities, as well as multiethnicity characterize Prijedor as a city fully dedicated to preserving, promoting and protecting rights of both the constituent peoples and national minorities, and in that respect, the mechanisms and tools that preserve all the values and identity of each nation are continuously improved.

the City of Prijedor is the holder of several awards and charters thanks to its many years of work and commitment to improving the position and rights of national minorities as well as business efficiency:

- Recognition for the City's contribution to the work of the national minority associations by the Alliance of National Minorities of the RS
- Recognition by the European Commission for Prijedor as a pro-European city,
- OSCE Mission to BiH Certificate for Good Human Resource Management
- Charter of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg for good relations with national minorities,
- ISO 9001:2008/2015 TUV NORD CERT of the quality management system,
- Recognition by the Agreement Plus Network (Mreža Sporazum Plus) "Agreement on cooperation between local authorities and civil society organizations"
- and the most recent Gold Plaque for the Mayor - "Leader of the local community of the decade for the achieved results in work and development of local self-government in accordance with the European Charter of Local Self-Government", Business Friendly Certificate (BFC) from the National Alliance for Local Economic Development of the Southeast Europe.

The Law on the Protection of Rights of National Minorities in BiH, the Law on the Protection of Rights of National Minorities in the RS, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages are only some of legislation the City of Prijedor implements in its work in the national minorities support sector.

In 2004, the City of Prijedor, then the Municipality of Prijedor, was the first local community in BiH to allocate a dedicated budget line for financial support to national minority associations. Funds allocated from the City of Prijedor Budget for financing and co-financing the NGO sector increase every year, which allows better and better quality work

The City of Prijedor has adopted the "Integral Strategy for Economic Development of the City of Prijedor for the period 2014-2024", which includes projects within the sectoral group for social development aimed at improving the work and life of members of national minorities in the City of Prijedor.

In 2015/16, the City of Prijedor, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, implemented the project "Ukrainian National Minority in the City of Prijedor". The project promoted all areas in which there is room for the improvement of exercising rights of national minorities: culture, education, use of minority languages, media representation, inclusion of members of national minorities in public life of the city. Total value of the project amounted to EUR 19,800, of which EUR 18,000 were financed by the Council of Europe, and EUR 1,800 by the City of Prijedor.

In 2018/19, the City of Prijedor implemented a project within the co-operation initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe Horizontal Facility (HF) for the Western Balkans and Turkey "Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in BiH". Through the implemented

activities, the status of national minorities was promoted and improved, as well as their needs related to tradition, culture, history and the language, and the institutional cooperation of relevant actors on minorities and protection of their rights was strengthened. The project was financed by the Council of Europe in the amount of EUR 10,000 and co-financed by the City of Prijedor in the amount of EUR 1,000.

Two 'Let's get to know each other' events were held within the project, including a quiz competition of eight-grade students from 12 primary schools in Prijedor on their knowledge about national minorities in Prijedor and national minorities in BiH. A brochure on national minorities of the City of Prijedor was produced, a documentary film was made, and books and materials for quick language learning were provided for the four national minorities in the city of Prijedor.

In addition to the City Administration, four registered national minority associations were directly involved in the implementation of project activities as partners: The Association of Roma Prijedor, the Association of Ukrainians "Kozak' Trnopolje, the Association of Slovenians "Lipa', and the Association of Czech "Češka beseda". Partners in the implementation of project activities were also the Alliance of National Minorities of the RS, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska and the Pedagogical Institute of the Republika Srpska.

Within the project, toward the end of 2018, the City of Prijedor signed Memorandum of Cooperation in promotion, support and learning about national minorities in primary schools with 12 primary schools from Prijedor. For the purpose of good cooperation, the signatories agreed to implement joint activities on promotion and protection of the rights of national minorities in following areas: promotion of language, culture and customs of national minorities, promotion of national minority languages in regular education system, education of students and teachers on the rights of national minorities and their heritage, connecting similar institutions and organizations that deal with issues of national minorities, implementation and participation in joint activities which promote cultural diversity and contribute to citizens in the local community being better informed. Mutual cooperation is developed through: designing, planning and implementing projects of mutual interests, applying together for project financing with local and international partners and donors, organizing forums, round tables, conferences and educations, conducting analyses for the purpose of increasing knowledge about protection of the rights of national minorities, organizing periodic joint meetings, exchanging information, experience and new knowledge, designing and implementing educational programmes, designing and implementing better media visibility and promoting good practices.

The City of Prijedor traditionally finances the 'Evenings of National Minorities' event. Members of all associations have the opportunity to exchange experience in their efforts to improve the status of members of their people in local community they live in and share the destiny of other residents of the community. Around 200 Slovenians, 800 Roma, 80 Czechs and 150 Ukrainians live in Prijedor, and during such gatherings at the evenings of national minorities they present their language, cultural tradition and gastronomic offer, as a proof they nurture the heritage of the place their ancestor ancestors came from to Prijedor over one century ago.

There are two soups kitchens in the City of Prijedor co-financed by the city: "Hleb života" and "Narodna kuhinja optimisti". By co-financing, we help members of the Roma population who use its services, i.e. 90 of them.

38. The City of Bijeljina - On the territory of Bijeljina, all important cultural events for members of national minorities are held (the Day of Roma, the Romani Language Day, celebration of Roma...), all with the support of the city.

## **6. PART V - Article 6 of the Convention**

*Paragraph 1 The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.*

*Paragraph 2 The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.*

## **6.1. Tolerance and social relations**

39. The Interreligious Council in BiH - The Interreligious Council (IRC-BiH) is, through its work and existence, focused on improving the interreligious and intercultural dialogue, which encourages better understanding of the others and the different, and respecting other religions and cultures. Every project the IRC-BiH implements is designed for that purpose, and the sole existence of our organization, as well as its establishing is framed with those principles. For more than ten years, the IRC-BiH has been conducting public condemnation of attacks on religious buildings, still happening across the country. The increase of such attacks is noticeable during electoral campaigns and heated political rhetoric. The IRC-BiH practice is to publicly condemn each attack in the media, but also that representatives of churches and religious communities from local community in question go together to the location and jointly condemn the attack. The IRC-BiH promotes interreligious dialogue and gathers representatives and the faithful from all traditional churches and religious communities that have lived together in this country throughout history. In that regard, it implies belonging to a common state, within which churches and religious communities exercise their rights, but also fulfil their obligations.

40. The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior - According to records of the Ministry of Interior there were no requests in the said period nor oral or written communications were filed by the citizens who use regional or minority languages, nor cases of failing to exercise the citizens' rights in relation to that were registered.

41. The Posavina Canton Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport - A Branch Office of the Interreligious Council in BiH with its seat in Orašje operates in the Posavina Canton. The Branch Office has been working continuously since 2010 on improving intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding among different ethnic and religious communities in the Posavina Canton. Every year, members of the Branch Office implement different projects and activities aimed at promoting tolerance, interreligious and ethnic friendships and condemns hate speech and acts.

- The BiH Independence Day and the BiH Statehood Day are non-working days in the Posavina Canton, and are marked as non-working days in the school calendar. This way, children develop a sense of belonging to one country.

- There are no streets and schools named after war criminals and those who promote the genocide and other crimes against humanity.

## **6.2. Ethnic and interreligious relations**

42. The Interreligious Council of BiH - The IRC of BiH, with its project Monitoring Attacks on Religious Buildings, also cooperates with police administrations in terms of monitoring the sanctioning of hate attacks and sanctioning the perpetrators. The IRC of BiH is in the process of expanding this project to include close cooperation with the Prosecutor's Office with regard to prosecuting the perpetrators of such offences, and sanctioning such offences. This will allow perpetrators to be sanctioned, but will also raise awareness of people of the protection of these buildings. The IRC of BiH employees regularly participate in conferences, seminars, workshops and webinars on these topics, and they also develop and implement awareness raising programmes on this issue. We are witnesses of reckless and inflammatory statements of politicians in BiH, and there is no system of condemnation or sanctioning by the authorities. What the IRC of BiH does are projects with young people, among others, those directed to combating hate speech in public space.

The latest such project is the Religious Officials and Young People Against Hate Speech. Our organization works systematically and strategically for the purpose of promoting the interreligious dialogue against racism, ethnic and religious intolerance. This implies every segment of human life and activity, and our projects and activities are broad so that they, among others, relate to situations and time during and after sporting events. We do not know that there is a broader action which would include wider community and experts in order to actively work on the prevention of racist attitudes and behaviour in sports.

43. The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH - Reasons for adoption of the law on amendments of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination (Official Gazette of BiH, 66/16) were reflected in the fact that the European Commission, after the sixth meeting of Interim Stabilisation and Accession Committee, held 3 and 4 July 2013 in Brussels, called for the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to fully harmonize their legislation with the EU acquis related to anti-discrimination regulations.

The proposal for amendments to the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination was submitted to the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH by the Council for Persons with Disabilities of BiH, on the ground that the existing legislation did not establish disability as a basis for non-discrimination. Furthermore, at the thematic session of the Joint Commission for Human Rights of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, held 19 May 2015 on the occasion of marking the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia with the special focus on improving the status of LGBT persons, it was concluded that the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH should initiate drafting amendments to the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination.

The procedure was completed and the Law on amendments to the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination was adopted (Official Gazette of BiH, 66/16), which, according to the Directorate for European Integration within the Council of Ministers of BiH, is largely in line with the EU acquis.

The Law on Prohibition of Discrimination has been improved as follows:

- Article 2 of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination (Official Gazette of BiH, 59/09) was supplemented with the following grounds for discrimination: disability and age. The wording in the Law referring to sexual expression or orientation was replaced with sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics.
- In Article 3 of the Law, the following was added: "on the grounds defined in Article 2(1) of this Law. The aim of this supplement was to make the existing legal provision more precise.
- Article 4, was amended due to its harmonization with the Council Directive 2000/43/EC or the Council Directive 2000/78/EC. Under the said Directives, some behaviours should be defined as undesirable. The definition of harassment in the existing law, without prescribing this legal provision, could be questionably from the point of view of the principle of proportionality. According to the said Directives, the Law was also supplemented by the definition of victimisation, and the existing legal provisions were amended so that the incitement was considered a form of discrimination. This legal provision was also supplemented with more severe forms of discrimination.
- In Article 7 of the Law related to competences of the Institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman of BiH, a proposed change that explicitly outlines obligations of the Ombudsman Institution in terms of promoting this law and informing the public by the Institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman of BiH.
- Article 11 of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination was supplemented by the urgency principle in all proceedings in which allegations on committed discriminations are investigated,

because the Law accompanies goals of the Directives of the European Union related to defining of the planned effect of the Law.

- Amendment to Article 12 of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination prescribes the right of the plaintiff to request that the judgement establishing the violation of equal treatment, at the expense of the defendant, be published in the media if the violation of the right to equal treatment occurred via the media, or if the information on treatment that violates the right to equal treatment was published in the media.

- Article 13 of the Law was amended in the part related to jurisdiction of courts, in a way that the court has general territorial jurisdiction, if the court is located in a place where the plaintiff has temporary or permanent residence, as well as the local court at the location where damage was sustained or discriminatory action was taken, in addition to courts with general local jurisdiction. This way, the plaintiff may choose the court before which he/she will conduct the proceedings. This legal provision also extends deadlines as follows: "(3) three months from the day of learning of the violation of the right, and not later than (1) one year from the inflicted injustice", were extended to (3) three years from the day of learning of the violation of the right, and maximum of (5) years from the day of the inflicted injustice. The deadlines do not apply to cases of systemic discrimination.

- Article 14 of the Law was amended to eliminate the risk of severe violation of the right to equal treatment, irreparable damage or to prevent violence, in accordance with laws on civil proceedings in effect in BiH. Amendment to Article 14 also prescribes a precautionary measure when the proponent makes it probable that the right to equal treatment has been violated and the imposition of a precautionary measure is necessary to eliminate the risk of severe violation of the right to equal treatment, irreparable damage or to prevent violence.

- Article 15 of the Law was amended to be harmonized with anti-discriminatory directives which uniformly determine the principle of redistribution of the burden of proof and prescribe that when a party who considers their right to equal treatment has been violated presents and proves the facts based on which they can make it probable discrimination has occurred, it is up to the defendant to prove they has not violated the guarantee of equal treatment. New paragraph in this Article related to considering recommendations of the Human Rights Ombudsman of BiH in court proceedings was proposed due to the fact that, in case law, the recommendations of the Institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina were not taken into account and the case law regarding the interpretation of the Ombudsman's recommendations was uneven.

- Article 16 of the Law was amended in a way that an intervener may be introduced on the side of a person or group of persons alleging to have been discriminated against.

- Article 17 of the Law was amended in a way to define the procedure for class action.

- Article 18 of the Law was deleted because it defines victimisation, and victimisation has been defined separately in paragraph (6) of Article 4 Proposal of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination.

- In Article 24 of the Law, a new paragraph was added to ensure protection from discrimination by introducing mandatory adoption of general legal acts by public bodies and legal persons that would regulate procedure in case of discrimination.

44. The Cantonal Institute for Legal Aid in the ZDC - in accordance with the Law on Provision of Legal Aid (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 1/14), it has the capacity to provide legal aid to all persons exposed to threats or discrimination, hostility of violence due to their ethnic, cultural, language or religious identity.

It should be noted that the Institute has not had such requests for legal aid so far.

45. The City of Trebinje - According to the official data of the Ministry of Interior - the Trebinje Police Administration, in the period 2017-2020, no criminal offences were registered, nor misdemeanour motivated by prejudice due to da person's affiliation to a certain national minority, or other constituent peoples.

### 6.3. Segregation in education system

46. The FBiH Ministry of Education and Science - With regard to ethnic segregation in schools, we inform you that a number of activities have been implemented so far aimed at improving inclusion in schools, i.e. eliminating all forms of discrimination and segregation in access to education and in ensuring equal opportunities for regular attendance and continuing education for all children and young people.

The FBiH Ministry of Education and Science has since 2012 implemented different activities in accordance with its competence, aimed at eliminating segregation and discrimination in educational institutions in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. One such activity is the development of document 'Recommendations for Elimination of Segregating and Divided Structures in Educational Institutions in the FBiH', adopted by the Coordination of Ministers of Education and Science in the FBiH, at its 14th session hld 27 August 2021. This documents envisages elimination of segregating and divided structures in schools through three steps:

- "Administrative and legal unification of divided educational institutions",
- "Establishing a unified approach to education and uniform conditions for all students", and
- "Full integration of divided schools - forming multiethnic classes".

Recommendations of the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science have been submitted to all cantonal ministries of education, and their implementation is connected to constitutional solutions in the FBiH and different practice of the courts with regard to this issue.

A good progress with regard to this issue is decision adopted by the Board of the Agency for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education at its 28<sup>th</sup> session held 24 June 2019, at the proposal of the Agency's Director, i.e. **DECISION ON APPROVING GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON CORE CURRICULUM DEFINED ON LEARNING OUTCOMES.**

The guidelines define the implementation process for the CCC defined on learning outcomes in development programmes in preschool education, and implementation of the Common Core in the curricula for primary education, general secondary education and general education subjects in secondary vocational education, with reference to evaluation and assessment. The guidelines will be implemented in all public and private preschool institutions, primary and secondary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is recommended to the competent education authorities to ensure the application of the Guidelines in the CCC implementation defined on learning outcomes in preschool education and in the Curricula for primary and secondary education, in all public and private preschool institutions, primary and secondary schools in the region within their competences. Additionally, **Guidelines for the Implementation of the Common Core Curriculum** have been developed.

The next step in the CCC development process is developing the Curricula based on learning outcomes.

Within the programme "Assistance to Projects to Improve Educational Work with Children with Disabilities", projects of preschool institutions, primary and secondary schools, citizens' associations and non-governmental organizations were supported.

It is also questionable whether sufficient attention has been paid to the implementation of the Interim Agreement on Specific Needs and Rights of Returnee Children, particularly in light of current developments regarding the introduction of a national group of subjects for returnee children in the Republika Srpska.

In addition to activities directed to eliminating segregating and divided structures in schools in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science undertook other activities aimed at improving the inclusion of all children in the educational system, particularly in

formal education institutions. Within the Work Programme, the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science implemented the programme titled: "Assistance to Projects to Improve Educational Work with Children with Disabilities" and the Work Programme titled "Assistance to Education of Roma Children and Other National Minorities". In the past two years, the support programme for Roma - teaching assistants - has been financed.

Within Program for Financing Projects in the Field of Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education, the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science allocated funds for following activities as well:

- The support for the projects implemented by educational institutions that educate larger number of Roma students and other national minorities, as well as for the projects that enable promotion of the rights of national minorities and persons with disabilities, and the adaptation of school buildings for their implementation.
- Encouragement to expand the accommodation capacities of school buildings in order to administratively and legally unite "two schools under one roof", and to adapt school premises for their realization.

Special part of the curriculum is inclusion, which, in addition to organisational integration, is a pedagogical, social and psychological process of including students with special education need in standard conditions of educational work. Inclusion of students with special educational needs in school and classroom requires special attention in terms of creating positive environment and acknowledging diversity. The basis for the work assumes diversity as quality, requires a specific approach and upgrade, and contributes to eliminating division. Inclusion of children with special educational needs should be nice experience for all students, professionals, parents of the students with special education needs, as well as other parents. Such integration requires careful and detailed planning before and after admission of those students to school. Therefore, it is necessary to educate teachers, professional associates and school management in order for the inclusion to be successful. Successful inclusion of students with special educational needs in regular educational process requires knowledge on diagnosis, developmental characteristics of students, specificities and potentials of those students. Therefore, training and continuous professional development of teachers is necessary. Due to different characteristics of different groups of children with special educational needs, and the requirement for specific approach in working with them, special and specific instructions need to be developed. They determine conditions of work with specific types of difficulties and specific needs, didactic and methodical approach, methodological tools and aids. Instruction may include the following areas:

- organisation of educational process,
- development of individual adapted educational programme,
- time management,
- assessment and evaluation;

It is also necessary to develop instructions, i.e. guidelines for work with gifted students, as well as with other specific groups of students, including foreigners, minorities, etc.

It is necessary to conduct an analysis of educational areas and constituent elements to determine subjects which can contribute to achieve the set indicators within a particular area. This means identifying subjects which cover specific areas with their objectives. For example, in the language and communication area, those would be the following subjects: Bosnian Language, Croatian language and Serbian Language, as well as foreign languages; in the field of mathematics it would be Mathematics; in the field of science: Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, etc. In this phase, attention should be directed to the existing compatibility between goals of the existing curricula and accompanying learning outcomes and CCC indicators, i.e. whether the changes in this aspect are necessary. In addition to criterion-referenced assessment, well planned and quality formative monitoring takes an important place, which enhances the quality of teaching and provides motivation for learning and better achievements of students. Determining the curricula is followed by

developing teaching programmes. In this process, the structure of development programme in preschool education and the structure of teaching programmes for nine-year primary education and secondary education should be agreed upon first.

47. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Zenica-Doboj Canton - With regard to overcoming potential forms of **segregation** in the education system, in accordance with its competencies, after the adoption of the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in BiH, the Ministry started drafting new education laws, which were the backbone of the beginning of the overall and planned educational reforms in this area.

At the proposal of the relevant ministry, the Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly adopted a new Law on Secondary Education in 2017 and, a new Law on Primary Education in 2018, thus continuing activities directed to overcoming potential discrimination and segregation in education. It should be noted that the procedure of drafting a new Law on Preschool Education of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, aimed at ensuring greater rights to preschool education particularly for children with disabilities, is ongoing.

Article 4 of the Law on Preschool Education (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 7/10, 8/12) defines prohibition of discrimination on any grounds, equal access to preschool education and ensuring equal conditions and opportunities for all. **Every child** has equal rights to access and equal opportunity to participate in preschool education in the Zenica-Doboj Canton. The compulsory primary education programme also includes Roma children.

Article 9 of the Law on Preschool Education (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 7/10, 8/12) provides that children with special educational needs included in preschool institutions in accordance with programmes adapted to their individual needs.

Article 5, paragraphs (1) and (5) of the Law on Primary Education (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 3/18) defines primary education as compulsory and free **for all children**, i.e. regular primary school attendance is compulsory for a period of nine years for all children between the ages six and fifteen. Article 5 paragraph (8) of the said Law provides that the right of a child to education takes precedence over all other rights, and that, in case of conflict of rights, the primacy is given to the right, interpretation and action that will be the most beneficial for the child's interest.

Article 8 of the Law on Primary School (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 3/18) states that foreign citizens and stateless persons have the right to education in schools of this Canton, under provisions of this Law, in accordance with conventions and agreements Bosnia and Herzegovina has concluded with other countries and international organizations.

Article 7 of the Law on Secondary Education (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 9/17) defines the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms as follows:

- the right of the child to education takes precedence over all other rights, and, in case of conflict of rights, the primacy is given to the right, interpretation and action that will be the most beneficial for the child's interest,
- the school has the responsibility to contribute to creating the culture of respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all citizens in own and the environment it operates, as established by the Constitution and other international human rights documents signed by Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- the rights of students with special educational need, that may be with disabilities or be disadvantaged, will be respected to the greatest extent primarily by appropriate choice of their occupation,
- the language and culture of national minorities will be respected to the greatest extent, and in accordance with the Convention for the Protection of Rights of National Minorities. The relevant Ministry will determine the curriculum which meets the needs of national minorities, and which includes language, literature, history and culture of those national minorities,

- the right to attend religious classes or alternative subject has been defined, i.e. the school will improve and protect religious freedoms, tolerance and culture of dialogue, and no measures and activities that would limit the freedom of expression and learning about different believes will be undertaken.

In its 2018 Report, the OSCE Mission to BiH gave its recommendation to move more decisively towards the elimination of the discriminatory "**two schools under one roof**" practice. One of the recommendations is administrative and legal unification, which, as stated in the Report, is a feasible and pragmatic step towards the elimination of segregation. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport has, in cooperation with the Cantonal Government and Assembly, and the OSCE Mission to BiH, completed administrative and legal unification in primary schools in Novi Šeher in the Municipality of Maglaj, and the Mixed Secondary School 'Žepče', i.e. *Mješovita srednja škola* and *Srednja mješovita škola* in Žepče. The works done to abolish two educational institutions with separate classrooms, legal subjectivity registered with different courts (Vitez, Travnik and Zenica), governing bodies, staff rooms - teachers' councils, administrative and auxiliary staff in the same school building, i.e. the same enrolment area.

So that, after the administrative and legal unification, the PS 'Novi Šeher' now has joint management, governing bodies, teaching calendar, joint vocational and extracurricular activities, as well as shared school gym, library, staff room, common entrance, and schools operating at same time. The work on the curricula reform, particularly through the implementation of improved Common Core Curriculum in BiH, based on students' achievements, is the key step towards creating inclusive schools.

Adequate curricula have been developed and adopted in the ZDC, in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian languages, based on the Common Core and, ultimately, all legal preconditions for the full equality with regard to learning in mother tongue for all constituent peoples-citizens of the Canton.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Zenica-Doboj Canton is taking steps towards modernisation of the curricula in primary and secondary schools and higher education institutions, in accordance with the Action Plan for the realization of priorities from the analytical report of the European Commission.

In the past period, all additional training, seminars and workshops have been implemented (with the focus on the inclusion index, learning outcomes, electronic gradebooks, schools for the 21th century), aimed at additionally educating teachers in accordance with the identified reform educational needs.

## 7. PART VI - Article 9 of the Convention

*Paragraph 1 The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.*

*Paragraph 2 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing, without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.*

*Paragraph 3 The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.*

*Paragraph 4 In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.*

### **7.1. Application of the state Law on National Minorities in the media**

48. The Communication Regulatory Agency (the Agency) - The Law on Communications in BiH (Official Gazette of BiH, 31/03, 75/06, and 32/10) set the basic regulatory principles applied in broadcasting, which, among others, include protection of freedom of expression and diversity of opinions in accordance with generally accepted standards of decency, non-discrimination, fairness, accuracy and impartiality, and for which implementation the Agency is in charge of. The Agency is functionally independent and non-profit institution with the status of legal entity under the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina, responsible for declaring rules in broadcasting and telecommunications and ensuring their compliance, granting licences to broadcasters and telecommunications operators in accordance with provisions of the Law and monitoring the compliance with the conditions of issued permits.

In accordance with Article 37 and Article 39 of the Law, the Code of Audiovisual Media Services and Radio Media Services (the Code) defines the rules and the standards of programme content related to audiovisual media service and radio media service providers. The Codex, among others, prohibits contents which humiliate, intimidate or incite to hatred, violence or discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion or belief, disability, special needs, age, sexual orientation, social origin, as well as any other content with the purpose of preventing or jeopardizing recognition, enjoyment or exercise of any person's rights and freedoms on equal basis.

In the period since the last reports, i.e. from April 2016 to August 2020, no complaints were received on the programme contents of the media service providers related to potentially inappropriate content on members of national minorities, nor was any violation of the applicable rules and regulations of the Agency in connection with the above.

In April 2020, the Agency granted new licence to public broadcasting services, which, among others, include mandatory quota for broadcasting programmes intended for national minorities and duration of minimum of one hour per week, taking into account equal representation. This provision entered in force with the date of granting the licence, i.e. 26/04/2020. The Agency shall, ex officio, monitor compliance with the conditions of the public broadcasters, including the provision on mandatory weekly quota for broadcasting programmes intended for national minorities. Additionally, the Agency, within its activities related to the revision of rules and regulations on public radio and television stations, plans to introduce mandatory quota to all public radio and television stations for programmes intended for national minorities.

To ensure the media pluralism, equal and efficient competition on the media market of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 2008, the Agency introduced a possibility of granting special licences for terrestrial radio broadcasting intended for specific social groups. It is a licence for non-profit organizations or citizens' associations for the purpose of meeting the specific needs of individual social groups, which is non-commercial basis, and non-exclusive. No initiatives were recorded, nor was the interest of national minorities in granting a licence for terrestrial broadcasting to non-profit organizations in order to meet the specific needs of a particular social group on a non-profit basis. In addition to this, there is an option of establishing the television station via other electronic communication networks,

for which the Agency also grants non-exclusive licences. However, no requests for this type of licence by national minorities were registered.

49. The Radio and Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina - as a public service of all citizens, has the obligation and the mission to report on issues important for national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and, through diverse programme content, contributes to preserving cultural and traditional values of different national minorities. In addition to the European standards enshrined in the principles of the public broadcasting service of Bosnia and Herzegovina, our programme obligation to create such programmes also arises from legal acts which define the issue of national minorities in the media. The previous report indicated obligations of the BHRT arising from the BiH Law on the Public Broadcasting System of (Article 26, paragraph 3), the Law on the Protection of Rights of National Minorities in BiH (Article 16), and in the new Licence of the Communications Regulatory Agency System (valid until 26/04/2020) the obligations of the BHR1 and the BHT1 related to creating and broadcasting programmes intended for national minorities are more strongly emphasised. Thus, BHT1 is required to broadcast programme intended for national minorities in the duration of minimum one hour per week. Furthermore, BHT1 will, at least once per week, provide special informative show for national minorities, in their language, taking into account equal representation. The same provision is indicated in the Licence for BHR1.

### **Contemporary documentary programme**

At the initiative of national minorities, through "Minority Coordination Group" and with the support of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Strengthening the protection of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina", 2018 the BHT1, through the "Identiteti" (Identities) programme, started broadcasting shows intended for national minorities, initially on monthly basis. Thanks to a UNICEF project that cofinanced the production of the show, in June 2020, 5 one-hour shows were broadcasted once a week. Thematically, the concept of "Identities" overview of lives and activities of registered national minorities, with most of them being represented. In the next programme schedule (2020 - 2021) the Contemporary Documentary Programme of BHT1 will continue to realize the show "Identities" in the same format, but with increased broadcasting intensity. Instead of once a month, the show will be aired once a week. Conceptually, this programme will contain at least one documentary film, duration 6-10 minutes, while the rest of the show will be realized from the studio, with the participation of guests. Around 30 shows are planned within the said schedule. The issue of language will remain open. Given the capacity of BHT1, technical feasibility and the fact that there are few speakers of national minority languages in BiH, it will be very difficult to implement the programme in minority languages. According to previous experience, with the exception of the Albanian national minority, to find a sufficient number of guests who would speak exclusively in their mother tongue during one show proved to be impossible. So far, there have never been any complaints or negative comments on the show "Identities", neither in conceptual nor in terms of content, from representatives or members of national minorities, as well as from other viewers.

### **News programme**

News programme does not have special shows on national minorities, but stories on the rights, requests, issues and traditions of members of some of national minorities are aired in different editions of informative contents, particularly in the "Dnevnik 2" (Daily News). However, the issues most often discussed were the issues that members of the largest national minority, Roma, face. The News Programme will continue to follow national minorities, primarily when there is a current, daily/current reason, but the thematic stories will also address the issues faced by these groups (employment, education, promotion of cultural values and customs, etc.). As for complaints or

perception of such contents, do far, there have been no complaints related to inappropriate media content of members of national minorities.

## **Culture**

The Culture Editorial Board has had so far a very active relationship and cooperation with different associations which promote cultural contents and events that treat important persons or events relevant to certain national minorities. We can mention the cooperation with the Slovenian Association "Ivan Cankar", then events dedicated to Isak Samokovlija, and the prominent places for art exhibitions are galleries 'Novi hram' and the Jewish Municipality in Sarajevo, meeting places for national minorities and all nationalities that create and exhibit in the region. Generally, the culture of national minorities is followed, however, it would be important to achieve a more visible continuity, to create space to present creative artists and content from these communities. And they make "cultural heritage of BiH" even richer and more diverse.

## **Radio of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

### **News programme**

News programme of BHR1 has in through news, mainly through reports and thematically, followed events important for the status of national minorities (Sarajevo Canton National Minorities Day, International Roma Day; social topics, etc.).

Furthermore, since 2018, the news programme has been producing the show "Među nama o nama" (Between Us, About Us) for marginalised social groups, and it often focuses thematically on national minorities. The first two shows (on the Law on the Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities in BiH) were supported by the project of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Strengthening the protection of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina". So far, the show has been broadcast every two weeks, and total of 13 editions have been dedicated to national minorities. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the production has been suspended, but one edition has been produced, dedicated to violence and hate speech against Roma during the Coronavirus crisis (19.08.). The broadcast of this show will continue in the autumn schedule, for now two times a month, duration 30-45 minutes.

Some of the topics of the realized shows were: political participation of national minorities, languages of national minorities in BiH, history of national minorities in BiH, Festival of Cultural Creativity of National Minorities of RS in Banja Luka, status of Roma women, Roma housing, Roma employment, etc.) In the shows, representatives of associations of national minorities from different parts of BiH and neighbouring countries, as well as representatives of the governmental and non-governmental sector dealing with this issue presented or confronted their languages and traditions, attitudes and experiences.

The goal was to talk about a certain topic to as many actors as possible who are directly interested or deal with a specific issue. For example, in the show 'Languages of National Minorities in BiH', it was talked about to what extent and where minority languages are taught, both institutionally and extra-institutionally, so the topic was discussed by representatives of Roma, Italians, Ukrainians, Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, Slovenians, Macedonians and representatives of the Jewish community, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the FBiH and the RS Ministry of Education and Culture. Different experiences were exchanged, and interlocutors said some phrases in languages of their national minorities. Preservation and revitalization of almost extinct language of Sephardi Jews in Bosnia and Herzegovina were also discussed.

In the show 'Festival of National Minorities of the RS' in Banja Luka, cultural creativity, customs and traditions of the 12 national minorities operating in that entity were presented. The following minorities presented themselves: Montenegrins, Czechs, Italians, Jews, Hungarians, Macedonians, Poles, Roma, Russians, Slovaks, Slovenes and Ukrainians. In the show recorded in Prnjavor, which is still called "Little Europe", 9 currently active associations of 13 national minorities were presented, and cooperation with local authorities, issues and disagreements in the Municipal Council of National Minorities were discussed, as well as the culture of Czechs, Poles, Roma, Italians, and Ukrainians cherished even today.

In the show about the Romani language, we looked for an answer to the question whether we in Bosnia and Herzegovina are ready to respond to the challenge of preserving the Romani language and culture faced by Roma and countries across Europe. In addition to the issues Roma face in BiH and the ways in which they overcome them, international obligations of BiH were discussed, and we learnt about models of institutional teaching and studying the Romani language and culture from experiences of Croatia and Serbia.

Two shows, on the Law on the Protection of National Minorities in BiH and the Romani language, were supported financially from the project "Strengthening the protection of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina", a part of a co-operation initiative of the European Union and Council of Europe, the Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey.

The show on violence against Roma women during the Coronavirus pandemic was realized with the financial support of the joint action of the European Union and Council of Europe "Promotion of diversity and equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina", within which the project "Prevention of hate speech and violence against Roma women during the COVID 19 pandemic" was implemented, implemented by the Association of Roma Women "Bolja budućnost" (Better Future) from Tuzla.

The shows were also uploaded to our website, [www.bhrt.ba](http://www.bhrt.ba), and the guests shared the link on their personal and accounts of their organisations and institutions via social media and YouTube channels.

### **Hosted programme/Music programme**

In the hosted programme, 'Otvoreni studio' (Open Studio) show, topics related to activities of national minority associations, health care, social welfare, discrimination and hate speech against Roma were discussed.

The music programme broadcasts music tracks in the languages of national minorities and produces shows about authors who are members of national minorities.

BHR1 has never, since the start of broadcasting the content dedicated to national minorities, received and objections or complaints for the produced content.

And as already indicated, in addition to the obligation and will to produce such content, it should be said that the Radio Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina at this stage does not have the capacity to fully meet its obligations, primarily those related to the production of programmes in national minority languages. BHRT has one radio and one television channel and very limited financial means for production of different programmes, such as informative, culture, sports, education, etc. There have also been attempts in the past, when the financial situation of the BHRT1 was more favourable, to realize content in minority languages, primarily in the Romany language, but it was abandoned due to lack of larger number of interlocutors and hosts who speak the language of some of the

national minorities. Thus, we decided, in addition to daily informative content addressing the issue of national minorities, to do shows and series about national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the official B / H / S languages, hoping that in future we will have the opportunity to financially and personnel-wise to start producing programs for national minorities in the languages of those minorities. We are also aware how important education is in our work and mission, therefore, the production of programmes intended for children, members of national minorities, in their mother tongue, remains our long-term obligation.

50. RTRS - its role of the Public Broadcaster of the Republika Srpska is regulated by the Law on the Radio and Television of the RS and the Law on Public Broadcasting System of BiH, respecting editorial principles based on the European standards and other relevant regulations.

In 2020, despite extraordinary circumstances and priority put on increased reporting on measures and protection of the citizens against COVID-19, the Radio and Television of the RS made efforts to, respecting all regulations and editorial principles, fulfil its obligations of a public broadcasting service, which implies access to programmes of representatives of other peoples, i.e. national minorities.

In accordance with the professional standards of the RTRS, public broadcasters in BiH and the implementation of the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Television of the RS included in its programme scheme, from March 10, a new show "Little Europe" in its programme schedule, dedicated to national minorities, preserving culture and languages. The show was aired practically every week! It was premiered at 11:00 on Saturday on the *Prvi Program* and the rerun was aired the following week at 19:00 on the *RTRS Program Plus*. The tendency is that, until the final goal which is purposeful production of programmes for national minorities is reached, we include as high percentage of contents in the programme in which information about national minorities, their culture, preoccupations, language and tradition can be heard. An integral part is the promotion of positive values of these communities in our programme through dedicated segments, regular activities of associations of national minorities gathered at the Alliance of National Minorities of the RS. Viewers are regularly informed about all this in the morning programme, the show "U fokusu" (In the Focus) and regular news programmes 'Vijesti', 'Srpska danas' and 'Dnevnik'. In all these shows, on the principle of events of public interest, we inform the public about the importance and value of national minority communities, for the preservation of their tradition, language and culture.

The new cycle of the special show for national minorities "Little Europe" has been broadcast since 7 September 2020 on the *Prvi program*, and the *RTRS Program Plus*.

According to current programme schedule the "Little Europe" is aired every other Monday at 16:00 on the *Prvi program* of the Television of the RS. The rerun is aired on Sundays at 19:00 on the 'RTRS Program Plus'. This way, we consolidated the needs of the national minority representatives from the RS to promote their activities and introduce the communities living in this area. By insisting on the protection and learning of the language, education, the most positive values of their communities and promoting tolerance and true values of the modern civilization.

The show "Korijeni" (Roots), on the Radio of the RS has been broadcast since 3 April 2006. It is a one-hour show aired on Saturday which explores all important topics in the lives of national minorities.

The show on national minorities 'Korijeni' is the longest-run show in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As a public broadcaster, the Radio and Television of the Republika Srpska, does not often have the opportunity to apply for some of the European programmes that encourage affirmation and protection of diversity of national minorities. If this principle was to be corrected, the Television of the RS and other public broadcasters in the region would have the opportunity to improve their production, ensure quality translations, ensure that national minority languages are heard, enter their homes and communities and thus learn about the life of minorities in a more comprehensive way.

This way, these programmes, not attractive for the wider audience, would have a chance for better promotion and a better approach.

51. Public broadcasters founded by the Canton are obliged to produce special shows for members of national minorities, and they can also provide other contents in national minority languages, as well as shows in official languages of the constituent peoples on national minorities in the Canton. **(Article 16 - Obligations of Public Broadcasters)**

The Cantonal Radio and Television Goražde, which is under the competence of the relevant Ministry, broadcast segments and shows on national minorities on regular basis.

## 8. PART VII - Article 10 of the Convention

*Paragraph 1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.*

*Paragraph 2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.*

*Paragraph 3 The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.*

52. The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Justice and Administration - The FBiH Law on Administrative Procedure, Article 16, allows the parties (in this concrete case national minorities) to use the language they understand, as follows:

### Use of language and alphabet

#### Article 16

(1) Administrative procedure shall be conducted in Bosnian and Croatian languages, and other languages may be used as means of communication.

(2) Authority conducting the administrative procedure shall ensure equal use of Bosnian language and Croatian language.

(3) If the FBiH Law specifies additional language as official language, that language shall be used in accordance with the FBiH Law.

(4) If the procedure is not conducted in the party's language, the authority conducting the procedure shall be required to enable the party to follow the course of the procedure in his or her language. The authority shall advise a party or another participant of the possibility to use his/her language in the

procedure and it shall be entered in the record that the party or another participant has been advised of this right, as well as his statement related to the given advice.

(5) The parties and other participants in the procedure who are not nationals of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and do not speak the language in which the procedure is conducted shall have the right to follow the course of the procedure via an interpreter.

(6) The official scripts in the administrative procedure shall be Latin.

The Cantonal Administrative Inspection within the Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Justice and Administration conducts inspection control over the work of the Cantonal administrative authorities and organisations, as well as the local self-government units, in the part of the proper implementation of the Law on Administrative Procedure.

Documents in regional or minority languages cannot be drafted in local communities, nor the surname in regional or minority language can be used in the civil registry. As for the use of traditional and proper forms of names in regional and minority languages, and the use of surname in regional or minority language in the civil registry, the Municipality of Kakanj was the only to respond it acts in accordance with the Law on Registry Books in the FBiH (Official Gazette of the FBiH, 37/12 and 80/14) and the Law on Personal Name (Official Gazette of the FBiH, 7/12).

53. The Municipality of Travnik - In practical situations, the procedures in the work of the Municipality of Travnik, as an administrative body, are conducted in Bosnian and Croatian as equal languages. Communication (discussing, informing, etc.) during the procedure may be carried out in other language, i.e. national minority languages, and the authority conducting the administrative procedure is required to enable the party to follow the course of the procedure in his or her language. As for this area, Article 16 of the FBiH Law on Administrative Procedure is applied.

54. The RS Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Government - The General Administrative Procedure Law (Official Gazette of the RS, 13/02, 87/07, 50/1, and 66/18) stipulates that if the procedure is not conducted in the party's or other participants' language, the authority is required to allow them to follow the course of the procedure via interpreters, and to issue summonses, decisions and other papers in their language and script.

### **8.1. Use of minority languages in the work of administrative authorities**

55. The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Justice and Administration - Legal representatives of the Cantonal Institute for Legal Aid provide free legal aid to all persons equally, regardless of their gender, age, origin, religious affiliation, including members of national minorities, i.e. from the moment the persons addressed the Institute they are given legal advice, drafting legal documents free of charge is provided, as well as the representation of those persons before the relevant courts and administrative authorities. The Cantonal Institute for Legal Aid implements substantive and procedural laws that ensure equality of national minorities and equal legal protection. Legal representatives of this Institute, when represent national minorities before the relevant authorities, are witnesses that these persons are advised about their rights and options and that they can uninterruptedly use their language, for which an interpreter is provided (Article 315 of the FBiH Administrative Procedure Law).

**Article 5 paragraph 1** of the FBiH Criminal Procedure Code (Official Gazette of the FBiH, 35/03, 37/03, 56/03, 78/04, 28/05, 55/06, 27/07, 53/07, 09/09, 12/10, 08/13, and 59/14) prescribes:

"A person deprived of liberty must, in his native tongue or any other language that he understands, be immediately informed about the reasons for his apprehension and, before the first interrogation, instructed on the fact that he is not bound to make a statement, on his right to a defence attorney of his

own choice as well as on the fact that his family, consular officer of the foreign state whose citizen he is, or other person designated by him shall be informed about his deprivation of liberty."

**Article 8 of the FBiH Criminal Procedure Code** prescribes:

"The Bosnian language, the Croatian language and the Serbian language and both the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets shall be in equal official use in criminal proceedings"

**Article 9 of the FBiH Criminal Procedure Code** titled "Right to Use Language and Alphabet" prescribes:

"(1) The criminal proceedings shall be conducted in one of the languages referred to in Article 8 and one of the alphabets referred to in Article 8 shall be used in the criminal proceedings. "

(2) Parties, witnesses and other participants in the proceedings shall have the right to use their own language in the course of the proceedings. If such a participant does not understand one of the official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina, provision shall be made for oral interpretation of the testimony of that person and other persons, and translations of official documents and IDs and other written pieces of evidence.

(3) Person referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Article shall be informed of the right referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Article prior to the first questioning and may waive such right if the person knows the language in which the proceedings are being conducted. A note shall be made in the record that the participant has been so informed, and his response thereto shall also be noted.

(4) Interpretation shall be performed by a court interpreter.

**Article 10 of the FBiH Criminal Procedure Code** titled "Sending and Delivery of Papers" prescribes:

"(1) The court and other bodies participating in the proceedings shall issue summonses, decisions and other papers in the official languages referred to in Article 8 of this Code.

(2) Indictments, appeals, and other court documents shall be submitted to the court and other bodies participating in the proceedings in the official languages referred to in Article 8. of this Code.

(3) A person who is deprived of freedom or in custody, serving a sentence or committed to mandatory psychiatric treatment or to mandatory rehabilitation for an addiction, shall also be delivered the translation of the papers referred to in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article in the language used by the person in question in the proceedings.

In the event that the court fails to apply the above provisions, it constitutes an absolutely substantial violation of the provisions of the criminal procedure, which in accordance with Article 314, paragraph 1, item c. of the Criminal Code Procedure of the FBiH is the grounds for an appeal against the judgement.

Therefore, one of the absolutely significant violations of the provisions of the criminal procedure exists if the main hearing is held without a person whose presence at the main hearing is required by law, or if the accused, their defence counsel or injured party is denied to use his or her language at the main hearing and to follow the course of the main hearing in his or her language.

**Article 18 The Misdemeanor Law** (Official Gazette of the FBiH, 63/14) criminal proceeding is conducted in one of official languages in official use in the Court: Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian. Parties, witnesses and other participants in the proceedings have the right to use their own language in the course of the proceedings. If they do not understand any of the official languages, they are provided with translation of what they or other participants present as well as with the translation of documents and other evidence.

The parties are advised on these issues prior to the first hearing. If they speak the language in which the proceeding is conducted they can waive these rights.

The said advice and the statement are recorded in the court record.

Interpretation is performed by a court interpreter. Interpretation costs are not paid by the parties. The Court, i.e. Cantonal Budget bears the interpretation costs. This right is granted for not only regional and minority languages, but for all languages across the world.

In order to ensure this right is respected in the criminal proceedings as well, the Law stipulates that the authority conducting the criminal proceeding is required advise the participants on the proceeding on their right to use their mother tongue or languages they understand and that this advice and the

statement of the party are recoded in the court register (Article 9 paragraph 3 of the FBiH Criminal Procedure Law).

Denying the party the right to use their mother tongue during the main hearing constitutes violation of the provisions of the criminal procedure, and is the grounds for an appeal against the judgement (Article 312, paragraph 1, item c. of the FBiH Criminal Procedure Code).

Persons usually in charge of fees and costs of criminal proceedings will not bear the costs of translation into the language of the party, witnesses or other persons participating in the criminal proceedings, which arise from the application of the provisions on translation into the language of the party and other participants, shall not be charged on persons otherwise obliged to (Article 199 paragraph 5 of the FBiH Criminal Procedure Code). Therefore, translation and interpretation costs are paid in advance from the budget funds and remain the budget expenses, regardless of who is required to bear the costs of the criminal proceedings under the final decision. The Rules on the reimbursement of the costs of criminal proceedings in the FBiH and the scheduled amount (Official Gazette of the FBiH, 7/18) also states that the translation and interpretation costs to the language of the party and other persons participating in the criminal proceedings, which arise from the application of the provisions of the FBiH Criminal Procedure Law, shall not be charged on persons otherwise obliged to (Article 2 paragraph 5 of the Rules).

In addition to the right to use mother tongue in verbal communication of participants in the criminal proceedings, the FBiH Criminal Code also prescribes the obligation to provide a person deprived of liberty or in custody, serving a sentence or mandatory psychiatric treatment for addiction with a translation of court documents in the language used by that person in the proceedings. Therefore, summonses, decisions and other papers are issued to the said persons in the language they use in the court proceedings (Article 10 paragraph 3 of the FBiH Criminal Code).

Therefore, it is clear from the above that the parties, witnesses and other participants in the criminal proceedings before the Prosecutor's Office and the courts have the right to use their language, regardless of whether that language is the official language of the criminal proceedings. If the participant does not understand the official language the criminal proceedings is conducted in, they are provided with oral translation of what they or other participants say, as well as the translations of documents and other written evidence, in order to be fully familiarized with the results of undertaken court actions.

We remind that the Automated Case Management System (CMS/TCMS) in Prosecutor's Offices does not envisage the possibility of generating reports under the nationality criterion, in order to obtain specific statistical data on the use of minority languages in criminal cases conducted by this Prosecutor's Office.

In criminal proceedings:

There were no requests by members of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to use minority language.

**- in the civil proceedings;**

These proceedings include: administrative, economic, non-contentious and administrative proceedings. In all these proceedings, the provisions of Articles 6 and 313-315 of the Civil Procedure Law (Official Gazette of the FBiH, 53/03, 73/05, 19/06, and 98/15), which stipulates that parties and other participants in the proceedings use one of the languages referred in Article 6 (Bosnian, Serbian or Croatian language) shall apply. If they do not speak any of the above languages, they are provided at their cost oral or written translation of procedural actions they undertake as well as other oral or written translations for their own purposes.

Parties and interveners are also required to provide translation or interpretation related to the presentation of evidence they proposed. Translation is performed by interpreters.

The application of the Charter in civil procedure is reflected in the following legal provisions:

**Article 6 of the FBiH Civil Procedure Code** (Official Gazette of the FBiH, 53/03, 73/05, 19/06, and 98/15) prescribes:

"The languages of Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian peoples shall be official languages in the civil procedure, and Cyrillic and Latin alphabets shall be official alphabets."

**Article 145 paragraph 1 of the FBiH Civil Procedure Code** prescribes:

"The witness who does not speak the language in which the proceedings are conducted shall be questioned through an interpreter."

**Article 313 of the FBiH Civil Procedure Code** prescribes:

"Summons, rulings and other court documents shall be served on the parties and other participants in the proceedings in one of the languages referred to in Article 6 of this Law."

**Article 314 of the FBiH Civil Procedure Code** prescribes:

"Parties and other participants in the proceedings shall use in the proceedings one of the languages referred to in Article 6 of this Law."

**Article 315 of the FBiH Civil Procedure Code** prescribes:

"(1) Parties and interveners who cannot use one of the languages referred to in Article 6 of this Law shall provide translation or interpretation of their procedural actions, as well as any other translation or interpretation for their needs, at their own cost.

(2) Parties and interveners shall also provide translation or interpretation related to the presentation of evidence they proposed.

(3) The interpretation shall be done by interpreters."

In the event that the court fails to apply the above provisions, it constitutes violation of the provisions of the civil procedure, which is always influential in making a lawful and correct judgment, which in accordance with Article 209 paragraph 2 item 7 of the FBiH Civil Procedure Code is grounds for an appeal against the judgement.

The second-instance court will quash the first instance verdict if the court, contrary to the provisions of the FBiH Civil Procedure Code, denied the party to use their language and the script in the proceedings and to follow the course of the proceedings in their language, in accordance with Article 227 paragraph 1 item 5.

Taking into account that Article 9 paragraph 1 item b of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages prescribes that the courts are required to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without incurring additional expense, the conclusion is that provision of Article 315 paragraph 2 of the Law on Civil Procedure Code is not in accordance with this Charter. In this regard, the courts (Municipal Court in Zenica, document number: 043- 0- Su-19-001275 as of 14/08/2019) will charge the future translation costs to the party who personally carries out the procedural action, but will pay them from the court or cantonal budget. According to the data from the Municipal Courts (Kakanj, Zenica, Visoko, Cantonal Court in Zenica ...) there were no requests by parties in the criminal or civil proceedings to use minority languages in the period 2015-2018

Therefore, in all proceedings conducted before the court (Cantonal Court in Zenica, Municipal Courts and the Cantonal Prosecutor's Office), it is ensured that the European Chart for Regional and Minority Languages is applied in a way that the violation of the rights of persons who do not speak one of the official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina is sanctioned by revoking the judgement based on that violation.

We note that in accordance of Article 10 of the Law on Courts in the FBiH, all parties in the proceedings are allowed to use a language they understand.

Article 10 of the Law on Courts in the FBiH (Official Gazette of the FBiH, 38/05, 22/06, 63/10, and 72/10):

"Official languages used in courts shall be Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian, and Cyrillic and Latin alphabets shall be official scripts.

The court conducts proceedings and issues decision in the language used by the judge in the proceedings or the language specified by the President of the Trial Chamber, and the translation during the hearing for the party, at their request, or the translation of the court decision into the language used by the party will be provided as follows: in criminal proceedings the court will bear the costs, and in all other proceedings the party will bear the costs. Parties may submit relevant documents to the court in any of the official languages.

In the said period, according to the records available in courts and the Zenica-Doboj Canton Prosecutor's Office, there were no requests to use minority languages.

**Article 8** Law on the Protection of the Rights of National Minorities in the FBiH (Official Gazette of the FBiH 56/08) provides that the FBiH recognises and protects the right of each member of a national minority in BiH to use his/her language freely and without any interferences, both in private and in public, both orally and in writing.

The right referred to paragraph 1 of this Article implies the right of members of national minorities to use their full name in their minority language and to request it to be in public use as such.

56. The Municipality of Travnik - In practical situations, the procedures in the work of the Municipality of Travnik, as an administrative body, are conducted in Bosnian and Croatian as equal languages. Communication (discussing, informing, etc.) during the procedure may be carried out in other language, i.e. national minority languages, and the authority conducting the administrative procedure is required to enable the party to follow the course of the procedure in his or her language. As for this area, Article 16 of the FBiH Law on Administrative Procedure is applied.

57. The Council of Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Within the small grant scheme of the Action by the European Union and the Council of Europe "Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina", in 2019, the Municipality of Prnjavor translated the Municipal website to minority languages, i.e. German, Italian, Polish, Czech, Ukrainian and Romani. Within the small grant scheme of the Action by the European Union and the Council of Europe "Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina", in 2019, the Municipality of Prijedor and the City of Sarajevo published newspapers/bulletins in minority languages (Ukrainian, Czech, Slovenian, Hungarian, Italian, German, Macedonian, Turkish and Polish).

Within the small grant scheme of the Action by the European Union and the Council of Europe "Promotion of Diversities and Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina", in 2020, non-governmental organizations published materials and broadcast shows on a private TV channel in the Romani language.

## 9. PART VIII - Article 11 of the Convention

*Paragraph 1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.*

*Paragraph 2 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.*

*Paragraph 3 In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavour, in the framework of their legal system, including, where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.*

### **9.1. Topographic signs in minority languages**

58. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees in BiH - It is a known fact that there is no part of the BiH territory inhabited exclusively by one national minority, which means the national minorities are integrated with other residents of that territory. So far, there have been no requests by national minorities to provide bilingual signs with geographical terms, names of streets and settlements. Still, there are positive examples in the Municipality of Gradiška, where bilingual signs were installed, which was also initiated through the project of the Council of Europe, i.e. awarding small grants for best local projects. According to this, there are no legal obstacles in BiH to provide bilingual signs with geographical terms and names of settlements, if there is a request for that by a national minority, and to meet other requirements under the law.

59. The RS Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Government - The RS Constitution stipulates that the constitutional order is based on the protection of the rights of ethnic groups and other minorities. Furthermore, The Constitution stipulates that the official languages in the RS are the language of the Serb people, the language of the Bosniak people and the language of the Croat people. Official scripts are Cyrillic and Latin, and in the areas where other language groups live, their languages and scripts are in official use in a way that is determined by law.

The Law on the Protection of National Minorities (Official Gazette of the RS, 2/05) stipulates that the RS recognises and protects the right of each member of national minority to use his/her language in private and in public, orally and in writing. The said right implies the right of members of national minorities to use their full name in their minority language and to request it to be in public use as such.

In municipalities, cities and local communities in which members of a national majority constitute absolute or relative majority, authorities ensure that the minority language is used in the communication between the national minority members and authorities, that the signs on the institutional buildings are in minority language, and that local names, names of streets and other topographic markings intended for the public are prominent and in the language of a national minority that requests it.

Municipalities and cities may stipulate in their statutes that these rights may be used by members of a national minority even when they do not constitute an absolute or relative majority, but when a significant number of persons belonging to a national minority traditionally reside in a city, municipality, local community or settlement.

60. The Tuzla Canton - Article 9 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of National Minorities in the FBiH (Official Gazette of the FBiH 56/08). The Law on Law on the Protection of the Rights of

National Minorities in the Tuzla Canton (Official Gazette of the Tuzla Canton, 14/09), the Tuzla Canton Constitution prescribes that the official language in the Tuzla Canton are Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian, while other cantons may be used as means of communication and in teaching. Official scripts are Latin and Cyrillic. In municipalities, cities and local communities in which members of a national majority constitute majority, authorities shall ensure ensure that the minority language is used in the communication between the national minority members and authorities, that the signs on the institutional buildings are in minority language, and that local names, names of streets and other topographic markings intended for the public are prominent and in the language of a national minority that requests it. Municipalities and cities may stipulate in their statutes that the rights referred to in paragraph one of this Article may be used by members of a national minority even when they do not constitute majority. Local authorities do not use minority or regional languages, nor the written or oral requests may be submitted in regional or minority languages. Documents in regional or minority languages cannot be drafted in local communities, nor the surname in regional or minority language can be used in the civil registry. The Law on Law on the Protection of the Rights of National Minorities in the Tuzla Canton (Official Gazette of the Tuzla Canton, 14/09), also regulates the rights of national minorities. As for the education, Article 8 of the above Law prescribes that relevant cantonal authorities participate in in developing and adopting the Cantonal Budget and are required to plan and allocate funds for loans or scholarships for vocational education, and training of teachers who will teach in minority languages. Roma who live in the Tuzla Canton are included in the education in languages of the peoples of BiH. In communication with local authorities, the Roma do not use the Romani language, since they all communicate in languages of the peoples of BiH. It should be noted there is not standard Romani language in which parties could communicate with the authorities, and members of the Roma community, with the exception of oral communication, are not able to address the authorities in writing, because the language is not taught in formal or informal education. There are no human capacities with academic education who would teach the said language, nor there are court interpreters who would adequately interpret the Romani language and translate from BHS standards to the Romani and vice versa.

61. The Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman/Ombudsmen of BiH - With regard to the use of place names in minority languages, we had no complaints in this context, but we can point out as a positive example, the willingness of the Municipality of Visoko, local community Gračanica, to change the name of the site in the cadastre as the name used for many years contained a term offensive to the Roma national minority. The name was changed after councillors, representatives of the non-governmental sector and the Institution of Ombudsman drew attention to the issue.

## **10. PART IX - Article 12 of the Convention**

*Paragraph 1 The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.*

*Paragraph 2 In this context the Parties shall inter alia provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teachers of different communities.*

*Paragraph 3 The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.*

### **10.1. Training of teachers and teaching about national minorities in schools**

62. The Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH - Article 6 of the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, No 18/03) prescribes that the school has the responsibility to contribute to the creation of a culture, which respects human rights and fundamental liberties of all citizens in own areas, as set forth in the Constitution and other international document from the human rights field, signed by Bosnia and Herzegovina, while, according to Article 8 of the Law "The language and culture of any significant minority in BiH shall be respected and accommodated within the school to the greatest extent practicable, in accordance with the Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities". Schools are required to promote equal opportunities for all their students, teachers and other employees, taking into consideration and at the same time promoting the right for differences among them. With this aim, the school shall establish and carry out its own programs that support and promote different cultures, languages, and religions of its students and staff. (Article 36).

With the aim of promoting equal access and the right to education for national minorities, and other vulnerable groups, on 15 October 2019, the Council of Ministers of BiH, at the proposal of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, adopted the "Recommendations for Inclusive Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina", the implementation of which should contribute to the improvement of inclusive education and further development of inclusive education policies, which should be a continuous process, and the vision and the goal of relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and all relevant partners, to achieve quality education for all, at all levels.

Furthermore, in accordance with the vision of the Council of Europe for quality education and the Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on ensuring quality education, and the international standards for quality education for all, particularly in the inclusion segment, "Policy Recommendation with a Roadmap on Quality Education for All in Bosnia and Herzegovina" were set, which, at the proposal of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, the Council of Ministers of BiH adopted on 2 September 2020. Measures proposed with this document outline the need for quality education to be considered a public good and the fundamental social value in Bosnia and Herzegovina and it is stressed it is necessary to: implement policies in accordance with the international standards and develop democratic culture in schools, based on principles of democratic rights and responsibilities, i.e. improve inclusive education, without discrimination on any ground.

Having in mind the regulation of the education sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina, i.e. the allocation of direct competences to the Republika Srpska entity, the cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Brcko District of BiH, it is not possible to talk about a common curriculum for any subject, but exclusively about the Common Core Curriculum, as defined by the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina. With regard to that, and in order to improve the curricula by focusing on learning outcomes, as well as on harmonisation with the European standards, the Agency for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education (APOS0), in cooperation with the relevant authorities, developed the Common Core Curriculum (CCC) defined on learning outcomes for eight educational areas: Language and Communication, Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science and Humanities, Technics and Information Technology, Art, Physical and Health Education, and a Cross-Curricular Area. Thus, the following have been developed and approved by the APOS0 board: The Common Core Curriculum for History Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 3/16); The Common Core Curriculum for Civic Education Defined on Learning Outcomes (civic education, democracy and human rights, politics and civil society, economy, politics and economy, democracy and culture) (Official Gazette of BiH, 3/16); The Common Core Curriculum for My Environment, Nature and Society, Society and Geography Defined on Learning Outcomes ((Official Gazette of BiH, 58/17).

To make the implementation of the Common Core Curriculum easier, the Guidelines for Implementation of Common Core Curriculum Defined on Learning Outcomes, and the Guidelines for Implementation of Common Core Curriculum for Cross-Curricular Area defined on Learning Outcomes have been developed, and training of trainers/teachers on the CCC defined on learning outcomes have been incorporated in the existing curricula. The CCC defined on learning outcomes is

implemented in individual cantons. Programmes based on the Common Core Curriculum defined on learning outcomes improve the education quality and ensure the flow of students across Bosnia and Herzegovina. By continuously improving the curricula, and implementing them, efforts are being made to improve, among others, the inclusion, i.e. to enable equal access to education for all students in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including members of national minorities.

63. The FBiH Ministry of Education and Science has been implementing the programme "Support to Professional Development and Lifelong Learning of Teachers in Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education" for years through a public call for financing / co-financing of projects in the field of preschool, primary and secondary education. The purpose of this programme is to develop competence of teachers in preschool, primary and secondary education for the education work focused on developing the key competences with children and students, implementing curricula based on learning outcomes. This implies building the education that will develop the key competences with students, in accordance with the European Reference Framework of key competencies for lifelong learning, necessary for personal fulfilment and development, employability, social inclusion, healthy and sustainable lifestyles, successful life in peaceful societies and active citizenship.

The Framework Curriculum for nine-year primary schools, whose development was initiated by the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science, includes only compulsory subjects. As for the principle of prevention and protection against discrimination, improving the inclusion of topics related to human rights, promoting multiethnic environment, in accordance with the FBiH Constitution, and according to available information, the cantons in the FBiH address this in different ways; for example: in the Tuzla Canton (Curriculum implemented in the Tuzla Canton includes the following subjects: Civic Education, Democracy and Human Rights, and History and Religion/Religious Culture, which cover the education content for peace and human rights), in the Una-Sana Canton (Curriculum for nine-year primary schools include the Democracy and Human Rights, taught in ninth grade. The curricula of all secondary schools include Democracy and Human Rights, taught in year three), in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (Civic Education / Democracy and Human Rights included in primary and secondary schools), in the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton (Civic Education / Democracy and Human Rights included in primary and secondary schools), in the Sarajevo Canton (Curriculum for nine-year primary schools includes the Civic Education, taught in ninth grade), etc.

The issue of the use and utilization of minority languages in the Federation of BiH is regulated by the Law on the Protection of the Rights of National Minorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, 12/03 and 76/05), (Official Gazette of the FBiH, 56/08), the BiH Law on Prohibition of Discrimination (Official Gazette of BiH, 59/09 and 66/16).

The issue of teaching minority languages in preschool institutions, primary and secondary schools is addressed in the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, 18/03), the Framework Law on Preschool Education (Official Gazette of BiH, 88/07), and the Framework Law on Secondary Vocational Education and Training in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, 63/08). In the FBiH, cantonal laws on education are harmonized with the framework laws adopted at the level of BiH, so it can be concluded that all law on primary educations are harmonised with the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in BiH, which in Article 8 prescribes the following: "The language and culture of any significant minority living in BiH will be respected and integrated into the school to the greatest extent practicable, in accordance with the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities."

As for the implementation of one harmonized national curriculum, it should be noted that the following documents related to Common Core Curriculum have been published in Official Gazette of BiH:

1. The Common Core Curriculum for Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian Languages Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 23/15);

2. The Common Core Curriculum for Foreign Languages Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 23/15);
3. The Guidelines for Implementation of Common Core Curriculum Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 77/15);
4. The Guidelines for Implementation of Common Core Curriculum for Cross-Curricular Area Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 87/15);
5. The Common Core Curriculum for Cross-Curricular and Cross-Curricular Area Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 87/15);
6. The Common Core Curriculum for Social Science and Humanities Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 3/16);
7. The Common Core Curriculum for Civic Education Defined on Learning outcomes (civic education, democracy and human rights, politics and civil society, economy, politics and economy, democracy and culture) (Official Gazette of BiH, 3/16);
8. The Common Core Curriculum for History Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 3/16);
9. The Common Core Curriculum for Mathematics Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 77/15);
10. The Common Core Curriculum for Technics and Information Technology Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 24/16);
11. The Common Core Curriculum for Art Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 37/15);
12. The Common Core Curriculum for Natural Science Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 58/17);
13. The Common Core Curriculum for Physical and Health Education Defined on Learning Outcomes (Official Gazette of BiH, 16/18);

64. The RS Ministry of Education and Culture - In accordance with the RS Constitution every child has the right to education under same conditions.

All laws on education in the RS stipulate that every child shall have an equal right and equal opportunities in education, without discrimination on any grounds. The language and the culture of national minorities in the RS shall be respected and used in school to the fullest extent possible, in accordance with the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the law prescribing the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The Law on Preschool Education (2015) prescribes that education of children members of national minorities of preschool age is carried out in their language or bilingual. The Minister of Education and Culture has issued a Rulebook on the bilingual realization of educational work and work in the language of national minorities. Educational work in the languages of national minorities has not yet been organized in preschool institutions, since there have been no requests for that.

Children of this age learn the language within their families or in associations (Slovenian, Italian, Ukrainian, German). Already in 2004, the RS adopted the Rulebook on the care and education of children belonging to national minorities. Only two languages of national minorities are taught in primary schools in the RS - Ukrainian and Italian. The RS Minister of Education and Culture issued the Curriculum for the Ukrainian language, which has been in use since the 2013/2014 academic year. The aim of teaching this subject is for students to master the standard spoken and written Ukrainian language to a level that will enable them to use that language in speech and writing, as well as to get acquainted with the achievements of Ukrainian culture. The provision of teaching aids and textbooks for these classes is assisted by embassies, associations and individuals, and the purchase is financed by parents.

Generally - two foreign languages are taught in the RS - English as the first foreign language is taught from the third grade of primary school with two lessons per week. As a second foreign

language, German, French, Italian or Russian are taught two hours a week from the sixth grade. Chinese language is also taught in schools in the RS. There is no initiative to study the languages of national minorities in secondary schools.

Russian, German or Italian are taught in schools as first or foreign language.

65. The Zenica-Doboj Ministry of Justice and Administration - Article 8 of the Law on Primary Education (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 3/18) states that foreign citizens and stateless persons have the right to education in schools of this Canton, under provisions of this Law, in accordance with conventions and agreements Bosnia and Herzegovina has concluded with other countries and international organizations. Article 12 of the Law on Primary School (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 9/17) states that foreign citizens and stateless persons have the right to education in secondary schools of this Canton, under provisions of this Law, in accordance with conventions and agreements Bosnia and Herzegovina has concluded with other countries and international organizations.

It should be noted that the procedure of drafting a new Law on Preschool Education of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, aimed at ensuring greater rights to preschool education particularly for children with disabilities, is ongoing. Article 7 of the Law on Secondary School (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 9/17) defines the issues of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms: language and culture of national minorities shall be respected in schools to the greatest extent possible, in accordance with the Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The relevant Ministry will determine the curriculum which meets the needs of national minorities, and which includes language, literature, history and culture of those national minorities,

66. The Posavina-Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports - Primary schools in the Posavina Canton previously received the Handbook by Leonard Valenta: Let's Get to Know Each Other, national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (a group of teachers attended the training) and in its annual school work plan, depending on the community the school is in, they can plan different activities related to learning about the culture and traditions of national minorities. The example is Primary School "Vladimir Nazor" in Odžak, which conducted extracurricular activity for three years: Polish language and culture, there were students in the school whose one of parents is Pole, and activities were conducted by an associate originally from Poland.

## **10.2. Roma in education system**

67. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH - The Council of Ministers of BiH, at its 108th session held 19 July 2017, recommended to the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH to develop the Framework Action Plan in 2017/2018 for educational needs in BiH.

The Council of Ministers of BiH recommended to the relevant entity, i.e. cantonal Ministries of Education and the Department for Education of the Government of Brčko District of BiH to, in cooperation with local communities and the Roma associations operating in their area, develop and adopt own action plans on education needs of Roma.

These action plans, in accordance with needs and the situation in the field, should have precise measures which would result in full equality of Roma children with regard to access to education, i.e. full and successful inclusion of all Roma children in compulsory primary education.

During the collection of data necessary for the preparation of the Report on the Implementation of the Framework Action Plan on the Educational Needs of Roma in BiH for 2019, it was noted that the Action Plans on the educational needs of Roma, which should, in principle, include measures to

address high dropout rates, except in the Central Bosnia Canton (according to official data) they are not adopted anywhere.

Noticing this problem, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH during the drafting of the new Action Plan for Social Inclusion of Roma in BiH 2021-2025, proposed, among other things, a completely new goal in the field of education.

GOAL 4 Initiate and provide assistance to all educational authorities in BiH aimed at adopting action plans for education of the Roma - ensure the adoption and start of implementation of the Action Plans: in the Republika Srpska, the Federation of BiH in five cantons and the Brčko District of BiH by 2022.

Towards the end of 2020, information was received that the Republika Srpska entity had also adopted its local Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma.

During 2020, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, with the aim to implement some of the proposed measures contained in the Framework Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma 2018-2022, initiated the following activities:

- MHRR BiH sent an initiative to the Rectors' Conference to open Roma language departments (Goal 2 measure 1 FAP for BiH). No response has yet been received from the BiH Rectors' Conference.

MHRR BiH has requested from the relevant educational institutions their opinion with regard to (Goal 1 measure 3 and Goal 2 measure 4), which refer to the proposal of potential literature and textbooks that should later be subject of procurement by donors. No response has yet been received from the relevant educational institutions.

Despite urging on several occasions, the MHRR BiH has not yet received opinion from the RS Government on the text of the Report on AOP for 2019. For that reason, the MHRR BiH has not yet been able to refer the Report on AOP for 2019 to the Council of Ministers of BiH.

Within regional cooperation through the Berlin Process, the Declaration on Roma Integration was adopted on 5 July 2019 in Poland, signed by the Western Balkans leaders. The Declaration envisages a series of measures aimed at improving the status of Roma in these countries in employment, housing, education, health protection, civil registration, non-discrimination and health care.

It is envisaged that, based on the available data from 2017, data-based policies for Roma integration are formulated and an adequate mechanism for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of Roma policies is established, including the data relevant for measuring and achieving the goals stated in the Declaration. Each party committed to abide by the Declaration until the date they join the European Union.

With regard to Roma education, the Declaration declared as its goal: "Increase the enrolment and completion rate of Roma in primary education to 90 per cent and the enrolment and completion rate of Roma in secondary education to 50 per cent".

In order to monitor the goals stated in the Declaration, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, during the preparation of the Report on the implementation of the Framework Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma in BiH for 2019, for the academic years 2018/18 and 2019/20 requested from the competent institutions information on the inclusion of Roma children in the education system. The data accompany the methodology that enable Bosnia and Herzegovina to report on the progress of integration of the Roma minority with regard to education.

Comparing these two school years, it can be noticed:

a slight increase in enrolment of children in preschool education - from 31 children in 2018/2019 to 69 children in 2019/2020, a slight increase in enrolment of children in primary education - from 1,393 children in 2018/2019 to 1,479 children in 2019/2020, a slight increase in enrolment of children in secondary education - from 99 children in 2018/2019 to 108 children in 2019/2020.

Considering that a large number of institutions have not provided or do not have the data on the number of children who have dropped out or completed a certain level of education, it is impossible to draw relevant conclusions.

In the Republika Srpska entity, when it comes to secondary education, children are not required by the Constitution to declare their national affiliation, so there are no data on the number of Roma children for the Republika Srpska entity for this level of education.

In the second half of 2019, in order to obtain the data on allocation of financial resources for educational needs of Roma, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH addressed 72 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina with inquiries on: programmes stay of Roma children in a state of social need in preschool institutions and schools, provision of textbooks and school supplies for children in need of social assistance, provision of transportation for students in need of social assistance, provision of lunch by educational institutions for students in need of social assistance, scholarships for students in need of social assistance in secondary schools and universities, and all other activities aimed at improving the status of students in need of social assistance.

Although around 35% of the respondents provided the requested data, the aggravating circumstance is that the competent institutions do not keep separate data for Roma children. Thus, for example, data on financial resources for the provision of textbooks and school supplies or the provision of lunch are cumulative, i.e. they refer to all children in a state of social need in a certain area, and not only for Roma children.

Taking into account the received data from one and estimated number of Roma in a certain area on the other hand, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH estimates that in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018, around 100,000 BAM was allocated for educational needs of Roma at the local level.

As the establishment of a proper mechanism for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the policies for the integration of Roma is specified in Article 2 of the Declaration of Roma Integration from 2019, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, while comprising the Report on Implementation on the Framework Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma for 2019, proposed as a key recommendation that activities for establishing such mechanism should be initiated in the coming period. However, since the RS Government has failed to submit its opinion, despite repeated urgencies, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees is still unable to refer the Draft Report on implementation of the Framework Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma in BiH for 2019 to the Council of Ministers of BiH.

In an attempt to identify the professional literature for culture and history of Roma, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, requested the Expert Team to submit a proposal for potential literature and textbook so that the Ministry could procure them with the support of interested donors (from BiH and the countries of the region). No proposal has yet been received for potential literature and textbooks that would later be subject to procurement by donors.

In mid-November 2020, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH sent an initiative to the BiH Rectors' Conference to open Romani language departments at the Faculties of Philosophy. The response with regard to this initiative is expected in the upcoming period, after which the possibility of organising a public discussion that will include the relevant Ministries of Education in BiH will be discussed.

68. The FBiH Ministry of Education and Science - has a representative in the Expert Team for Monitoring the Implementation of the Revised Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma, formed at the state level. The Expert Team is currently working on finalizing the Second Annual Report on the Implementation of the Revised Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma. The representative of the Ministry who is a member of the Expert Team is tasked with collecting, processing and analysing the data for the FBiH which are used by the Expert Team to prepare annual report on the implementation of the Revised Action Plan. When collecting data from the Cantonal Ministries of Education, only six cantons, with registered Roma students, have the obligation to submit the requested data. Four cantons for which the data are not collected, since they do not have Roma students, are: The Posavina Canton, the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton, the West Herzegovina Canton, and the Canton10.

For many years now, the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science has been allocating substantial financial resources to fund the "Support to the education of Roma children and other national minorities and socially vulnerable categories" Programme, in order to finance projects aimed at

increasing the attendance rate of Roma children in preschool, primary and secondary education and their better integration into the education system.

In addition, since 2008, the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science has been implementing the Free Textbooks Project in cooperation with Cantonal Ministries of Education. The FBiH Ministry of Education and Science defined criteria for the distribution of funds for the procurement of free textbooks for students in need who attend nine-year primary school, in the whole of the FBiH, i.e. in all ten cantons. Given that the beneficiaries of the project are students in need, they also include Roma students in the communities where they live.

The Ministry also has a regular programme in the field of higher education titled: "Incentives to Education of Roma, Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina Who Study in Public Higher Schools in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina". Within this programme, funds are allocated based on the applications filed upon a Public Call by Roma students, who are citizens of BiH, who at one of the public institutions of higher education in the FBiH and are enrolled for the first time.

It should be noted that the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science, in cooperation with the OSCE, is working on draft Strategic Platform for resolving the issues of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which should be adopted at the state level.

Roma in BiH are the most numerous, but also the most vulnerable national minority, according to all social, scientific and professional criteria and parameters taken into account when assessing the social status of a community or a social group. The European Commission, in its Report on BiH for 2016 stated that "the Roma remained the country's most vulnerable and disadvantaged minority."

According to the 2013 Census in BiH, number of persons who declared as Roma is 12,583 (6,511 M and 6,072 F), which is significantly higher number compared to the 1991 Census in BiH, when 8,876 Roma were registered.

However, 12,583 persons declaring as Roma at the 2013 Census is lower number compared to the Analysis of the registered Roma needs from 2011, conducted by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, when 16,771 Roma were registered in BiH, which can be linked to probable migration of the Roma population, going abroad.

The data on number of Roma children are necessary when drawing conclusions on inclusion rate of Roma children in compulsory primary education, or the percentage of Roma children who are not included in compulsory primary education systems in BiH, however, these data are unavailable.

Data overview for Roma children included in the primary, secondary and higher education system in BiH from 2010 to 2016.

Roma children in education in BiH	Academic year 2010/2011	Academic year 2011/2012	Academic year 2012/2013	Academic year 2013/2014	Academic year 2014/2015	Academic year 2015/2016
Inclusion in primary education	2,770	3,024	1,248	2,078	2,051	1,842
Completed primary education	-	-	28	88	243	151
Inclusion in secondary education	143	243	137	92	108	112
Completed secondary education	-	-	30	29	43	38
Enrolled in higher education	-	17	10	8	5	7

institutions						
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Standards which BiH has, to a greater extent, accepted also define the issue of national minorities, refer to education, and the obligation to apply specific educational standards.

As the education is the way to break the vicious circle of social exclusion, it means the responsibility for failure in education is no longer sought in the child or his/her parents, but in social and educational context which has not sufficiently corrected inequalities of the initial conditions children are in when they start their education. Given the marginalized socio-economic status of the Roma population, it can be understood that the initial conditions of Roma children to enter the world of education are characterized by low educational level of parents, financial poverty, poor housing conditions, often large families, children's involvement in work on the streets, non-acceptance and lack of understanding of the majority population, etc. These are only some of the aggravating circumstances specific for the Roma population, given that they are the most vulnerable national minority throughout Europe, and it can be undoubtedly said that Roma fall into the category of socially excluded.

As for the implementation of one harmonized national curriculum, it should be noted that the following documents related to Common Core Curriculum have been published in Official Gazette of BiH:

When it comes to continuing to strengthen educational measures and policies for the integration of Roma children into the education system, as well as intensifying the literacy campaign for the population, the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science participated in drafting the Revised Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Educational Needs of Roma (hereinafter: Revised Action Plan), which was completed in 2010. When collecting data from the Cantonal Ministries of Education, only six cantons, with registered Roma students, have the obligation to submit the requested data. Four cantons for which the data are not collected, since they do not have Roma students, are: The Posavina Canton, the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton, the West Herzegovina Canton, and the Canton10.

The FBiH Ministry of Education and Science is responsible for the budget programme, in which the impact on gender equality is monitored, within the Education Reform Programme: Support to programmes that enable adults to complete primary education with the focus on women and the implementation of the Education Programme in accordance with the adopted Strategy for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence (2013-2017).

One of the strategic goals of the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science is the reform of preschool, primary, secondary and higher education, which implies eliminating obstacles related to access and equal participation in education of all students and adults and improving working conditions in educational institutions in the FBiH.

With regard to that, the FBiH Ministry of Science and Education has been implementing the programme "Support to projects for the engagement of Roma mediators in order to increase the scope and regular attendance of Roma children in primary education" through a public call for financing / co-financing projects in the field of preschool, primary and secondary education. The purpose of the said programme is to engage Roma mediators to carry out the following tasks: mediation in Roma communities; establishing initial contact with Roma families whose children are not enrolled in primary schools, although they are school-age children; continuous cooperation with parents and strengthening partnership with families of Roma students; implementation of preventive and other activities aimed at ensuring regular attendance of Roma students; support to Roma students in completing school tasks; cooperation with municipal services, other relevant authorities and non-governmental sector, etc.

Furthermore, within the fund allocation programme, Transfer for Financing Extended Student Standard, significant funds are allocated for the Incentive for Education of Roma, citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who study at public higher education institutions in the FBiH.

69. The RS Ministry of Education and Culture - In 2020, the Council of Ministers of BiH adopted the Revised Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma. Expert Team for monitoring the

implementation of the RAP was formed, which includes representatives of the competent education authorities. Framework Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma in BiH for the period 2018-2022 was also prepared. In accordance with the constitutional competence in the field of education, the relevant educational authorities adopt own Action Plans. The Republika Srpska has developed the Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma in the RS.

According to the 2013 Census, there are 1,974 Roma in the RS - 1,012 men and 962 women, in number they are after Ukrainians. The RS Ministry of Education and Culture allocates funds for provision of textbooks for all children, including Roma children, the first and the second grade. Local community provides free textbooks for Roma children in other grades. The Ministry provides free transport for all children who live who live more than four kilometres from the school. The funds for school lunch for Roma children, as well as scholarships are provided within the budgets of local communities. A lot also depends on activities of non-governmental organisations. Thus, the Citizens' Association Otaharing, in cooperation with the PI Kindergarten 'Čika Jova Zmaj' and the City Administration, encourages inclusion of Roma children in half-day stay of children in kindergarten. Through different project activities in the past years, around 100 Roma children had the opportunity to be included in kindergarten. Since August 2020, the *Kindergarten is My Right* project has been implemented; project holder is the Bijeljina City Assembly in cooperation with the Citizens' Association Otaharin. The project is designed to provide children from socially vulnerable groups with the necessary preschool education and socialisation. The programme is intended for children age three to six and 20 of them will be included in preschool education within this projects. Roma assistants have also been engaged, and transportation to kindergartens has been organized for the children. The Citizens' Association Ovo, in cooperation with the PI Kindergarten 'Čika Jova Zmaj' and the Bijeljina City Administration is actively working on the inclusion of Roma children in the *Preschool Programme for Children*. The programme is financed by the RS Ministry of Education and Culture, and given it is free, it is the only programme available to Roma children whose parents, due to difficult financial situation, poverty and unemployment, are not able to pay their stay in preschool institutions. The age-school children are identified, enrolled in the Programme and a Roma assistant is provided who makes the inclusion in the Programme easier for the children. 13 Roma children (eight boys and five girls) are included in the Programme. The Roma community in Bijeljina is one of those that have preserved the Romani language. In Bijeljina, under auspices of the *Save the Children*, the *Programme "Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD)* has been implemented for already five years now. In academic year 2020/2021, 23 Roma children were enrolled in the first grade (11 boys and 12 girls). All children have received necessary support through the *ECCD* programme. The programme is implemented through two-hour daily stay of children in the Day Centre, during which they, with the support of professional staff, acquire necessary knowledge and skills to facilitate their inclusion in primary education. Special importance is placed on the basic principles of behaviour, socialisation, and support in coping with a peer group.

In Prnjavor as well, due to good work of the Roma associations, all children are included in the education system and there are no dropouts.

Some local communities, like, for example, Banja Luka and Bijeljina provide school supplies for children.

National structure of students in primary schools:

Nationality	Number of students
Roma	371
Ukrainians	131
Italians	8
Russians	6
Chinese	5
Macedonians	4
Kurds	4
Montenegrins	3

Poles	2
Czechs	2
Albanians	2
Americans	2
Swiss	2
Greeks	1
Bulgarians	1
Romanians from Semberia (Karavlasi)	1
Slovenians	1
Slovaks	1
Jews	1

NOTE: data on nationality of students in secondary schools are not available, because in accordance with Article 34 (2) of the Constitution "No one shall be forced to declare his or her national affiliation". The same applies for employees.

70. The City of Trebinje - In the PI Primary School 'Vuk Karadžić' in Trebinje, four Roma students attend school. They attend school under regular Curriculum. Three of them study Orthodox Religious Education.

The students have financial support from the City of Trebinje (travel expenses, school supplies, textbooks). For the purpose of inclusion of Roma children, in educational system, the Trebinje City Administration has provided "Grant to Primary Schools for Children of National Minorities" - Roma, where 3,000 BAM is allocated on annual basis.

The cooperation between parents, teachers and expert associates is continuous. Every year, the Roma Day is marked, and Roma children are included.

71. The Zenica-Doboj Ministry of Justice and Administration - Article 4 of the Law on Preschool Education (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 7/10, 8/12) **defines prohibition of discrimination on any grounds, equal access to preschool education** and ensuring equal conditions and opportunities for all. Every child has equal rights to access and equal opportunity to participate in preschool education in the Zenica-Doboj Canton. The compulsory primary education programme also includes Roma children.

Article 9 of the Law on Preschool Education (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 7/10, 8/12) provides that children with special educational needs included in preschool institutions in accordance with programmes adapted to their individual needs.

Article 5, paragraphs (1) and (5) of the Law on Primary Education (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 3/18) defines primary education as compulsory and free **for all children**, i.e. regular primary school attendance is compulsory for a period of nine years for all children between the ages six and fifteen. Article 5 paragraph (8) of the said Law provides that the right of a child to education takes precedence over all other rights, and that, in case of conflict of rights, the primacy is given to the right, interpretation and action that will be the most beneficial for the child's interest.

Article 8 of the Law on Primary School (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 3/18) states that foreign citizens and stateless persons have the right to education in schools of this Canton, under provisions of this Law, in accordance with conventions and agreements Bosnia and Herzegovina has concluded with other countries and international organizations.

Article 7 of the Law on Secondary Education (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 9/17) defines the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms as follows:

- the right of the child to education takes precedence over all other rights, and, in case of conflict of rights, the primacy is given to the right, interpretation and action that will be the most beneficial for the child's interest,

- the school has the responsibility to contribute to creating the culture of respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all citizens in own and the environment it operates, as established by the Constitution and other international human rights documents signed by Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- the rights of students with special educational need, that may be with disabilities or be disadvantaged, will be respected to the greatest extent primarily by appropriate choice of their occupation,
- the language and culture of national minorities will be respected to the greatest extent, and in accordance with the Convention for the Protection of Rights of National Minorities. The relevant Ministry will determine the curriculum which meets the needs of national minorities, and which includes language, literature, history and culture of those national minorities,
- the right to attend religious classes or alternative subject has been defined, i.e. the school will improve and protect religious freedoms, tolerance and culture of dialogue, and no measures and activities that would limit the freedom of expression and learning about different beliefs will be undertaken.

Article 12 of the Law on Primary School (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 9/17) states that foreign citizens and stateless persons have the right to education in secondary schools of this Canton, under provisions of this Law, in accordance with conventions and agreements Bosnia and Herzegovina has concluded with other countries and international organizations.

The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, by its by-laws, the Rulebook on Inclusive Education of Students with Special Educational Needs, specifically regulated the issue of the rights of students with special educational needs in primary and secondary schools in Zenica-Doboj Canton.

In order to **facilitate access for Roma to educational system, i.e. higher education** in the Zenica-Doboj Canton, under the Decision on determining enrolment policy at the University of Zenica, scholarship policy and policy on accommodation of students in student centres for 2020, the following was laid out:

- Article 1 item g) of this Decision provides that one of the principles is "members of Roma nationality, secondary school graduates, are encouraged to continue their education", and paragraph 2 of this Article, as a special element of enrolment policy, establishes "the right of members of Roma nationality to unconditional enrolment in full-time studies - financed by the Founder (in addition to the total quota determined by the Enrolment Plan)",

- Article 2 item e) of this Decision establishes "the right of members of Roma nationality to **unconditional** scholarship" as an enrolment policy element.

- and Article 3 item b) provides that one of the policy on accommodation of students in student centres is: "the right of members of Roma nationality to **unconditional** accommodation (refers to full-time Roma students who apply for the accommodation in student dormitories/centres in the FBiH with who the Zenica-Doboj Canton Government has signed agreement on subsidizing accommodation and food services, students who live in places where the faculties they are enrolled in, as well as students who do not have the essential housing conditions)"

**A lot has also been done to provide teaching assistants** which is extremely important, who would work directly with students and provide support to students, who, by following the educational process and in consultations with teachers, can suggest a way for children to progress further.

Adequate curricula have been developed and adopted in the ZDC, in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian languages, based on the Common Core and, ultimately, all legal preconditions for the full equality with regard to learning in mother tongue for all constituent peoples-citizens of the Canton.

The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport is taking steps towards modernisation of the curricula in primary and secondary schools and higher education institutions, in accordance with the Action Plan for the realization of priorities from the analytical report of the European Commission.

In the past period, additional training, seminars and workshops have been implemented (with the focus on the inclusion index, learning outcomes, electronic gradebooks, schools for the 21st century), aimed at additionally educating teachers in accordance with the identified reform educational needs.

The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, through its appointed representatives (working groups, coordinators), works systematically and continuously on improvement of **education of Roma**.

Activities include campaigns, round tables, workshops for parents, teacher-parent meetings, individual discussions with parents aimed at promoting importance of regular attendance and education in general; in order to promote the importance of education Roma holidays are celebrated by organizing events, exhibitions, promotional posters, and appropriate texts are read in classes (three primary schools in which the project is implemented are: PI Primary School 'Hasan Kikić' Zenica, PI Primary School 'Hamdija Kreševljaković' Kakanj, and PI Primary School 'Prva osnovna škola' Zavidovići), increased inclusion of children in primary and secondary education, all in cooperation with representatives of the Roma community.

The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, in accordance with its financial capacity, and in partnership with non-governmental sector, has implemented in the said period the following projects aimed at implementing the Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma: "Fundamental Right to Education", "Education for Social Cohesion in BiH on the Road to the EU", "Improving Access to Preschool Education for Children from Roma Communities", "Let's Increase the Opportunities for Bosnian Children for Early Learning", and "Inclusion and Education of Roma in BiH".

In order to encourage parents to enrol their children in the first grade of primary school, the project "Improving Access to Preschool Education for Children from Roma Communities" has been implemented. The project was designed in a way that a short programme for Roma preschool-age children is implemented by class teachers with assistants - secondary school graduates, or secondary school seniors who are also members of Roma community.

Within the PEACH project - Preschool Education for All Children - the Caritas Switzerland and the Development Agency 'Leda' signed a Memorandum of Understanding on improving the Programme of Compulsory Preschool Education for children in the year prior to start of primary education, with the focus on rural areas within which, in cooperation with this cantonal authority, they renovated premises for the implementation of the said programme in four branch schools, and the coverage of Roma children in this programme is 100%.

In order to support the implementation of the EU regional project "Increasing Educational Opportunities of Roma in Western Balkans and Turkey", which will also be implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina, supported by the EU, implemented by the Roma Education Fund, this cantonal authority has signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Roma Education Fund, the Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, aimed at promoting equal opportunities in quality education and employment of Roma children and young persons.

With regard to the question if there are **textbooks or designed curricula** in one of national minority languages in BiH, we note that Article 6 of the Law on Primary Education (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 3/18) and Article 7 of the Law on Secondary School (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 9/17) states that language and culture of national minorities shall be respected

in schools to the greatest extent possible, in accordance with the Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The relevant Ministry is working on the modernization of the curricula and framework programmes which will meet the needs of national minorities, and include the language, literature, history and culture of those national minorities, as extracurricular activities.

The Curriculum and the framework programme adopted by the Ministry guarantee quality education for all children, ensure consistency of quality standards in education, and ensure implementation of curricula suitable for educational needs of children they refer to.

Special **models and forms of studying in language of script of national minorities** in BiH have not been introduced, although the legislation allows that if the school has a significant number of students belonging to a national minority, and they want to attend classes in their mother tongue, mother tongue lessons can be organized for them and lessons should be taught by a teacher who can teach them with appropriate quality. Additionally, legislation provides that if students of only one national minorities are educated in the school, all lessons can be carried out in the language of that national minority, with the obligatory mastery of the poor language of the constituent peoples.

According to the data the relevant Ministry disposes of, in the academic year 2019/2020, 20 Roma children were included in the Programme of Compulsory Preschool Education for in the year prior to start of primary education, 404 students were included in primary education, and 20 students were included in secondary education.

When it comes to providing financial recourses in the Zenica-Doboj Canton, in the 2019/2020 academic year. 103,680.00 BAM was allocated for the purchase of textbooks for the second grade for all socially vulnerable students, while free transportation was provided for all students who live more than 5 (five) kilometres in one direction from the school in the school area.

Relevant Ministry does not keep records on total number of members of national minorities employed in education, because its legal regulations clearly state that the admission of teachers, professional associates and other employees is done on the basis of a public competition / announcement and in accordance with the Framework Programme for the Management of Potential Redundant Labour in Primary and Secondary Schools, as well as the criteria on the manner of scoring candidates when concluding employment contract in primary and secondary schools and student dormitories in the Zenica-Doboj Canton, and that there cannot be discrimination against teachers or other employees in the appointment, employment, promotion or any other decision based on the use of any of the official languages in the school.

72. The Posavina Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport - Upon inspection in schools in the Posavina Canton, we have obtained the data that three Roma children attend school in the Primary School 'Orašje' in Orašje (all three from the same family). In a conversation with the school principal, we obtained the following information: students attend classes in Croatian or Bosnian; parents did not request the introduction of the Romani language; the school provides free lunch for Roma children, and these students are provided with tablets for online classes.

- The Posavina Canton Government, in the past several years, has co-financed procurement of textbooks for all students from first to ninth grade in primary schools in the amount of 100 BAM. The Posavina Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport also provides free transportation for all students in primary and secondary schools (if they do not live in the place where school is located).

- In the areas with mixed population, the situation with regard to studying mother tongue in schools is following:

- a) In Primary School 'Orašje' in Orašje, all students study the subject Croatian Language (parents of students did not request students to be divided) while students can opt for Croatian language or Bosnian language.
- b) In Primary School 'Vladimira Nazora' in Odžak, students are all together during the mother tongue lessons and the lessons are carried out with the use of comparative method in which similarities and differences between Croatian, Bosnian and Serbian languages are pointed to the students, and the subject of their choice is written down in the educational document. Croatian language, Bosnian language, or Serbian language.
- c) In the Posavina Canton, teaching of minority languages or in any of the minority languages is not organized, because so far, there have been no such requests.

73. The City of Bijeljina - stimulates education, in a way that it allocates funds (8,000 BAM) from the City Budget so that all Roma children in primary school have lunch provided throughout the year, and, in cooperation with a non-governmental organization, it provides Roma children with textbooks and school supplies throughout the year.

## **11. PART X - Article 14 of the Convention**

*Paragraph 1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.*

*Paragraph 2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.*

*Paragraph 3 Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.*

### **11.1. Teaching minority languages and teaching in minority languages**

74. The FBiH Ministry of Education and Science -The Framework Curriculum for nine-year primary schools, whose development was initiated by the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science, includes only compulsory subjects. Regarding the principles of the prevention and protection against gender-based discrimination and promotion of gender equality aimed at increasing the positive and non-stereotypical portrayal of women, which includes topics related to human rights and gender equality in training and educational materials, as well as combating hate speech and hate crime, including the political scene, and for that purpose collecting and analysing the data on hate speech and hate crimes, and promoting interethnic and interreligious tolerance, particularly in the education system, in accordance with the FBiH Constitution, and according to information available in the cantons in the FBiH, they are resolved in different ways, for example: in the Tuzla Canton (Curriculum implemented in the Tuzla Canton includes: Civic Education, Democracy and Human Rights, History and Religion/Religious Culture, which cover the education content for peace and human rights studied within these subjects), in the Una-Sana Canton (Curriculum for nine-year primary schools

include the Democracy and Human Rights, taught in ninth grade. The curricula of all secondary schools include Democracy and Human Rights, taught in year three), in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (Civic Education / Democracy and Human Rights included in primary and secondary schools), in the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton (Civic Education / Democracy and Human Rights included in primary and secondary schools), in the Sarajevo Canton (Curriculum for nine-year primary schools includes the Civic Education, taught in ninth grade), etc.

Instructions for professional evaluation of manuscripts of textbooks, workbooks and other teaching aids, based on which textbooks for nine-year primary school are approved, i.e. based on which professional evaluation of certain manuscripts of textbooks, workbooks and other teaching aids is conducted, includes the following questions: "Does the manuscript reflect the richness of diversity of BiH society, enable the acquisition of knowledge about the equality of individuals and social groups, and promote the right to diversity; Was the attention paid in the manuscript to support to gender equality in an appropriate manner, using nouns of both genders, especially in mentioning professions and occupations".

Regarding the education of Roma national minorities, particularly Roma, the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science participated in drafting the Revised Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Educational Needs of Roma (hereinafter: Revised Action Plan), which was completed in 2010. The Ministry has a representative in the Expert Team for Monitoring the Implementation of the Revised Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma, formed at the state level. The Expert Team is currently working on finalizing the Second Annual Report on the Implementation of the Revised Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma. The representative of the Ministry who is a member of the Expert Team is tasked with collecting, processing and analysing the data for the FBiH which are used by the Expert Team to prepare annual report on the implementation of the Revised Action Plan. When collecting data from the Cantonal Ministries of Education, only six cantons, with registered Roma students, have the obligation to submit the requested data. Four cantons for which the data are not collected, since they do not have Roma students, are: The Posavina Canton, the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton, the West Herzegovina Canton, and the Canton10.

For many years now, the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science has been allocating substantial financial resources to fund the "Support to the education of Roma children and other national minorities and socially vulnerable categories" Programme, in order to finance projects aimed at increasing the attendance rate of Roma children in preschool, primary and secondary education and their better integration into the education system.

In addition, since 2008, the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science has been implementing the Free Textbooks Project in cooperation with Cantonal Ministries of Education. The FBiH Ministry of Education and Science defined criteria for the distribution of funds for the procurement of free textbooks for students in need who attend nine-year primary school, in the whole of the FBiH, i.e. in all ten cantons. Given that the beneficiaries of the project are students in need, they also include Roma students in the communities where they live.

The Ministry also has a regular programme in the field of higher education titled: "Incentives to Education of Roma, Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina Who Study in Public Higher Schools in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina". Within this programme, funds are allocated based on the applications filed upon a Public Call by Roma students, who are citizens of BiH, who at one of the public institutions of higher education in the FBiH and are enrolled for the first time.

It should be noted that the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science, in cooperation with the OSCE, is working on draft Strategic Platform for resolving the issues of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which should be adopted at the state level.

75. The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, through its appointed representatives (working groups, coordinators), works systematically and continuously on improvement of **education of Roma**.

Activities include campaigns, round tables, workshops for parents, teacher-parent meetings, individual discussions with parents aimed at promoting importance of regular attendance and

education in general; in order to promote the importance of education Roma holidays are celebrated by organizing events, exhibitions, promotional posters, and appropriate texts are read in classes (three primary schools in which the project is implemented are: PI Primary School 'Hasan Kikić' Zenica, PI Primary School 'Hamdija Kreševljaković' Kakanj, and PI Primary School 'Prva osnovna škola' Zavidovići), increased inclusion of children in primary and secondary education, all in cooperation with representatives of the Roma community.

With regard to the question if there are **textbooks or designed curricula** in one of national minority languages in BiH, we note that Article 6 of the Law on Primary Education (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 3/18) and Article 7 of the Law on Secondary School (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, 9/17) states that language and culture of national minorities shall be respected in schools to the greatest extent possible, in accordance with the Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The relevant Ministry is working on the modernization of the curricula and framework programmes which will meet the needs of national minorities, and include the language, literature, history and culture of those national minorities, as extracurricular activities.

76. The Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Goražde Ministry of Ministry of Education, Youth, Science, Culture and Sport - Public educational institutions are required to provide members of national minorities with lessons in their mother tongue, in a way prescribed by cantonal laws on primary and secondary education (Article 12 Provision of Mother Tongue Lessons).

In primary education, two students are in regular education and seven are in primary education. They attend classes in Bosnian language which they understand and which they opted for. Free textbooks and school supplies are provided by the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Goražde Ministry of Ministry of Education, Youth, Science, Culture and Sport and non-governmental organisations.

Teachers continuously follow education in the field of respect for human rights.

Members of national minorities in the Canton have the right to establish libraries, video stores, cinemas, cultural centres, museums, archives, artistic societies, and all other forms of organisation for freedom of cultural expression, and to take care of maintaining of their cultural monuments and cultural heritage. (Article 17 Freedom of Cultural Expression).

In its work so far, the relevant Ministry has not received any requests by national minorities to launch cultural events, gatherings of institutions related to national minorities in the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Goražde.

## **12. PART XI - Article 15 of the Convention**

*Paragraph 1 The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.*

### **12.1. Participation in public life**

77. The Municipality of Travnik - With regard to this area, the BiH Election Law is implemented in practice. In accordance with that, every citizen of BiH over the age of 18, including members of national minorities, has the right to vote and to be elected - voting right. Members of national minorities can run in elections, as candidates on the national minority lists. Members of national minorities are entitled to representation in the Municipal Council in proportion to their share in the population according to the last Census in BiH in the local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

78. The BiH Central Election Commission - The possibility to run for regular mandates and filling the mandates allotted for members of national minorities in the Municipal Council, i.e. Municipal Assembly and the City Council, i.e. the City Assembly, has been prescribed and is feasible in practice. Members of national minorities are entitled to run in elections in accordance with provisions of Chapter 13 of the BiH Election Law (Official Gazette of BiH, 3/01, 7/02, 9/02, 20/02, 25/02, 4/04, 20/04, 25/05, 52/05, 65/05, 77/05, 11/06, 24/06, 32/07, 33/08, 97/08, 32/10, 18/13, 7/14, 31/16, and 41/20), in regular lists of political parties and coalitions, and as independent candidates, for regular mandates in the Municipal Council, i.e. Municipal Assembly and the City Council, i.e. the City Assembly. Furthermore, provisions of the Chapter 13A of the BiH Election Law, are entitled to representation in the Municipal Council or Municipal Assembly and the City Council or City Assembly in proportion to the percentage of their share in the total population according to the last census in BiH. The number of the members of national minorities who are elected directly to the Municipal Council or Municipal Assembly and the City Council or City Assembly shall be defined by the Statute of the particular Municipality or City as appropriate, and in that connection the members of all national minorities which make up more than 3% in the total number of population of the particular constituency according to the last census, shall be guaranteed the minimum of one seat. In order to certify the participation in the elections for filling the mandates guaranteed to the members of national minorities in the Municipal Council or Municipal Assembly and the City Council or City Assembly, the political parties and independent candidates shall submit the application for participation in the elections for the Municipal Council or Municipal Assembly and the City Council or City Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of this Law. In addition to the above, registered associations or other registered organised forms of action of national minorities and groups of at least 40 citizens who have the right to vote have the right to register, and proposed candidates to participate in elections to fill guaranteed mandates for members of national minorities in the Municipal Council or Municipal Assembly and the City Council or City Assembly, have the status of an independent candidate. In order to facilitate participation of national minorities in the 2020 Local Elections, the BiH Central Election Commission by the Decision on the fee for participation in the 2020 Local Elections (Official Gazette of BiH, 25/20) prescribed that members of national minorities are not required to pay the fee in order to register for participation in elections for filling the mandates allotted for members of national minorities.

The manner of determining the candidate lists for the elections is prescribed by Article 4.19 of the BiH Election Law. The candidates list shall contain: the name, surname of every candidate on the list, their personal identification number, permanent residence address, declared affiliation with a particular constituent people or group of "Others", valid ID card number and place of issue, signature of the president of the political party or presidents of the political parties in the coalition. The declaration of affiliation with the particular constituent people or the group of "Others" referred shall be used as the grounds for the exercise of rights to hold an elected or appointed office for which the statement of ethnic affiliation with the particular constituent people or the group of "Others" is a condition in the election cycle for which the candidates list has been submitted. A candidate shall be entitled not to declare his or her ethnic affiliation with a particular constituent people of the group of "Others" on the candidacy list. However, any such failure to declare the personal affiliation shall be considered as a waiver of the right to an elected or appointed office for which the declaration of affiliation with the particular constituent people of the group of "Others" is a condition. Article 1.1a item 4) of the BiH Election Law prescribes that the election race shall mean the mandate period relating to a certain level of authority. In accordance with the above, the BiH Election Law does not prescribe additional mechanisms to prevent candidates who do not represent national minorities to run on the lists for filling the mandates allotted for members of national minorities. Namely, in practice, it happens that candidates change their declaration of affiliation to the constituent people or a group of "Others" after the end of the election cycle.

79. The RS Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Government - The Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Members of National Minorities in the RS for the period 2020-2024 determines strategic and operational goals, which implementation will additionally improve the

existing rights and the status of members of national minorities in different areas, and allow their inclusion in the processes of public policy making, as well as establishing more quality cooperation with the RS Government.

80. The Statute of the City of Trebinje envisages one guaranteed seat of councillor in the Trebinje City Assembly, who comes from the ranks of national minorities.

## **12.2. Councils of National Minorities**

81. The Council of National Minorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina - There have been positive changes in provisions which regulate the Council of National Minorities of BiH. Namely, at the initiative and based on a comprehensively explained proposal of the Council of National Minorities of BiH, at the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the BiH House of Representatives held on 3 February 2021, and at the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the BiH House of Peoples held on 10 February 2021, the BiH Parliamentary Assembly adopted the Decision on the Council of National Minorities of BiH (Official Gazette of BiH, 10/21).

The Decision introduces amendments to ensure the credible representation of national minorities in the Council of National Minorities of BiH, i.e. ensures a more significant participation of active and representative associations of national minorities in the process of nominating representatives to the Council. Additionally, with other improvements, it introduces a requirement for candidates for membership in the Council of National Minorities of BiH to sign a statement of affiliation to a national minority, which ensures the authenticity of the representation.

Furthermore, according to official information available to the Council of National Minorities of BiH, provisions regulating membership in national minority councils at the entity and cantonal level have been amended (in the Sarajevo Canton and the Una-Sana Canton) in order to ensure the appointment of authentic representatives by national minorities.

The Council of National Minorities of BiH notes that there is information about certain abuses, by certain individuals - members of the constituent peoples of BiH, in terms of their declaration as members of national minorities in order to enjoy certain rights and privileges, and considers that appropriate action should be taken to regulate such abuses through appropriate laws and to sanction them.

Since the last reporting period the mandate of the Council of National Minorities has not been expanded to enable, i.e. increase its influence on the decision making process regarding the issues that affect the rights of national minorities in BiH.

The Council of National Minorities of BiH regrets that the competent working body of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly rejected the initiative of the Council of National Minorities of BiH to adopt the Law on Councils of National Minorities in BiH, which would increase or expand the Councils' mandate in the decision making process, or when issues specifically related to the exercise of the rights of national minorities are discussed. Consequently, the role of the Council of National Minorities of BiH remains as it is, very limited, advisory.

According to unofficial information available, the Council of National Minorities of the FBiH has prepared and recently adopted a proposal for amendments to the BiH Election Law (Official Gazette of BiH, 23/01, 7/02, 9/02, 20/02, 25/02, 4/04, 20/04, 25/05, 52/05, 65/05, 77/05, 11/06, 32/07, 33/08, 37/08, 32/10, and 18/13) aimed at, by securing a guaranteed mandate for members of national minorities in all cantonal assemblies in the FBiH, ensuring the representation of members of national minorities in the FBiH House of Peoples, i.e. to ensure influence on decision making process regarding the issues that affect the rights of members of national minorities in the FBiH.

According to available information, only the Council of National Minorities of the Sarajevo Canton, pursuant to Article 27 paragraph 1 of the Sarajevo Canton Law on the Protection of the Rights of

National Minorities (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, 27/11) has the mandate that exceeds the standard advisory role. Namely, the Council of National Minorities of the Sarajevo Canton has the mandate of authorised parliamentary proponent, and is equal to all other working bodies of the Sarajevo Canton Assembly.

82. The Council of National Minorities of the RS - In accordance with Article 17 of the RS Law on the Protection of the Rights of National Minorities (Official Gazette of the RS, 2/05), the fourth convocation of the Council of National Minorities of the RS was appointed at the fourth regular session of the RS National Assembly, held on 16 May 2020 (Official Gazette of the RS, 44/19), at the proposal of the Alliance of National Minorities of the RS. The fourth convocation of the Council of National Minorities of the RS includes 12 members in the current mandate.

By 1 September 2020, the Council held four sessions, where current issues related to members of national minorities and implementation of the relevant legal framework were discussed.

Implemented activities:

**1. *Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Members of National Minorities in the RS for the period 2020-2024***

In the period August 2018 - December 2019, preparations were made for the drafting of the document *Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Members of National Minorities in the RS for the period 2020-2024*. Activities and coordination of the mixed Working Group, that also includes a member of the Council, related to development of this document were conducted by the RS Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Government.

The document *Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Members of National Minorities in the RS for the period 2020-2024* was adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> regular session of the RS National Assembly held 3 March 2020.

The purpose of this document is continuous improvement of the status and protection of the rights of members of national minorities, as well as, additional improvement, through the implementation of strategic and operational goals, of the existing rights and the status of members of national minorities in different areas (culture, education in mother tongue, informing, etc.). Furthermore, the aim of the adoption of this Strategy is to include members of national minorities in the processes of public policy making, as well as to establish more efficient cooperation with the RS Government. Activities related to development of Action Plans for the implementation of the Strategy are expected in the upcoming period.

**2. *The RS Law on Personal Name***

In the period June 2019 - September 2019 The Council of National Minorities initiated and referred the proposals and suggestions to the proponent of this law (RS Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Government) to amend the draft RS Law on Personal Name, which was discussed at the 5<sup>th</sup> regular session of the RS National Assembly, held on 27 June 2019.

More concretely, the proposal of the Council referred to the "possibility of registering personal name with the registry of birth of persons belonging to national minorities in the language and the script of their national minority, and that registering personal name with the registry of birth of persons belonging to national minorities in the language and the script of their national minority would not

exclude simultaneously registering personal name in languages and scripts of the constituent peoples in the RS."

The explanation of this proposal is in the fact that the use of the language of a national minority is defined by the RS Law on the Protection of the Rights of Members of National Minorities (Official Gazette of the RS, 02/05), Article 8 paragraph 1 defines the right of the member of a national minority to use his/her language freely and without interference, in private and in public, orally and in writing, as well as the right to use his/her first name and surname in the language of his/her national minority and to request it to be in public use as such.

The Council's proposal was rejected and was not included in the text of the Law on Personal Name. Information on the application of legislative and other measures to implement the principles set forth in the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities will be monitored through the work and activities of the Council in the upcoming period.

83. The Council of Europe in BiH - At the joint initiative of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH and the Action by the European Union and the Council of Europe "Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina" in Spring 2018, the Minority Coordination Group was formed. The main purpose of this Group is to strengthen communication and coordination among relevant actors who are directly involved in the protection of the rights of national minorities resulting with concrete measures. The Group is Chaired by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, and is composed of representatives councils of minorities at the state and entity level, the Roma Board, The Brčko District Government, the Sarajevo Canton Council of National Minorities, Joint Committee on Human Rights of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, the Alliance of National Minorities of the RS and the Alliance of National Minorities of BiH, and civil society organisations. From its forming until the present, the Group has had numerous discussions, trainings and initiatives. The most recent training, held in the Summer 2020, concerned the importance of legal framework and good practices for the registration of national minorities for local elections. Some of the initiatives that have emerged with the support of this group are, for example, changes in the criteria for the selection of representatives of national minorities in the Council of National Minorities of BiH, the start of programmes on national minorities on BHT1, etc.

### **12.3. Participating in economic and social life**

84. Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH - the Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Resolving Roma Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina was adopted in 2005 with the aim of improving the socio-economic status of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The strategy does not determine the time frame for the realisation of the programmed strategic goals due to the long-term need for concrete actions of Roma integration and inclusion. The objectives of the Strategy are focused on improving the access of Roma men and women to education, employment, health care, social housing and effective anti-discrimination measures. All planned activities on Roma integration and inclusion are long-term strategic measures, and in order to implement this Strategy, three action plans in the periods from 2009-2012, 2013-2016 and 2017-2020 have been adopted and implemented so far in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the consent of the entity governments and the Brčko District of BiH. Based on these action plans, in the last 10 years, more than BAM 38 million has been allocated from the budget of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other levels of government, including donor funds. The programmed activities are aimed at the integration and inclusion of Roma in the sectors envisaged by the Strategy, except for the field of education which is the responsibility of the entity

and cantonal authorities. Special plans have been adopted for the field of education, and the valid one was adopted for the period from 2018-2022, with the consent of the education authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has undertaken to provide the funds necessary for the implementation of the Action Plan in the field of employment, housing and health care.

In accordance with the above, every year the Council of Ministers of BiH allocates annual budget funds within the budget of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, which are intended for the implementation of the mentioned action plan for Roma.

In the field of employment in the period from 2009 to 2020, 6,727,000.00 BAM were allocated for the field of employment of Roma, and 962 persons were beneficiaries of funds for employment and self-employment. Funds for the field of Roma employment are implemented in cooperation with employment offices that select the beneficiaries of employment and self-employment projects through public calls. If we look at the qualification structure, 88% of Roma registered in institutions do not have a qualification and in relation to gender, 45% of unemployed are women, with a markedly high unemployment rate of young people. Based on this, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, in cooperation with employment services, plans to develop programmes to encourage Roma, especially Roma women, to retrain, start a small business and form cooperatives. Funds for solving the problems of Roma in the field of housing are provided every year in the MHRR budget, and are allocated on the basis of a public call. The aim of the grant is to improve living conditions in Roma communities through the construction of new or rehabilitation of existing housing and communal infrastructure. Grant funds can be spent on the following:

- Construction of housing units for Roma (collective/individual buildings);
- Construction of social housing units for Roma;
- Improving housing conditions in housing units where Roma live (reconstruction and rehabilitation of existing houses and apartments);
- Construction and improvement of supporting communal infrastructure in Roma settlements;
- co-financing of programmes/projects for legalisation of illegally constructed housing in settlements inhabited by Roma.

In the period from 2009 to 2020, the total number of built and reconstructed housing units for Roma families, including infrastructure in Roma settlements, was 1,064 housing units.

For the area of health care in the period from 2009 to 2020, 2,774,000.00 BAM was allocated. According to the data of competent institutions and Roma NGOs, it is recorded that in the Federation of BiH 1,085 persons of Roma ethnicity were introduced into the health care system. Preventive programmes have been implemented - screening for specific diseases (cervical cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer, prostate cancer). In accordance with the planned activities in the APR, the Roma NGOs educate each year the required number of new Roma mediators in the field of health care, and the entire process includes over 175 mediators who have previously completed general and special training. Funding for the training of new health mediators was provided from the MHRR funds. In order to improve the quality and availability health care for members of the Roma population, the new action plan defines two measures: strengthening the capacity of Roma representatives to improve the health of Roma and reducing risk factors for health in the Roma population.

85. The Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Labour, Social Policy and Refugees— provided in 2018 and 2019 financial support as their form of participation in housing programmes for Roma in the total amount of 50,000.00 BAM.

86. The Municipality of Travnik - in order to help and care for its fellow citizens of the Roma national minority, it signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Care International Balkans for the project "Active participation for the inclusion of Romas". The project was signed in Travnik on 11 February 2015 and within it, the Municipality of Travnik adopted on 31 July 2015 the Action Plan of the Municipality of Travnik for solving the problems of Roma in the areas of education, health care, employment and housing for 2016-2020. The action plan made with the aim of realising the priorities

of the Roma population in the above mentioned areas. Through the Service for Reconstruction, Refugees, Displaced Persons and Housing, the Municipality of Travnik addressed Care International Balkans regarding the education of Roma youth, the establishment of new associations and the training of new management, which ultimately resulted in participation in the project of Roma youth education and financial assistance in the form of small grants for solving specific problems in the local Roma community in the value of 1,000.00 to 10,000.00 BAM. The realisation of the project lasted until 2018. It should be noted that all projects must be applied for by Roma associations, but the practice has shown that they are not active in the Municipality of Travnik and they do not have educated leaders, so in that case municipalities are allowed to apply for projects and allocate the granted funds to solving a problem that directly affects the Roma population. The Municipality of Travnik applied for this project and received funds in the amount of 10,000.00 EUR, and through this project carried out the rehabilitation and reconstruction of 4 housing units in the City of Travnik that accommodate Roma families, while the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the 5th housing unit is in progress. Also, the Municipality used its own funds to reconstruct 2 more housing units in which Roma families live.

When it comes to adequate access to housing, the Municipality of Travnik has allocated funds from the budget for the purchase of land for the construction of 11 individual housing units for Roma in the value of 20,000 BAM. The land was purchased, parceled and the access road was arranged. The arrangement of the access road was financed by Care International Balkans with 2,500.00 EUR, and the share of the Municipality amounted to 8,798.84 BAM. A project for 11 individual housing units has been made, and 5,000.00 BAM is planned in the Municipality budget for co-financing the realisation of this project. It is important to emphasise that the project has not been finalised due to the inability of the Municipality to build these housing units with its own funds, the lack of interest of higher levels of government to participate in this project, and the inferiority and lack of interest of the Roma minority. We believe that this project would enable self-sustainability and create work habits of the users of these housing units, given that the facility would provide about 300 square meters of arable land or space for collecting secondary waste, which members of the Roma national minority are mostly engaged in. In the course of 2016, the verification and identification of the beneficiaries of the CEB II Project was performed, and within the project, a collective housing building with 20 housing units was built in Doc on the Lašva, which accommodates 7 Roma families.

The Municipality of Travnik has also adopted certain regulations that improve housing and the allocation of apartments with the application of social housing principles: Decision on the Establishment, Management, Disposal and Use of Housing in the Municipality of Travnik with the Application of Social Housing Principles, Rulebook on the Criteria for Exercising the Right to Subsidize Rent for an Apartment, Rulebook on Criteria for Exercising the Right to Social Housing. The occupants of apartments owned by the Municipality of Travnik are also predominantly members of the Roma national minority who have acquired certain rights through the aforementioned decision and rulebooks.

Regarding education, every year the Municipality of Travnik allocates certain funds for the purchase of school supplies for students of the Roma population in primary schools.

When it comes to the employment of members of national minorities, in cooperation with Care International Balkans, the Municipality of Travnik employed 1 person for a fixed period of time - a female member of the Roma national minority that thus gained an opportunity for training and education and mediated in solving certain problems of members of the Roma population in the local community

The members of Roma population in the City of Mostar have the same access to education as all other children, so most Roma children complete primary school. following the curriculum of one of the constituent peoples. However, majority of these children do not wish to continue secondary

education. Regarding the issue of housing of Roma, the City of Mostar has a Roma settlement in Bišća Polje, where 30 housing units have been allocated to the members of Roma population. Most Roma get their health services through employment services, since majority of Roma families are not employed.

87. The City of Bijeljina is implementing a number of projects on the territory of the city in order to improve the quality and position of Roma living in it. A large number of projects for housing and infrastructure have been implemented:

- one building with 6 apartments was built in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and Caritas
- two individual objects were reconstructed and adapted in cooperation with Hilswerk
- project Romacted, expansion of the low voltage network

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, 50,000 BAM was distributed among the Roma population in the form of vouchers to overcome the new situation. In cooperation with the NGO sector, a social enterprise "agro plan" was opened, which employs members of the Roma population.

88. The City of Trebinje provides the following data:

- Out of 36 beneficiaries of the basic social protection rights - **the right to financial assistance** - one beneficiary is of Roma nationality. PI Center for Social Work also recognises and pays health insurance contributions to this beneficiary on the basis of the recognised right to financial assistance.
- When it comes to the users of **the National Kitchen** which operates under a tripartite agreement (City, Center for Social Work and Diocese), out of the current 83 users, 12 users are Roma. Considering the distance of the place of residence from the National Kitchen and the poor material condition of this population, the Public Institution Center for Social Work Trebinje decided to deliver food to these families to their home. Food is usually delivered only to users who belong to the category of elderly, seriously ill people.

### 13. PART XII - Article 17 of the Convention

*Paragraph 1 The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, in particular those with whom they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage.*

*Paragraph 2 The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations, both at the national and international levels.*

89. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of BiH, entity governments and lower authorities (and in this reporting period) supports and encourages measures regarding cooperation or contacts of persons belonging to national minorities or their associations with other states, i.e those with whom they share common features and characteristics.

### 14. PART XIII - Article 18 of the Convention

*Paragraph 1 The Parties shall endeavour to conclude, where necessary, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other States, in particular neighbouring States, in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to the national minorities concerned.*

*Paragraph 2 Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier co-operation.*

90. Directorate for European Integration - Under IPA II 2014-2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina participates in a total of six territorial cooperation programmes - two bilateral and one trilateral cross-border cooperation programme with neighboring countries and three transnational programmes:

1. Cross-border Cooperation Programme BiH – Montenegro
2. Cross-border Cooperation Programme Serbia – BiH
3. Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia - BiH
4. Adriatic-Ionian Transitional Programme (ADRION)
5. Danube Transnational Programme (DTP)
6. Mediterranean Transnational Cooperation Programme (MED)

A common feature of these programmes is that they are implemented mainly through public calls for project proposals that are published periodically. There is also the possibility of financing special, strategic projects outside public calls, if the participating countries agree and if such a project is already identified in the programming document.

The territorial cooperation program finances exclusively non-profit activities in the programme area, and the eligible applicants are mainly non-profit legal entities (e.g. public institutions at all levels, municipalities, public companies, but not those with a commercial and/or industrial character), educational institutions, institutes, tourist boards, NGOs, citizens' associations, business associations, chambers of commerce, agencies for the development of small and medium enterprises, etc.). Within transnational programs, the rules of ERDF regulations apply, which allow the participation of for-profit private legal entities under certain conditions (except for IPA countries within the MED programme). According to the provisions of the relevant regulations and the IPA Framework Agreement, the obligation of the beneficiaries is to provide at the project level funds for co-financing in the amount of at least 15% of the total project value.

An overview of the total values of these co-financed programmes (expressed in millions of Euros, rounded to two decimal places and with the remark that these are common funds for all IPA countries participating in a given programme), is given in the following table:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>IPA</b>	<b>Co-financing</b>	<b>Total</b>
CBC BiH-MNE	8.40	<b>1.33</b>	9.73
CBC SRB-BiH	14.00	<b>2.22</b>	16.22
CBC CRO-BiH-MNE	57.15 (half from ERDF, half from IPA)	<b>10.09</b>	67.24 (half from ERDF, half from IPA)
Danube	202.09 ERDF and <b>19.83 IPA</b>	37.57 ERDF <b>3.50 IPA</b>	239.66 ERDF <b>23.33 IPA</b>
ADRION83,47 ERDF i	83.47 ERDF and <b>15.69 IPA</b>	15.99 ERDF <b>2.77 IPA</b>	99.46 ERDF and <b>18.46 IPA</b>
MED	224.32 ERDF and <b>9.36 IPA</b>	40.58 ERDF <b>1.65 IPA</b>	264.90 ERDF and <b>11.01 IPA</b>

The implementation of the Territorial Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 has continued through the periodic publication of public calls for project proposals. During 2020, the 4<sup>th</sup> call for modular

projects within the MED programme and the 3rd call within the IPA CBC BiH-Montenegro were published. Contracting has been completed of approved projects from the 2nd call within the IPA CBC BiH-Montenegro, the 2nd call within the Interreg IPA CBC Croatia-BiH-Montenegro, the 3rd call within the Danube programme, the 2nd call within the ADRION programme, 2 calls for horizontal projects and a strategic call for innovation under the MED programme. The implementation of the Territorial Cooperation Program 2014-2020 has continued through the periodic publication of public calls for project proposals. The evaluation of the received project proposals from the 2nd call of the IPA CBC Serbia-BiH has been completed and contracting has begun. The result of these calls is as follows: 15 contracted projects from the 2nd call within the IPA CBC BiH-Montenegro, 31 projects from the 2nd call within the IPA CBC Croatia-BiH-Montenegro (all include at least one partner from BiH, and contracting additional projects from the reserve list is expected in the forthcoming period), 12 projects from the 2nd call within the ADRION programme that include partners from BiH (out of a total of 22 approved projects), 14 projects from the 3rd call within the Danube programme that includes partners from BiH (out of a total of 35) and 3 within the MED programme (2 from the call for horizontal projects and 1 from the call for strategic projects).

During 2019, preparations for the programming process for the new budget period 2021-2027 have begun, although the relevant legal framework in the EU has not yet been adopted.

For programmes involving EU member states, the European Commission has prepared initial documents in the form of so-called Position papers that were the subject of consultations among the countries participating in individual programmes. Programming Working Groups have been set up for all programmes involving EU Member States. Within the three transnational programmes, representatives of DEI have been appointed on behalf of BiH, while, in addition to representatives of DEI, representatives of entity governments, the Brčko District and BiH Economic Planning Directorate are also participating in the Interreg IPA CBC Croatia-BiH-Montenegro Programming Working Group.

Regarding the cross-border cooperation programme between IPA countries, as announced at the Regional Forum held in Sarajevo in November 2019, organised by DG NEAR and the CBIB+3 regional technical assistance project, the programming process began in mid-2020. In September 2020, Joint Programming Working Groups were established, which include representatives of relevant institutions of the participating countries (from BiH, there are representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Ministry of Civil Affairs, two entity governments, the Brčko District (in the programme with Serbia) and two entity associations of municipalities and cities). With the support of the CBIB+3 project, a training was organised for appointed representatives on strategic planning, a survey was conducted among local stakeholders in the programme area for SWOT analysis, an analysis of the situation in the programme area was conducted, thematic priorities have been selected, as well as specific goals of future programmes and the first drafts of programme documents were prepared at the end of November and submitted to the European Commission for consideration and comments. The new Territorial Cooperation Programmes 2021-2027 will be subject to special information(s) for the Council of Ministers in the coming period before the final submission of the programme to the European Commission for approval in order to authorise the signing of Letters of Consent regarding the content of individual programmes and accepting the obligation to co-finance technical assistance.

**CONCLUSION*****PROPOSED CONCLUSION***

***1. The Fifth Periodic Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina on legislative and other measures aimed at implementing the principles set forth in the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities is hereby adopted, and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH is instructed to submit the adopted Report to the Council of Europe Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Strasbourg.***

**APPENDICES****APPENDIX 2 – Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH**

Grant support projects for associations of national minorities 2016-2020

**For year 2016**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Project proposal applicant</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Allocated funds</b>
1.	Association of Citizens of Italian Origin Rino Zandonai Tuzla	Where Did the Italians in BiH Come from?	9,180.00
2.	Austrian-German Community, Sarajevo	MUMA The Music of National Minorities	7,000.00
3.	Association of Slovenians of RS Triglav Banja Luka	Affirmation of the Culture of the Slovenian Minority	10,000.00
4.	Alliance of National Minorities of RS, Banja Luka	Support to the Work and Activities of the Alliance of National Minorities of RS	10,000.00
5.	Council of the Montenegrin National Minority in BiH, Sarajevo	Promotion of the Cultural Heritage of the Montenegrin National Minority in BiH	9,900.00
6.	Association of Montenegrins	Respect for the Rights of the	10,000.00

	in Herzegovina Vuk Mićunović, Trebinje	Montenegrin National Minority, Better Cooperation between BiH and Montenegro	
7.	Slovenian Association CANKAR Sarajevo	Participation of the Slovenian Association Cankar Sarajevo in the event Days of the Slovenian Culture, Economy and Tourism in Novi Sad	5,148.00
8.	Alliance of National Minorities of the Municipality Prnjavor	Protection and Promotion of the Languages of National Minorities	8,772.00
TOTAL:			70,000.00

**For year 2017**

No.	Project proposal applicant	Project title	Allocated funds
1.	Association of Slovenians of RS Triglav Banja Luka	Improving the Cultural Creativity of the Slovenian National Minority in BiH	10,000.00
2.	Alliance of National Minorities of RS, Banja Luka	Enhancing the Capacities of Associations and Alliances of National Minorities of Republika Srpska for the Promotion of Cultural Creativity	10,000.00
3.	Alliance of National Minorities of the Municipality Prnjavor	Preservation of the Mother Tongue and Cultural Identity	9,800.00
4.	Association of Citizens of Slovenian Origin Slovenska skupnost - Tuzla	Slovenian Greeting Promotion of the Slovenian Culture in Tuzla	9,200.00
5.	Association of Citizens of Italian Origin Rino Zandonai Tuzla	My Strategy	9,810.00
6.	Association of Ukrainians Zlatni klas, Prnjavor	Preservation from Oblivion through Songs	10,000.00
7.	Roma Support Center Romalen Kakanj	Establishment of a model for protection against discrimination against Roma in all public institutions in the municipality of Kakanj	10,000.00
8.	Women Association Mother's Center "Izvor života" (" <i>The Source of Life</i> ") - Vitez	Vocational Training of Roma Women in the Municipality of Vitez for the Purpose of Easier Employment	10,000.00
9.	Alliance of National Minorities of the Doboje region	Sixth Fair of National Minorities	6,278.00
10.	Association of Citizens of Slovak Origin of Semberia Juraj Janošik Bijeljina	Slovak Songs and Dances in Semberia	9,500.00
11.	Association of Montenegrins in Herzegovina Vuk Mićunović, Trebinje	Association in the Service of Its Members	9,510.00
12.	Association of Macedonians Makedonac Vardar - Brčko	Days of the Macedonian Culture	9,920.00

	District BiH		
13.	Roma Association Euro Rom - Tuzla	Development of a Brochure for the Promotion of the Language, Culture, Literature and History of the Roma National Minority	10,000.00
14.	Association of Citizens of Czech Origin Češka beseda Sarajevo	From Tuzla via Sarajevo to the Sunny Hvar	8,818.00
15.	Association of Montenegrins and Friends of Montenegro Lovćen, Banja Luka	Educational-Painting Workshop on the topic Njegoš and Montenegrin Cultural Heritage	2,073.20
16.	Association Polska – Sarajevo	History and Celebration of Holidays of the Polish National Minority in BiH	7,195.00
17.	Hungarian Association of Citizens HUM Sarajevo	Good Afternoon – Jó napot	7,895.80
TOTAL			150,000.00

#### For year 2018

No.	Project proposal applicant	Project title	Allocated funds
1.	Association for the Support of Promotion of Jewish Culture, Tradition and Tourist Potential Haggadah, Sarajevo	200 Years Since the Rescue of Jews in Sarajevo	10,000.00
2.	Association of Italians Štivor Banja Luka	Promotion of the Italian Culture 2018	9,980.00
3.	Association of Poles – Banja Luka	Support to Enhancing the Cultural Promotion of the Polish National Minority	5,150.00
4.	Association of Montenegrins in Herzegovina Vuk Mićunović Trebinje	Montenegrin Cultural Creativity	10,000.00
5.	Alliance of National Minorities of RS	Promotion of the Work of the Alliance of National Minorities of RS through the Cultural Creativity of National Minorities	10,000.00
6.	Association of Slovenians Triglav Banja Luka	Promotion of the Slovenian Culture	10,000.00
7.	Association of Ukrainians Zlatni klas, Prnjavor	Jubilee Anniversary of 110 Years of Ukrainian Culture in Little Europe	10,000.00
8.	Roma Women Association Bolja budućnost - Tuzla	Celebrating November 5, World Roma Language Day	9,420.00
9.	Alliance of Roma NGOs of RS	The Voice of Roma	9,900.00
10.	Association Roma Girl – "Romani će" - Prnjavor	Protection of the Roma Culture and Tradition through the Promotion and Celebration of the Most Important Roma Holidays in BiH	9,995.00

11.	Association of National Minorities - Zenica	Publication of the Periodic Magazine "New Roma Generation"	9,995.00
12.	Association of Citizens of Macedonian Origin Ilinden Tuzla	Days of Macedonian Culture in Tuzla	9,850.00
13.	Association of Citizens of Italian Origin Rino Zandonai Tuzla	Book The Italians of the Tuzla Region	9,950.00
14.	Association Braća Romi ( <i>Brother Roma</i> ) Sarajevo	Celebration of the Most Important Roma Holidays	4,300.00
15.	Roma Association Euro Rom Tuzla	Education and Celebration of Important Dates for Roma in the Fight against Ddiscrimination	5,365.00
16.	Roma Support Center Romalen Kakanj	Promotion and Preservation of the Culture, Language and National Identity of the Roma Population through Questionnaires and Education, and Publication and Distribution of Brochures Printed Materials for the Members of the Roma Community in Kakanj and the General Public	5,365.00
17.	Association Kali Sara – RIC Sarajevo	Raising Awareness of the Importance of Combating Discrimination in the Process of Education for Roma Children	5,365.00
18.	Roma Association Jačanje – Zuralipe Vitez	Vocational Training of Roma in the Municipality of Vitez for Copper Engraving	5,365.00
Total:			150,000,00

#### For year 2020

No.	Project proposal applicant	Project title	Allocated funds
1.	Association of National Minorities of Republika Srpska (SNMRS)	Preserving and Promoting Cultural Creativity and Heritage of National Minorities	25,000.00
2.	Association of National Minorities of the Sarajevo Canton	"ACTIVELY!: Project for Improving Integration, Affirmation and Visibility of National Minority in the Sarajevo Canton and the FBiH"	22,850.00
3.	Association of National Minorities of the Brčko District	Festival of National Minorities	14,840.00
4.	Alliance of Roma NGO of RS	Roma Newsletter „Romano lulidi“	4,467.75
5.	Association of National Minorities of the Prnjavor Municipality SNOP	Festival of National Minorities of the Prnjavor Municipality "Mala Evropa" <sup>cc</sup> ("Little Europe")	5,000.00
6.	Roma Association of the	STOP Discrimination Against Roma in the	5,000.00

7.	Central Bosnia Canton Association of National Minorities of Zenica	Central Bosnia Canton First Zenica Roma Festival of Music, Painting, Folk Music and Custom	5,000.00
8.	Association of Citizens Roma Informative Center– Gradiška	Marking Significant Dates for the Roma National Minority	5,000.00
9.	Association "Klub Mladih Rom" (" <i>Roma Youth Club</i> ") Kiseljak - Tuzla	Improving the Social and Cultural Lives of Male and Female Roma	5,000.00
10.	Roma Association "Đelem, Đelem" Tuzla	Reducing Discrimination Against Roma During the COVID-19 Pandemic	5,000.00
11.	NGO "Roma" Živinice	Affirmation of Roma in Živinice	5,000.00
12.	Association of Poles and Friends "Boleslaviec" Prnjavor	Promoting Polish Culture in Prnjavor	5,000.00
13.	Association of Poles Banja Luka	Promoting and Preserving Cultural Identity of Polish National Minority – "Gumjer" and "Princeza Banja Luka"	4,900.00
14.	Association of Slovenians of RS "Triglav" Banja Luka	Visibility of Slovenian National Minority During the Pandemic	5,000.00
15.	Association of Citizens of Slovenian Origin Tuzla	Days of Slovenian Culture in Tuzla	5,000.00
16.	Association of Montenegrins and Friends of Montenegrins "Lovćen" Banja Luka	"Show up"	2,942,25
17.	Association of Ukrainians in the Gradiška Municipality "Verhoveana"	Ukrainian Folk Songs as Intangible Heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina	5,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b> <b>130,000.00 BAM</b>			

## APPENDIX 2 - Federal Ministry of Education and Science

### 2018

**Support to projects for engagement of Roma mediators in order to increase the scope and regular attendance of Roma children in primary education**

No.	Applicant	Project title	Approved amount in BAM
1.	Elementary School "Kulin Ban", Visoko	"Support to Projects for Engagement of Roma Mediators in Order to Increase the Scope and Regular Attendance of Roma Children in Primary Education"	6,000.00
2.	PI Elementary School "15. April", Doboj-Kakanj, Kakanj	Programme of Inclusion of Roma Children in Primary Education in the Elementary School "15. April", Doboj-Kakanj	6,000.00

3	PI Elementary School "9 May" Pazarić, Hadžići	Inclusion of Roma Children in the Education System of the Public Institution, Elementary School 9 May, Pazarić	5,980.00
4.	NGO „Rom“ („Roma“), Živinice	Roma Mediator as the Key to Better Inclusion of Roma Children in Schools	5,925.00
5.	Association of Citizens "Sretni Romi" "Happy Roma", Tuzla	Roma Mediator – the Key Factor to Successful Education of Roma Children	5,980.00
6.	Roma Association "Jačanje Zuralipe", Vitez	Education of Roma Children – a Road to Better Future	5,937.00
7.	PI Elementary School "Grbavica II", Sarajevo	Support to Projects for Engagement of Roma Mediators in Order to Increase the Scope and Regular Attendance of Roma Children in Primary Education	6,000.00 Accounted for 5,142.30 Returned 857.70
8.	PI Elementary School "Hasan Kikić", Sarajevo	“Support to Projects for Engagement of Roma Mediators in Order to Increase the Scope and Regular Attendance of Roma Children in Primary Education“	6,000.00
9.	Elementary School "Bijelo Polje", Potoci, Mostar	Assistance to Education and Regular Attendance of Roma Children	5,950.00
10.	PI Elementary School "Aleksa Šantić", Sarajevo	Support to the Education of Roma through the Engagement of Roma Mediators/Assistants – Integration through Education"	6,000.00
<b>T O T A L:</b>			<b>59,772.00</b>

**For year 2019**

**Support to projects for engagement of Roma mediators in order to increase the scope and regular attendance of Roma children in primary education**

No.	Applicant	Project title	Approved amount in BAM
1.	NGO "Rom" ("Roma") Živinice	Roma Mediator as the Key to Better Inclusion of Roma Students in Schools	5,925.00
2.	PI Elementary School "Musa Ćazim Ćatić" Visoko	Programme for Inclusion of Roma Children in Primary Education in the Municipality of Visoko	5,940.00
3	We are Building a Future for Roma through Education	We are Building a Future for Roma through Education	6,000.00
4.	Elementary School "Safvet-beg Bašagić" Visoko	Support to Projects for Engagement of Roma Mediators in Order to Increase the Scope and Regular Attendance of Roma Children in Primary Education	7,000.00

5.	Youth Women's Handball Club "Iskra" Stolac	Improvement of the Primary Education of Roma Children and Children of Socially Disadvantaged Families through Assistance in Teaching and through Sport Activities	6,000.00
6.	Association for the Protection of Cultural-Historical Heritage and Youth Education "ARHIUM" Ilijaš	Support to Projects for Engagement of Roma Mediators in Order to Increase the Scope and Regular Attendance of Roma Children in Primary Education	6,000.00
7.	PI Elementary School "Hasan Kikić" Gradačac	Support to Projects for Engagement of Roma Mediators in Order to Increase the Scope and Regular Attendance of Roma Children in Primary Education	5,813.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>42,678.00</b>

### **Project for the procurement of free textbooks for socially disadvantaged students**

This project has been implemented since 2018.

Year 2018, 5th grade, 560,000.00 BAM

Year 2019, 2nd grade, 600,000.00 BAM

Free textbooks are distributed to all socially vulnerable categories, including the Roma population, although Roma are not registered as a socially vulnerable category, so it is not possible to determine the exact number of Roma children who received textbooks, though it is certain that the percentage is very high since often Roma students belong to socially vulnerable categories.

### **Transfer to fund student standard**

Support for Roma students in year 2018 – 6 students, 1,200.00 BAM per student = 7,200.00 BAM

Support for Roma students in year 2019 – 10 students, 1,300.00 BAM per student = 13,000.00 BAM

TOTAL = 20,200.00 BAM

## **APPENDIX 3. – Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska**

### **2016**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of association</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>City/municipality</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1.	Association of Slovenians of RS "Triglav" Banja Luka	Affirmation of the Culture of the Slovenian National Minority	Banja Luka	4.000,00 BAM
2.	Association of citizens "Jevrejska opština" Banja Luka	Witnesses of Suffering – the Truth about the Holocaust	Banja Luka	1.300,00 BAM
3.	Alliance of National Minorities of RS	13th Festival of Cultural Creativity of National Minorities	Banja Luka	3.600,00 BAM
4.	Alliance of National Minorities of the Municipality Prnjavor	7th Festival of National Minorities of the Municipality Prnjavor	Prnjavor	2.300,00 BAM

5.	Association of Italians "Štivor" - Club Trentini"	6th International Folklore Festival Šibovksa 2016	Prnjavor	2.000,00 BAM
6.	Alliance of National Minorities of RS	Bulletin of the Association of national minorities of Republika Srpska	Banja Luka	1.000,00 BAM
7.	Alliance of National Minorities of RS	7th Elementary Schools Competition in the Knowledge of National Minorities	Banja Luka	3.000,00 BAM
8.	Cultural and Educational Association of Ukrainians "Taras Ševčenko"	16th International Festival of Ukrainian Cultural and Artistic Creativity - Červona Kalena Derventa	Banja Luka	1.200,00 BAM
9.	Association of Italians of Banja Luka	Bulletin „Stella d' Italia”	Banja Luka	1.000,00 BAM
10.	Association of Hungarians of Republika Srpska	Publication of the 10th issue of "UJ Doboš"	Banja Luka	300,00 BAM
11.	Association of Poles "Češka besjeda"	Monography Nova Ves	Banja Luka	1.200,00 BAM
12.	Roma Information Centre	Roma Language	Gradiška	1.800,00 BAM
13.	Jewish Community in Doboj	Exhibition "Jews of Serbia in World War I"	Doboj	700,00 BAM
14.	Association of Czechs "Češka besjeda"	An Anthology of Selected Poems by Members of the Association	Banja Luka	700,00 BAM
15.	Association of Italians Banja Luka	Let's Get to Know Italy	Banja Luka	800,00 BAM
16.	Alliance of non-governmental Roma organizations of Republika Srpska	Promotion of the Alliance	Gradiška	1.000,00 BAM
17.	Association of Montenegrins in Herzegovina "Vuk Mićunović"	Montenegrin Cultural Evening	Trebinje	1.000,00 BAM
18.	Association of Italians Banja Luka	Roman Excavations	Banja Luka	700,00 BAM
19.	Cultural and Educational Association of Ukrainians "Taras Ševčenko"	Ukrainian Party - Ball	Banja Luka	1.200,00 BAM
20.	Association of Hungarians of Republika Srpska	Study Visit in Vojvodina	Banja Luka	500,00 BAM
21.	Association of Poles	My Polish Poetry 2016	Banja Luka	700,00 BAM
				<b>30.000,00 BAM</b>

**2017**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of association</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>City/municipalnty</b>	<b>Ammount</b>
1.	Association of Poles	My Polish Poetry 2017	Banja Luka	1.600,00 BAM
2.	Association of Slovenians "Triglav"	The Slovenians and the Slovenian Culture in Pictures and Words	Banja Luka	2.500,00 BAM
3.	Association of Slovenians "Triglav"	Songs and Dances Connect Us	Banja luka	2.000,00 BAM
4.	Association of Slovenians "Triglav"	Let's Meet	Banja Luka	4.000,00 BAM
5.	Alliance of non-governmental Roma organizations of Republika Srpska	Celebration of April 8 – International Roma Day	Gradiška	1.600,00 BAM
6.	Roma Information Center	<u>Roma Beginner</u>	Gradiška	2.000,00 BAM
7.	Association of Czechs, Banja Luka	Literary Meetings of Czech and Serbian Writers Jan Skacel	Banja Luka	2.700,00 BAM
8.	Jewish Community	Synagogues in Vojvodina	Doboj	800,00 BAM
9.	Association of Italians	Let's Get to Know Italy	Banja Luka	300,00 BAM
10.	Cultural and Educational Association of Ukrainians "Taras Ševčenko"	Ukrainian Party - Ball	Banja Luka	1.000,00 BAM
11.	Cultural and Educational Association of Ukrainians "Taras Ševčenko"	International Festival of Ukrainian Cultural and Artistic Creativity - Červona Kalena Derventa	Banja luka	1.900,00 BAM
12.	Association of Italians of Banja Luka	Bulletin „Stella d' Italia”	Banja Luka	1.000,00 BAM
13.	Association of Montenegrins and friends of Montenegro Lovćen	Fiddle School	Banja Luka	2.000,00 BAM
14.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	Republika Srpska Bulletin of the Alliance of national minorities – third edition	Banja luka	2.000,00 BAM
15.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	14th Festival of Cultural Creativity of National Minorities	Trebinje	5.500,00 BAM
16.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	8th Elementary Schools Competition in the Knowledge of National Minorities	Banja Luka	1.900,00 BAM
17.	Association of Italians „Štivor – Klub Trentini”	Promotion of the Italian Culture	Banja Luka	2.200,00 BAM

18.	Alliance of national minorities of the municipality Prnjavor	8th Festival of National Minorities of the Municipality "Little Europe" (in formular was metioned 7th) Study Visit in Vojvodina	Prnjavor	3.000,00 BAM
19.	Association of Hungarians of Republika Srpska	Bilingual Literary Evening with a Hungarian Poet from Vojvodina	Banja Luka	200,00 BAM
20.	Association of Hungarians of Republika Srpska	Publication of the 11th Issue of UJ Doboš, a bilingual magazine	Banja Luka	350,00 BAM
21.	Association of Montenegrins in Herzegovina „Vuk Mićunović”	Montenegrin Days of Culture – Affirmation of Young Artists	Trebinje	1.000,00 BAM
				<b>39.550,00</b>

**2018**

No.	Name of association	Project title	City/municipality	Suggested amount
1.	Association of Slovenians of RS “Triglav” ”	Improvement of the cultural cooperation and exchange of the association Triglav	Banja Luka	2.400,00 BAM
2.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	15th Festival of Cultural Creativity of National Minorities	Banja Luka	3.500,00 BAM
3.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	15th Festival of Cultural Creativity of National Minorities	Banja Luka	3.200,00 BAM
4.	Association of Slovenians of RS “Triglav” ”	Let's preserve the Slovenian language as part of our identity	Banja Luka	2.200,00 BAM
5.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	9th Regional Elementary Schools Competition on the Knowledge of National Minorities	Banja Luka	2.000,00 BAM
6.	Association of Italians – Banja Luka	Let's Get to Know Italy "Province of Umbria"	Banja Luka	500,00 BAM
7.	Jewish Community of Doboј	Exhibition "Jews in Bijeljina" – fragments from the past"	Doboј	750,00 BAM
8.	Association of Italians – Banja Luka	Bulletin „Stella d' Italia”	Banja Luka	800,00 BAM
9.	Association of Italians – Banja	Concert of the choir	Banja Luka	2.200,00 BAM

	Luka	"Coro I BRUSCHI"		
10.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	Bulletin called "The Word of National Minorities"	Banja Luka	1.950,00 BAM
11.	Association of Poles of the City of Banja Luka	Literary Days "My Polish Poetry 2018"	Banja Luka	1.200,00 BAM
12.	Association of Slovenians of RS "Triglav" "	20th Anniversary of the Association	Banja Luka	2.100,00 BAM
13.	Cultural and Educational Association of Ukrainians "Taras Ševčenko"	18th International Festival of the Ukrainian Cultural and Artistic Creativity "Červonakalena" Derventa	Banja Luka	1.200,00 BAM
14.	Association of Hungarians of Republika Srpska	Publication of the 12th Issue of UJ Doboš, a bilingual magazine of the Hungarian national minority	Banja Luka	500,00 BAM
15.	"Česka beseda" Association of Czechs of the City of Banja Luka	Festival of Czech Poetry "Days of Jan Skacel"	Banja Luka	2.000,00 BAM
16.	Association of Italians Štivor – Klub Trentini	Promotion of the Italian Culture	Štivor/ Šibovska	2.100,00 BAM
17.	Alliance of national minorities of Municipality Prnjavor	9th Festival of National Minorities of the Municipality "Little Europe 2018"	Prnjavor	1.800,00 BAM
18.	Association of Montenegrins in Herzegovina "Vuk Mićunović"	Montenegrin Cultural Creativity "Njegoš's Poetry Evenings"	Trebinje	1.000,00 BAM
19.	Alliance of national minorities of Dobož region	Exhibition – the Richness of Diversity	Dobož	1.200,00 BAM
20.	Cultural and Educational Association of Ukrainians "Taras Ševčenko"	Ukrainian Party - Ball	Banja Luka	1.000,00 BAM
21.	Association of Slovaks of Semberija "Juraj Janošik"	Anniversary of the consecration of the Slovak Evangelistic Church in Bijeljina	Bijeljina	1.000,00 BAM
22.	Roma Information Center Gradiška	Roma Language	Gradiška	2.200,00 BAM
23.	Alliance of non-governmental Roma organizations of Republika Srpska	Celebration of April 8 – Roma International Day	Gradiška	1.500,00 BAM
24.	Cultural Society of Macedonians "Vardar"	School of painting on glass	Banja Luka	900,00 BAM
25.	Cultural Society of Macedonians "Vardar"	School of graphics	Banja Luka	800,00 BAM

<b>40.000,00 BAM</b>
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**2019**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of association</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>City/municipality</b>	<b>Proposed amount</b>
1.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	16th Festival of the Cultural Creativity of National Minorities	Banja Luka	4.500,00 BAM
2.	Association of Slovenians of RS "Triglav" "	We grow together on the road of words, pictures and dances	Banja Luka	3.400,00 BAM
3.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	The First national competition of elementary schools on the knowledge of national minorities in BiH	Banja Luka	2.900,00 BAM
4.	Association of Slovenians of RS "Triglav" "	We have two homelands	Banja Luka	3.250,00 BAM
5.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	Bulletin of the Association of national minorities – The Word of National Minorities	Banja Luka	3.100,00 BAM
6.	Cultural and Educational Association of Ukrainians "Taras Ševčenko"	19th International Festival of the Ukrainian Cultural and Artistic Creativity "Červona kalena" Derventa	Banja Luka	1.000,00 BAM
7.	Association of Slovenians of RS "Triglav" "	Cultural Heritage through Literature and Art	Banja Luka	1.800,00 BAM
8.	Association of Poles of the City of Banja Luka	My Polish Poetry	Banja Luka	1.500,00 BAM
9.	Association of Italians – Klub Trentini, Šibovska	Promotion of the Italian Culture	Prnjavor	1.700,00 BAM
10.	Association of Montenegrins in Herzegovina "Vuk Mićunović"	Montenegrin Evening	Trebinje	1.500,00 BAM
11.	Association of Poles of the City of Banja Luka	Support to the activities of the Polish national minority in Republika Srpska	Banja Luka	1.500,00 BAM
12.	Alliance of national minorities of Municipality Prnjavor	10th Festival of National Minorities of the Municipality "Little Europe"	Prnjavor	2.500,00 BAM

13.	Alliance of national minorities of Municipality Prnjavor	10th Anniversary of the Alliance of national minorities of the Municipality Prnjavor	Prnjavor	1.300,00 BAM
14.	Cultural and Educational Association of Ukrainians "Taras Ševčenko"	Ukrainian Party - Ball	Banja Luka	1.000,00 BAM
15.	Alliance of national minorities of Dobož region	Seventh Fair of National Minorities	Dobož	1.200,00 BAM
16.	Association of Czechs of the City of Banja Luka "Česka beseda"	Third International Festival of Czech Poetry "Days of Jan Skacel"	Banja Luka	1.800,00 BAM
17.	Roma Women Association "Romano Ternipe"	Let's preserve history, tradition and culture from oblivion	Gradiška	1.000,00 BAM
18.	Association of Italians – Klub Trentini, Šibovska	Bulletin „Stella d' Italia”	Prnjavor	1.100,00 BAM
19.	Cultural Society of Macedonians "Vardar"	Choreography for the cultural society of Macedonians "Vardar"	Banja Luka	750,00 BAM
20.	Roma Information Center Gradiška	Roma Language – November 5, Roma Language Day	Gradiška	750,00 BAM
21.	Cultural and Educational Association of Ukrainians "Taras Ševčenko"	Educational art workshop – Creative summer with Ukrainian motifs	Banja Luka	800,00 BAM
22.	Association of Montenegrins in Hercegovina "Vuk Mićunović"	Promotion of the Montenegrin cultural creativity	Trebinje	1.000,00 BAM
23.	Association of Slovaks of Semberija	10th Anniversary of the consecration of the newly built Slovak Evangelistic Church	Bijeljina	650,00 BAM
				<b>40.000,00</b>

**2020**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>Name of association</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>City/municipality</b>	<b>Proposed amount</b>
1.	Association of Slovenians of RS “Triglav” ”	Tradition and culture of the Slovenian National Minority	Banja Luka	3.500,00 BAM
2.	Association of Slovenians of RS “Triglav” ”	Preservation of cultural diversity through the association of national	Banja Luka	3.000,00 BAM

		minorities		
3.	Association of Poles of the City of Banja Luka	The story of the princess Banja Luka from the eastern regions	Banja Luka	2.000,00 BAM
4.	Association of Italians – Banja Luka	The first festival of Italian culture "Insieme" 2020, Banja Luka	Banja Luka	4.000,00 BAM
5.	Association of Czechs of the City of Banja Luka "Česka beseda"	Translation of selected poems by the Czech poet Jaroslav Seyfert and launch of the poetry edition "Jan Skacel"	Banja Luka	2.000,00 BAM
6.	Association of Poles and friends „Boleslaviec”	Shool of Polish language	Prnjavor	2.400,00 BAM
7.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	Bulletin of the Association of national minorities of Republika Srpska	Banja Luka	3.300,00 BAM
8.	Association of Italians – Banja Luka	Bulletin „Stella d' Italia”	Banja Luka	1.100,00 BAM
9.	Alliance of national minorities of the municipality Prnjavor	Bulletin of the Alliance of national minorities of the municipality Prnjavor	Prnjavor	1.500,00 BAM
10.	Association of Italians „Štivor – Klub Trentini”	Bulletin of Association of Italians „Štivor”	Prnjavor	1.000,00 BAM
11.	Cultural Society of Macedonians "Vardar"	Macedonian national dishes	Banja Luka	1.000,00 BAM
12.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	Cross-border cooperation of the Alliance of National Minorities with related associations in Italy, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia	Banja Luka	1.200,00 BAM
13.	Cultural Society of Macedonians "Vardar"	Exhibition of artistic creations of national minorities, Banja Luka	Banja Luka	2.000,00 BAM
14.	Alliance of national minorities of Republika Srpska	Strengthening the capacity of national minority associations - Writing project proposals	Banja Luka	1.000,00 BAM

15.	Association of Hungarians of Republika Srpska „Magyar szo”	Connecting the association of Hungarians of the RS with the Hungarian associations of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina "HUM" and celebrating the national holiday of Hungary	Banja Luka	1.000,00 BAM
16.	Roma Information Center	Roma language	Gradiška	1.000,00 BAM
17.	Roma Women Association "Romano Ternipe"	Let's preserve history, tradition and culture from oblivion	Gradiška	1.000,00 BAM
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>32.000,00 BAM</b>