



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Committee of Ministers
Comité des Ministres

**Recommendation CM/RecChL(2008)1
of the Committee of Ministers
on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Croatia**

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 12 March 2008
at the 1021st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification submitted by Croatia on 5 November 1997;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts on the Charter with respect to the application of the Charter by Croatia;

Having taken note of the comments made by the Croatian authorities on the contents of the Committee of Experts' report;

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by Croatia in its third periodical report, supplementary information given by the Croatian authorities, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in Croatia and the information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its on-the-spot visit,

Recommends that the Croatian authorities take account of all the observations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. provide information on the application of Part III of the Charter in those areas where a regional or minority language is not in "equal and official use" but there is nevertheless a traditional presence and a sufficient number of speakers of that regional or minority language for the Charter to apply;
2. take practical steps to promote awareness and tolerance vis-à-vis the regional or minority languages and the cultures they represent as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Croatia, both in the general curriculum at all stages of education and in the media;
3. develop a planned and structured approach to the implementation of regional or minority language teaching (Model C) so that it meets the requirements of the Charter as outlined by the Committee of Experts;
4. introduce the teaching of Slovak, Ruthenian and Ukrainian in secondary education;
5. take measures to ensure that speakers can use in practice their regional or minority languages in relations with the relevant branches of the state administration;
6. introduce a language-specific and more significant presence for regional or minority languages on public television and develop a presence on the regional radio stations also for those languages that do not yet benefit from it.