



Strasbourg, 5 April 2013

GVT/COM/III(2013)002

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

**COMMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA
ON THE THIRD OPINION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL
MINORITIES BY ROMANIA**

(received on 5 April 2013)

Romanian Authorities' Comments
Regarding the Third Opinion of the Advisory Committee of the
Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

I. Introduction

The preservation and development of the culture and identity of persons belonging to national minorities is of particular importance in Romania, as minority groups are not just guardians of cultural past, but also creators of culture, who contribute in original ways to the national and European heritage. Cultural projects aim at both the preservation of the traditions to be transmitted to the youth and public opinion in an authentic manner, as well as to the effort of adjusting to the new socio-cultural reality, to current cultural phenomena, creation and innovation.

In the recent years, the public awareness measures regarding the importance of tolerance and respect for diversity have increased. The Department for Interethnic Relations (DIR), the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD), the Institute for Research on National Minorities, the Ministry of Culture, the public TV and radio companies, the parliamentary groups of minorities, the Council of National Minorities, the NGOs interested in promoting democracy and human rights organized various activities to foster respect for all ethnic groups, for their values, to encourage and support intercultural dialogue and social solidarity. The Government regulatory policies on ethnic relations were characterized by continuity and stability, with an emphasis on developing dialogue, consultation and cooperation system in general.

The organizations constituted in the Council of National Minorities are also promoters of cultural projects. Financial and technical assistance provided by the Department for Interethnic Relations have a considerable contribution to promoting dialogue and preserving the cultural heritage of ethnic minorities in Romania. This assistance is considered by most organizations as a vital resource, for many representing the only financial resource dedicated to the preservation of identity, culture as well as to financing of current operations.

All positive developments in the last twenty years would not have been possible without the effective and responsible participation of the representatives of minorities in public life, through the instruments they had at their disposal: the representation in the Parliament, in consultation mechanism, developed through the Council of National Minorities, as well as the representation at local level, by elected local officials.

At this moment in Romania the effective participation of minorities to public life is a reality; positive experiences may be reported in various fields: social and economic life, public and cultural life. It may be said that during recent years the system of prevention and combating discrimination, including in matters of employment and occupation, was consolidated.

Romanian expertise regarding the participation of minorities in public life is probably one of the most interesting and innovative in Europe. Romania wants to preserve and improve this system by enhancing consultative mechanisms and by maintaining affirmative measures (the formula of the reserved seats in Parliament) at the level of political representation, by encouraging Roma to engage in more institutional structures

at national and local levels, by maintaining a government department specialized in the protection of national minorities.

General overview of the implementation of the Framework Convention

Criteria and recognition. Legislative and institutional framework

The draft Law on National Minorities in Romania is still under debate in Parliament - at the level of the Human Rights Commission of the Chamber of Deputies. The registration of organizations of national minorities is, at present, governed by the Government Ordinance no. 26/2000 regarding associations and foundations, as amended and supplemented; there are no special rules for registration of organizations of national minorities.

Culture

Despite the economic difficulties in recent years, the Romanian authorities continued to provide strong support to cultural programs for national minorities. These have access to multiple funding opportunities:

- Grants managed by the Department of International Relations and Interculturalism under the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage;
- Competition of projects through the National Cultural Fund Administration, public institution under the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, which provides grants each year to public institutions, NGOs, private legal persons engaged in cultural activities, including activities proposed by organizations of national minorities;
- Grants provided by the National Center of Roma Culture “*Romano Kher*”, which also works under the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage;
- Grants awarded through selection competition by the Department for Interethnic Relations.

In addition to the public resources provided to minority associations, which may at times seem insufficient, other sources of funding include:

- EU funding programs allocated to Romania, including funds dedicated to culture;
- Assistance and funding available from other international donors, including kin-states;
- Funding from private sources, including international NGOs, foundations or national and foreign companies.

As regards the criticism concerning the insufficient funds allocated, the main financer of projects of national minority organizations, the Government of Romania - through the Department for Interethnic Relations – would like to point out that the setting of the annual priorities, as well as the setting of the share of the budget to be allocated to cultural projects and also to current expenses are the exclusive responsibility of these organizations themselves. It should be noted that no minority group is disadvantaged, as resources are allocated proportionally.

As regards the policies that should be developed specifically for organizations with fewer members, the Department for Interethnic Relations notes that none of these organizations came up with a proposal or initiative in this direction in recent years. Imposing measures of this type by the authorities would only lead to inefficient policies.

Another important element is that, following Romania's accession to EU, organizations of minorities, like other NGOs interested in the rights of persons belonging to national

minorities, have access to cultural projects financed by EU funds, the required co-financing being usually very low.

Intercultural dialogue and tolerance

- *Media*

During consultations with the organizations of minorities, the National Audiovisual Council (NAC) has reaffirmed its willingness to support the demarches for dedicated channels for minority languages. However, such requests were not registered. This absence is motivated by the financial problems which the audio/visual market in Romania is currently facing.

NAC believes that, however, thanks to the *online-supported media*, there is already a large range of alternatives to linear channels for radio and television, which are available to all national minorities in Romania. Such programs promoted by the new means for media would allow broadcasting of a more generous volume of information and the accessing and broadcasting time issues would be much diminished, allowing these to be watched over the Internet at any time and in any area.

A discussion on this topic between NAC experts and representatives of national minorities was organized by DIR in Bucharest, on 28 March 2012, but the member organizations of the Council of National Minorities have not yet manifested intention to create local radio and TV on the internet although this solution is available and accessible.

- *Education*

The Law on education (no. 1/2011) stipulates that persons belonging to national minorities have the right to be educated in their mother tongue at all levels of pre-university education. Schools or classes with education in the minority language can be established upon request of parents or legal guardians, without identifying any minimum threshold of the number of children required.

Regarding the elaboration of new school curricula within the context of Law no. 1/2011 on national education, the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports (MERYS) constantly promotes the education for diversity by extracurricular educative programs for students. Moreover, in the new curriculum, as well as in the old ones that have been revised, new courses on the history of minorities in Romania have been introduced. **Also, topics related to slavery, deportations and the Roma Holocaust are included in the course of Roma language and literature, and Roma traditions are studied also within the History course.**

At the same time, the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports (MERYS) constantly promotes the national contest of Romani language, the national school contest of history and Roma traditions, the parade of costumes and Roma traditional dancing or the campaign "*Youth in action – the young debate*" for students, with public debates on subjects concerning Roma and anti-discrimination.

- *Situation of the Roma*

The most important public policy document related to the Roma social inclusion is the *Romanian Government's Strategy of Inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority for 2012-2020*. This document is part of a broader framework of programmatic documents adopted at European level which include the strategy of the European Union of economic growth-Europe Strategy 2020 and the European Commission's Communication "*An EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020*".

The purpose of the Government's strategy is to ensure the socio-economic inclusion of the Roma citizens belonging to Roma minority by implementing integrated policies in the areas of education, employment, health, housing, culture and social infrastructure. Also, at the end of its first implementation period, the Government's strategy should produce evidence based on indicators that would allow Romanian authorities to focus on the specific needs and particularities for the next implementation period.

The abovementioned Strategy, the policies and programmes carried out, in the last decade, by the Romanian Government - in education, social protection and employment, in culture, in combating discrimination and in promoting access to information, inter-cultural dialogue and interethnic relations – are proofs of the Romanian Government's political will to fulfil, as any other European and OSCE participating State, its responsibility to work towards improving the situation of the Roma in the mainstream societal life.

II. Article-by-article findings

Article 3

Scope of application of the Framework Convention

The registration of organizations of national minorities is, at present, governed by common law - the Government Ordinance no. 26/2000 regarding associations and foundations, as amended and supplemented; there are no special rules for registration of organizations of national minorities.

The fact that the list of languages protected under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages coincides fully with the list of minorities represented in the Council of National Minorities cannot be qualified as a mere illustration of the difficulty to extend the protection of either instrument to other linguistic groups, which constitute regional expressions of minority identities, but is rather the result of a permissive approach, which primarily focuses on the will expressed by the organizations of persons belonging to national minorities.

Also on a practical level, the authorities have taken measures in order to support the preservation of the culture and identity of certain groups. For example, in so far as they addressed the authorities with specific projects, persons assuming the Csango identity were supported: in 2011 the Department for Interethnic Relations responded positively to a request of the ***Csángó Hungarian Association of Moldova***, funding with 10,000 RON a camp for preparatory school in Bacau County for Csango children. The camp took place from 30 June to 7 July in Miercurea Ciuc.

Regarding persons that have assumed the Csango identity, the Romanian authorities abide by the principle of self-identification. Therefore, related to the persons belonging to the Csango group, we consider their voice as essential. As a consequence, those

who consider themselves as “Hungarians” are placed under the protection offered to Hungarian minority, those who consider themselves as “Romanians” are provided with support for preservation of their specific customs, traditions and culture.

The situation of Aromanians of Romania is addressed in the same manner. A very large majority of Aromanians consider themselves as “Romanians”, being part of Romanian history, spirituality and culture, part of the Romanian nation. Meanwhile, the cultural specificity of the Aromanians is respected and the Romanian authorities are committed to ensure its normal course of development, including through allocation of resources.

The association of a small group of Aromanians, which requested back in 2005 - 2006 to be considered a “national minority” in Romania, has not resumed contact with the Department for Interethnic Relations in the recent years.

- *Data collection, census*

Besides encouraging the involvement of Roma people as reviewers in the population census organized in 2011, the Romanian authorities want to emphasize that organizations represented in the Council of National Minorities participated, through their members of Parliament, in the preparatory work and the development of questionnaires, codes and census lists. The Secretariat of the Department for Interethnic Relations was part of the Central Commission for Population and Housing Census and was always consulted on issues related to the proper coverage of minorities in the census conducted in 2011.

Art. 4

Prevention and protection against discrimination

Application of the principles of equality and non-discrimination with regard to the Roma

Regarding the discrimination of Roma, according to the results of the survey “The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States” conducted and produced by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and UNDP, the level of discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin in Romania is the lowest compared with the other EU Member States. For the purposes of the survey, 22.203 Roma and non-Roma were interviewed providing information on 84.287 household members.

The improvement of the situation of the Roma has been and continues to be a top priority for the Romanian Government.

Romania has achieved significant expertise in the field of Roma integration policy measures. The community is represented in the Romanian Parliament (3 MPs) and at local level (1 mayor and 161 local councilors). Moreover, at county level, the offices of each Mayor and President of County Council have employed local Roma experts that are in direct contact with the local Roma communities. A total number of 339 (out of 3171 towns and villages) Roma experts are currently employed at local administration level, both urban and rural.

Strategies, action plans, and cooperation protocols have been adopted, and projects in various areas, mainly education, employment, housing and health have been implemented.

The National Agency for Roma, the National Cultural Center for Roma and the National Council for Combating Discrimination are very important institutional instruments that contribute to the social inclusion and judicial protection of Roma population against

discrimination. The Prime-Minister appointed, shortly after taking office, a state counselor on Roma issues (as of June 2012).

Also, following the recommendations of ECRI in 2006, a Roma representative proposed by the party of this ethnic group was nominated to the Steering Board of the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD), a deliberative and decision-making body. Also, the structure of executive staff of NCCD includes Roma.

School and health mediators have been employed. Today, there are approximately 800 trained school mediators out of which more than 50 % have already been employed.

Romania has achieved expertise, also with the support of the Council of Europe, regarding the institutionalization of the school mediators and as a consequence of that, Romania has been invited to take part in the drafting of the cooperation framework between the Council of Europe, the Romanian National Agency for Roma (ANR) and the Republic of Moldova. As a consequence, the Government of the Republic of Moldova envisaged the first 15 community mediators for among the Roma ethnics. In recognition of this expertise, the Council of Europe invited ANR to become a partner for the implementation of ROMED (Mediation for Roma) programs in Romania. From this perspective, the continuation of the Roma mediators training program initiated by the Council is fully supported by the Romanian authorities. The Ministry of Interior is constantly conducting activities aiming at providing identification documents and civil status papers. Thus, in 2012, following 66 joint actions and 77 itinerant projects, 1537 civil status papers were provided to Roma ethnics and 14.329 identification papers have been issued. This is a permanent task of the Ministry of Interior and the evaluations are done annually.

It is to be noted that the Ministry of Interior has 153 police employees (126 men and 27 women) of Roma ethnicity, mostly from among the beneficiaries of the special measures aimed at promoting access to higher education for Roma.

Cases of relocation that affected also (but not exclusively) Roma population concerned illegally occupied areas. The decisions of the local authorities were in such cases in line with the legal obligations they have for improving the living conditions of the vulnerable groups. In each case, an alternative was offered.

For solving the particular situation of the relocated Roma population in the city of Baia Mare, legal proceedings for transferring a piece of land from the Ministry of Defense to the Municipality in order to facilitate the construction of social houses for the Roma community relocated from certain areas have been initiated.

In a similar case in the city of Cluj, since 2011, UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) is facilitating the process of better using the local resources in order to access the European funds for social inclusion of the vulnerable groups. The whole process is concentrated on a certain area and aims to develop an inclusion program for 2012-2020.

As regards the housing conditions of the Roma, several projects are ongoing and reached different stages of implementation. The priority in this domain is to find durable solutions in cooperation with local authorities according to the realities on the ground. Nevertheless, we need to reiterate that in Romania the effects of the financial crisis affect the vulnerable groups.

Regarding the legislation that grants the access to housing measures we need to point out that the juridical framework is applicable irrespective of the ethnic belonging of the respective citizen. The active measures (e.g. social houses) for the vulnerable groups are equally accessible for all the citizens.

In the field of housing and small infrastructure, the authorities continue the pilot program "Social housing for Roma Communities" conducted by the National Housing Agency under Government Decision no.1.237/2008, which ensures the construction of social housing in the 8 development regions of Romania.

As regards the recommendation to the authorities to provide the National Council for Combating Discrimination with the appropriate financial and human resources in order to allow it to fulfill its duties, it is to be pointed out that reductions in such resources have been carried out in the period 2009-2012, in the context of the international financial crisis, but these have targeted the whole institutional system of Romania, the central state budget and the local budgets as well, and the Council has not been the only public institution that has been confronted with the exigency of reducing its expenses, while still carrying out its duties in an efficient manner.

Art. 5 – State support for the preservation of the cultures of national minorities

Activities conducted by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

Pursuant to the provisions of Government Ordinance no. 51/1998 regarding the financing system of cultural programmes, projects and actions improvement, including subsequent amendments and additions, and in compliance with Government Decision no. 90/2010 regarding the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (MCNH) organisation and activity, including subsequent amendments and additions, the organisations for national minorities are entitled to request and receive financial support for cultural projects through the National Priority Cultural Programme and by non-repayable funds for emergency cultural needs. The programmes for minorities financed by MCNH in 2011 are mentioned below:

No.	Designation of cultural manifestation	Date and place of development	Applicant
1.	„International Day of All Roms in the World”	April 8, 2011, Târgoviște	„Romanes” Association
2.	Jewish and Israelian Dance School - festival “Machol Romania 2011”	April 13–17, 2011 Predeal	FCER
3.	“International Slovak Youth folk festival” 7 th edition	June 3-5, 2011, Suplacu de Barcău	Democratic Union of Slovak and Czech from Romania
4.	„ Szejke Folcloric Festival”, 45 th edition	June 3-7, 2011, Odorheiu-Secuiesc – Băile Szejke	Odorheiu-Secuiesc
5.	“EMKE Folcloric Festival”, 7 th edition	May 28–30, 2011, Târgu-Mureș	SMCT Târgu-Mureș
6.	“Saving research regarding the ethnografic heritage from multiethnic localities from Brașov county”	September 15-25, 2011, Brașov and surroundings	Ethnografic Museum Brașov

7.	“German Literature Days at Reșița”, 21 st edition	May 13-15, 2011 Reșița	German Democrat Forum
8.	National Minorities Festival „Intercommunities” ,8 th edition	June 18–19, 2011 Siret and Negostina	Ukrainian’s Union from Romania
9.	“From emigration to integration” – photo exhibition	May 30, 2011 Bucharest	Italians’ Association from Romania
10.	“German Culture Days at Satu-Mare”	May 6–8, 2011, at Satu-Mare	German Democratic Federation from Satu Mare county
11.	”The Day of one thousand Szekelys girls 2011”	July 2, 2011 Miercurea Ciuc, Șumuleu Ciuc	Miercurea Ciuc City Hall Harghita County
12.	“International Theater Festival for highscool in German”	April 14–19, 2011 Timișoara	“Nikolaus Lenau” Theoretical Highschool
13.	“International dance camp from Ghimeș”	July 24 – 31, 2011, Lunca de Jos, Harghita County	The Young Csangos Association from Lunca de Jos
14.	“International dance camp from Ocna de Sus”	July 17 – 24, 2011 Ocna de Sus, Harghita County	Dance Group PIPACSOK Cultural Association
15.	“The 20 th edition of International Folk Dance and Music Camp from Răscruți	August 17 – 24, Răscruți village, Cluj County	Kallos Zoltan Foundation
16.	“Hunedorian Days” 2 nd edition	May 28 – June 5 2011, Deva (Hunedoara county)	Corvin Savaria Tarsasag Association
17.	Folkloric International Festival “Sf. Ștefan”, 7 th edition	August 18 – 22, 2011, Cluj-Napoca and localities from Sălaj county, Cluj	Heltai Gaspar Library Foundation
18.	“Cultural Hungarian Days from Cluj”	August 15 – 21, 2011, Cluj-Napoca	“Kincses Kolozsvar Egyesulet Treasure Cluj Association”

19.	“Festum Varadinum 2011”, 20 th edition	May 15-22, 2011, Oradea	Varadinum Cultural Foundation
20.	“Tracing back the ancestors”–excursion in Italy	September 20, 2011 Milano, Bolzano, Venice	Italians’ Association from Romania ROASIT
21.	“German culture decade at Reșița”	October 7–16, 2011 Reșița	German Democratic Federation from Caraș-Severin County
22.	“International Ukrainian folk Festival”, 6 th edition	July 15–18, 2011 Tulcea	Ukrainian Union from Romania
23.	“Calvin Week”	June 27–July 3, 2011 Chiurus, Tg. Secuiesc, Cernat	„Haromszeki Mara Szocialises Kozmuvelodesi Egyesulet” Association
24.	“Bernady Days 2011”	October 20 – 22, 2011 Târgu-Mureș	Dr. B. Gyorgy Cultural Foundation
25.	“Suffering, pain, human solidarity” dedicated to “The Holocaust Days” memory	October 9, 2011, Bucharest (Odeon Theater)	Jewish Communities Federation from Romania
26.	“Turkish-Tatar Song, Dance and Folk Clothing International Festival”, 15 th edition	September 8–11, 2011, Constanța	Democratic Union of the Turkish-Moslem Tatars
27.	“Ars Hungarica Festival”	November 2–6, 2011, Sibiu	„HID” – Hungarians’ Association from Sibiu
28.	“Interethnic Clothing and Folk Traditions Festival”, 10 th edition	September 2–5, 2011, Constanța	Russian Lipovans’ Community
29.	“11 th edition of Hellenism Festival from Romania”	September 2–5, 2011 Galați	Hellenic Union from Romania
30.	“The Delta Festivities” National Minorities Festival, 11 th edition	August 12–14, 2011 Sulina	Culture Hall Sulina, Tulcea County

31.	“Folkloric Festival of Minorities at Bogdand”, 21 st edition	September 11, 2011 Bogdand –Satu-Mare county	The centre for Traditional Culture Promotion Satu-Mare
32.	“Polish Culture Days”, 14 th edition	September 8 – 10, 2011	Polish Union from Romania
33.	Youth Festival: “Active through diversity”, 7 th edition	August 22 – September 4, 2011 Jupiter, Constanța	Daria’ S Cultural Association
34.	“International dance camp”	August 7 – 18, 2011, Călugăreni (Mureș county)	Association for Eremieni and Drojdii
35.	“International camp from Călata region for the knowledge and conservation of traditional values”	Uly 31 – August 7, 2011, Sâncraiu	Archivum Cultural Foundation
36.	“International Hungarology Congress” – 7 th edition	August 21–27, 2011 Cluj-Napoca	The Association of Ardelean Museum
37.	“National minorities Theatres colloquy”, 9 th edition	September 30 – October 9, 2011 Gheorgheni	„Figura” Association
38.	Symposium “Following the sevcenchan destiny” at 150 years since the death of the poet Taras Șevchenko	October 6 – 8, 2011 Bucharest	The Ukrainian’s Union from Romania
39.	Symposium “The Romanian – Ukrainian relations. History and contemporaneity”, the 5 th edition	November 3–5, 2011, Satu-Mare	Satu-Mare County Museum
40.	“Europa dansează – Europe is dancing”	December 9–13 2011, Cluj-Napoca and localities from Cluj county	SZARKALAB Cultural Association
41.	“Serb Culture Days”, 5 th edition	November 7 – 14, 2011 Timișoara	Serb Union from Romania
42.	“Jewish Culture Days”	October 30 – November 5, 2011 Târgu-Mureș	Equal Chances Without Borders Association
43.	“Saving research regarding the ethnographic heritage in multiethnic localities from Brașov county”	August 10 - September 30, 2011 Brașov county	Ethnographic Museum from Brașov

At the same time, national minorities have the right to cooperate with public **cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture** by organising events in partnership with them and being entitled to participate in the selection sessions for cultural projects. Thus, the National Cultural Fund Administration provides annually financial support to public institutions, non-governmental organisations, and private entities carrying out cultural activities. National minorities can participate in the sessions therein for the following financing fields: visual arts and new media, architecture and design, museum activities, performance arts, national cultural heritage, cultural professional training (including cultural management), cultural education.

The Romano Kher National Centre for Roma Culture organises a selection session for cultural projects as well. The selection applies to certain associations, foundations, cultural public institutions, companies carrying out cultural activities, with precise social-educational or cultural objectives for the benefit of the Roma. Financing fields:

- editorial projects – books, magazines and other publications, with literary-artistic character, edited on any type of support;
- visual arts and new media – Roma topic-based picture, sculpture, photography, DVDs, documentary film exhibitions.

The proposed cultural projects must emphasize less approached topics of Roma cultural identity: Roma folklore and customs (both in Romanian and in Romani), literature, Roma slavery, Holocaust, antiracism, portraits of certain figures.

Regarding museums, archives, folklore, festivals we can mention as an example the Romanian Peasant Museum, that holds within the permanent exhibition structure a hall called “*Together*”, where contemporary life aspects of the various ethnic groups living together with the Romanians are presented. Also, the museum published two editions of “*Together*” calendar album, illustrated with objects belonging to the Romanian ethnics. Approximately 8000 treasured objects gathered during field research conducted by the museum curators, representative for minorities’ cultural life, are kept in the collections of the museum herein.

The “*Dimitrie Gusti*” National Village Museum promotes through its programmes the activity of groups or persons belonging to the national minorities in Romania. Within the *Dialogue of Civilisations* Programme or by exhibitions, fairs, festivals, creation workshops, the institution presented the culture of national minorities, like – Bulgarian, Armenian, Czech, Serb, Slovak, Croatian, Jewish, Macedonian, German, Italian, Greek, Albanian, Hungarian, Turkish, Tatar, Ukrainian, Polish, and Russian Lipovans. We mention as an example “The days of Czech and Slovak culture” in 2011 and the participation of folk craftsmen belonging to national minorities in the annual fairs of *Palm*, Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, *White Flowers* holidays, etc.

As a result of the *Alexander Csoma de Körösi – Three Stations* project developed in 2010, in the framework of the UNESCO International Year of Cultures’ Closeness, a volume of studies dedicated to the great researcher’s life was translated from Hungarian into Romanian and English.

Another project developed in 2011, under the coordination of UNESCO, is „*Sharing the same taste: Turkish and Romanian common traditional cuisine*”, within the context of UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The programme implied two research stages, in Romania and Turkey, whereas the results shall be mentioned within a three-languages volume – Romanian, Turkish and English.

The Romano Kher National Centre for Roma Culture encouraged the “*Roma history notes*” publication in Romani language (written by the European Commission), the publication of bilingual books “Manro Amaro/Our bread” by Marian Ghiță and Pakivale Bukiake Chiba – ROMANIPE as “cultural matrix” of an intercultural, multilingual language, in a wider Europe” (within the 2011 Session of cultural projects). Moreover, it supported Romani language learning, through the project “Sikloven romanes. Roma language and culture course”, in 15 lessons. The Centre promoted the Romani music, creating therefore two bilingual CDs: “You are my love” and “Bittersweet”.

“German literature days”, “German theatre festival for youth” and “National minority theatre festival” represent other examples, which were financed in 2012 by MCNH.

Regarding the collection, storage and promotion of works in regional or minority languages, the MCNH mentions:

- the collections of National Library of Romania have an encyclopaedic profile, whereas regional and minority languages can be found among the works published in Romania and stored according to the legal storage law, by purchasing documents written in the languages therein and in publications received through the international exchange of publications;

- the annual average of works written in regional and minority languages, according to the national bibliography of Romania, is the following:

- Hungarian – 380 works
- Serb and Croatian – 14 works
- Czech – 12 works
- Bulgarian – 8 works
- Albanian – 3 works
- Greek – 4 works
- Italian – 36 works
- Polish – 10 works
- Russian – 18 works
- Slovak – 3 works
- Turkish – 5 works
- Ukrainian – 15 works.

Through its exchange policy approved by the Scientific Board, the National Library of Romania belongs to *an international network of publications exchange*, having as objective the support and development of foreign books collections.

Regarding translation and terminology research services for minority languages in Romania, the Centre for Professional Training in Culture subordinated to MCNH organises national assessment examinations of skills in Bulgarian, Czech, German, Greek, Italian, Yiddish, Hungarian, Polish, Romani, Russian, Serb, Slovak, Turkish, and Ukrainian languages. The examination focuses both on languages and individualised specialised fields (technical, legal sciences, medicine, geography, economic sciences, philosophy, etc.). All language-based examinations are equally treated, without differentiating the applicants, the examination periods or the assessment criteria. Up to date, there were no requests regarding Serbian, Ruthenian, Tatar, Croatian, Armenian and Albanian languages.

Activities conducted by the Department for Interethnic Relations

In 2011 the Department for Interethnic Relations (DIR) has financed a number of 76 projects proposed by NGOs, has organized 37 activities in partnership with other institutions/organizations and has implemented 17 activities and own programs. The

majority of the projects have promoted the languages, culture and traditions of national minorities from Romania. Among these projects we mention the following:

- **The second edition of Hungarian Days in Hunedoara County.** *Corvin Savaria* association from Hunedoara organized The Hungarian Days of Hunedoara County, which were developed along 8 days in 23 localities of the County.
- **Steps towards diversity – educational intercultural workshop for the promotion of approach between cultures,** organized by The Center for Education and Social Development Association, which proposed to contribute to consolidation of dialogue among majority students and Roma students from Călărași County.
- **The diversity calendar,** Sighișoara and Mădăraș, Mureș County, June 18-24, 2011, organized by *Divers* Association.
- **Preparatory camp for young Csango from Bacău county,** June 30th 2011 – July 7th 2011, Miercurea Ciuc, Harghita county, organized by The Hungarian Csangos Association from Romania.
- **Romanian-Russian bilingualism and interculturality,** a program with Russian mother tongue professors, Brăila, August, 1-7, 2011.
- **Youth educational camps,** organized by *Communio* Foundation, from Satu Mare at Socond, Satu Mare County, July 25 – September 19, 2011.
- **The 10th edition of Summer Academy MIERT** had as main theme the future perspectives of young minority from Romania.
- **The National Minority Theater Colloquy –the 10th edition,** Gheorgheni, September 29 – October 10, 2011, organized by *Figura* Association.
- **ETHNIC 2011,** manifestation series organized by The German Democrat Forum Reșița (Bilingual photo album; Interethnic choral music festival, 8th edition; Philatelic exhibition with international character).
- **ALTER-NATIVE 19 Short International Festival** organized by Hungarian Youth Democratic Union in November at Tg. Mureș.
- **Education in mother tongue, a chance and an opportunity. How do we use it?** organized by *Dr. Bernady Gyorgy Cultural Foundation*, Tg. Mureș.
- **One for the other and all together. Tolerance, morality and communication. Fureinander-Miteinander. Toranz, Moralitat und Kommunikation,** programme organized by *German Teachers Association from Romania*; October, Brașov.
- **Hellenism Festival from Romania,** organized by the Hellenic Union from Romania at Galați.
- **Old Music Festival** organized by *Cultura Nostra* Association Egyesulet at Miercurea Ciuc, July.
- **Diversity – An extra chance for the future,** national intercultural competition organized by Ministry of Education and *Divers* Association.
- **The Interethnic Film Week,** 6th edition, organized by the European Centre for Diversity Association *EU Divers, Tulcea*.
- **The ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious diversity promotion in Romania media,** initiator: *Free Press Romania* Foundation (supplements of some publications in Hungarian).
- **The Russian Culture Days,** initiator: Community of Russian Lipovans from Romania.
- **Cultural heritage promotion of Harghita county,** initiator: The Association for Harghita County.
- **MALLtilingualism –voices and colours,** film made on the occasion of *European Language Day* by The European Commission Representation at Bucharest and DIR.
- **A book for the school library,** scholastic book donation program initiated and developed by DIR
- **Minority expression in audiovisual,** TVR Timișoara and DIR partnership.

- National debate contest "***The young debate***"- partners: Ministry of Education, Community Development Association "Together" and other organizations.
- ***Children's Winter Music Intercultural Festival***, Spain Embassy – Education Attaché Office, PNUD – Romania, Bucharest City Hall, DIR partnership.
- ***Parol monser - Caragiale Romani Language*** Theatre shows in the country, DIR and *Amphitheatrom Association from Bucharest* partnership.

In 2012 the DIR has approved a number of about 100 projects proposed by NGOs. At present many of these projects are being developed in different counties of Romania. About 20 other projects are developed in partnership with different institutions/associations and about 25 represent the DIR initiatives for 2012.

Restitution of church property and assets having belonged to the communities

As regards the general recommendation to continue processing all pending cases concerning the restitution of property without delay, it is to be pointed out that the ECtHR's pilot judgment in the case *Maria Atanasiu and others against Romania* decided the suspension of all similar cases, for 18 months. During this period, the Romanian Government has to adopt adequate legislative measures in order to solve to complex issue of restitution of nationalized properties.

Upon the request of Romania, ECtHR granted a 9 months extension of the delay for the execution of the pilot judgment, the new delay for execution being thus 12 April 2013. A supplementary extension of 2-3 weeks has been requested by Romanian authorities in order for experts from the Romanian side and the ECHR to examine the compatibility of the draft law on restitution with the relevant ECtHR jurisprudence

As regards specifically the restitution of church property, according to recent data communicated by the National Authority for the Restitution of Properties, it is to be pointed out that from a total of 14841 requests, 4725 have been solved and 10089 are pending.

Art. 6 – Tolerance and intercultural dialogue

Romania's participation in the initiative of UN Alliance of Civilizations also enabled DIR and minority organizations to develop activities to promote intercultural education and intercultural dialogue. Several such programs were conducted in collaboration with the UNDP Representative - Romania, the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO, the UNESCO Chair, the University of Bucharest, the Embassy of Spain etc. An example is the exhibition of photography and painting Alliance of Civilizations - man, house, church, occasioned by the Day of Minorities, presented in December 2011 in Bucharest.

A project of awareness-raising towards intercultural dialogue was that of *Musical Confluences*, held in 2011 at the initiative of the Association of *Acapella* Bucharest, concluded with the release of a CD of traditional music choir processed in all minority languages. The second phase of this project, conducted in 2012, was the organization of these material multilingual musical concerts in different places of worship and culture – the Synagogue of Timisoara, the Sibiu Ursuline Cathedral, the Palace of Culture in Tg. Mures etc.

As regards the recommendation concerning the monitoring of racially-motivated acts and the combat against racist manifestations in the media, we reiterate that Romania has both the legal framework and the necessary authorities in order to ensure the protection of persons and minority communities against discrimination.

Romania has important **institutional instruments** that contribute to the effective enforcement of the anti-discrimination legislation, social inclusion and judicial protection of Roma population (National Council for Combating Discrimination, People's Advocate - Ombudsman, National Agency for Roma, and National Cultural Center for Roma). Romanian authorities involved in the Roma inclusion programs devote special attention to the training of the staff and develop specific actions aiming to raise the awareness of the citizens regarding their rights.

The National Council for Combating Discrimination is the independent body that punishes such cases when they are occurring, irrespective of the notoriety of the person.

Regarding some unfortunate cases of hate speech and racism, the Romanian National Council for Combating Discrimination has already taken the necessary steps in sanctioning and fining the persons showing this kind of approaches towards minorities¹.

In the framework of the Roma Strategy, one of the measures proposed in employment field refers to "promoting programs designed to raise employers' awareness of the discrimination phenomenon at work, equal opportunities, psychological harassment and social dialogue".

The issue of on-line hate speech represents a main concern for the relevant stakeholders in this field. It was the very recent case of a racist group of bloggers who launched an on-line hatred act and that, in less than 24 hours, generated a prompt reaction from the Judicial Court of the County and from the specialized body of Police.

Following the election of the new Parliament of Romania, the members of the Senate have initiated a public debate on how on-line hate speech should be dealt with, punished and discouraged.

Regarding discrimination of Roma in Romania, according to the results of the survey "The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States" conducted and produced by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and UNDP, the level of discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin in Romania is the lowest compared with the other EU Member States.

Police conduct

Concerning the alleged police brutality, at the level of the Romanian Police, generic registers are kept containing relevant information concerning cases of misconduct. Such registers, however, do not include information about the injured parties on criteria of ethnicity, minority background, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.

¹ On 24 September 2012, at the end of the football game between Steaua Bucharest Sport Club and Rapid Bucharest, which took place on National Arena, Mr. Gabriel Safta, commentator of Steaua Bucharest repeated discriminatory slogans. Through decision no. 636 of 03.10.2012, the Board ascertained that the deed of the defendant Gabriel Safta constitutes discrimination according to the provisions of art. 2 par. 1 in conjunction with art. 15 of G.O. no. 137/2000 on the prevention and sanctioning of all forms of discrimination, subsequently amended and it decided to sanction him by contraventional fine amounting to 1000 lei. The deed of the defendant Mihai Stoica constitutes discrimination in accordance with the provisions of art. 2 par. 1 in conjunction with art. 15 of G.O. no. 137/2000 on the prevention and sanctioning of all forms of discrimination. Also, it recommended that all defendants manifest exigency in the future and avoid such actions or inactions which can lead to discrimination deeds.

The planning for continuous training of police officers for the period February 2013 - January 2014, chapter „*Support Training*”, will comprise topics aiming at respecting human rights.

In the year 2013, police officers shall be instructed in the field of preventing torture (60 police officers for the training stage „*Preventing torture and degrading or ill treatment*”) and in the field of anti-discrimination (40 police officers for the training stage “*Preventing discrimination*”).

Minority integration is also proven by presence of their members in **the police forces**, including 413 persons of Hungarian origin (357 men and 56 women), 153 persons of Roma origin (126 men and 27 women) and 98 persons belonging to other minorities (127 men and 27 women of Bulgarian, German, Russian Lippovan, Polish, Serbian, Slovak, Turkish and Ukrainian origin). They are employed either as policemen/women or on other contractual basis.

Art. 7 - Freedom of association

There is no special procedure for recognition of non-governmental organizations representing national minorities. These continue to be subjected to the common law - Government Ordinance no. 26/2000 on associations and foundations, as amended and supplemented.

Art. 9 - Access of persons belonging to national minorities to the media

The NAC stated its entire availability of supporting requests for allocation of frequencies for channels dedicated to minority languages, but it did not receive this kind of requests.

This situation is considered by NAC as a consequence of the financial problems faced by the audio-visual market and all those interested in the programs.

NAC states, however, that **thanks to the internet, more and more alternatives** to the linear radio and television channels could exist for all national minorities of Romania, with specific audiovisual contents, accessible in nonlinear format. This kind of programs would allow the broadcasting of a more generous information volume, and the **problems related to the access and broadcasting hour would significantly decrease, the internet allowing the distribution of a greater volume of information, at any time and in any place**. A discussion related to this topic was held by DIR with NAC specialists and national minorities’ representatives in Bucharest on March 28th, 2012.

Regarding the public television programs in **Hungarian language**, the Romanian National Television (TVR) has sent amended data, illustrated in the following chart:

Weekly television programs in Hungarian broadcasted on TVR national channels

Channel	Title	Broadcast day	Time schedule	Duration/effective	Producer
TVR 1	“The Hungarian	Monday	15.30-	90min./74 min.	Bucharest

	on one”		17.00		
		Tuesday	16.00- 17.00	60min./49 min.	Bucharest
TVR 2	“Pulse – The Critics club”	Wednesday	14.35- 15.35	60min./48 min.	Cluj Territorial Studio
	“The Hungarian on two”	Thursday	14.35- 15.35	60min./48 min.	Bucharest
TVR 3	“All together”- Hungarian	Monday	11.55- 12.40	55min./48 min.	Tg.- Mureş Territorial Studio
	“All together”- Hungarian	Tuesday	11.55- 12.40	55min./48 min.	Cluj Territorial Studio
	“All together”- Hungarian	Wednesday	11.55- 12.40	55min./48 min.	Tg.- Mureş Territorial Studio
	“All together”- Hungarian	Thursday	11.55- 12.40	55min./48 min.	Cluj Territorial Studio
	“Friday Hungarian”	Friday	11.55- 12.40	55min./48 min.	Bucharest
TVR Cultural	“The Hungarian – selection”	Thursday	16.45- 17.15	30min./27 min.	Bucharest

Total: 485 min./week

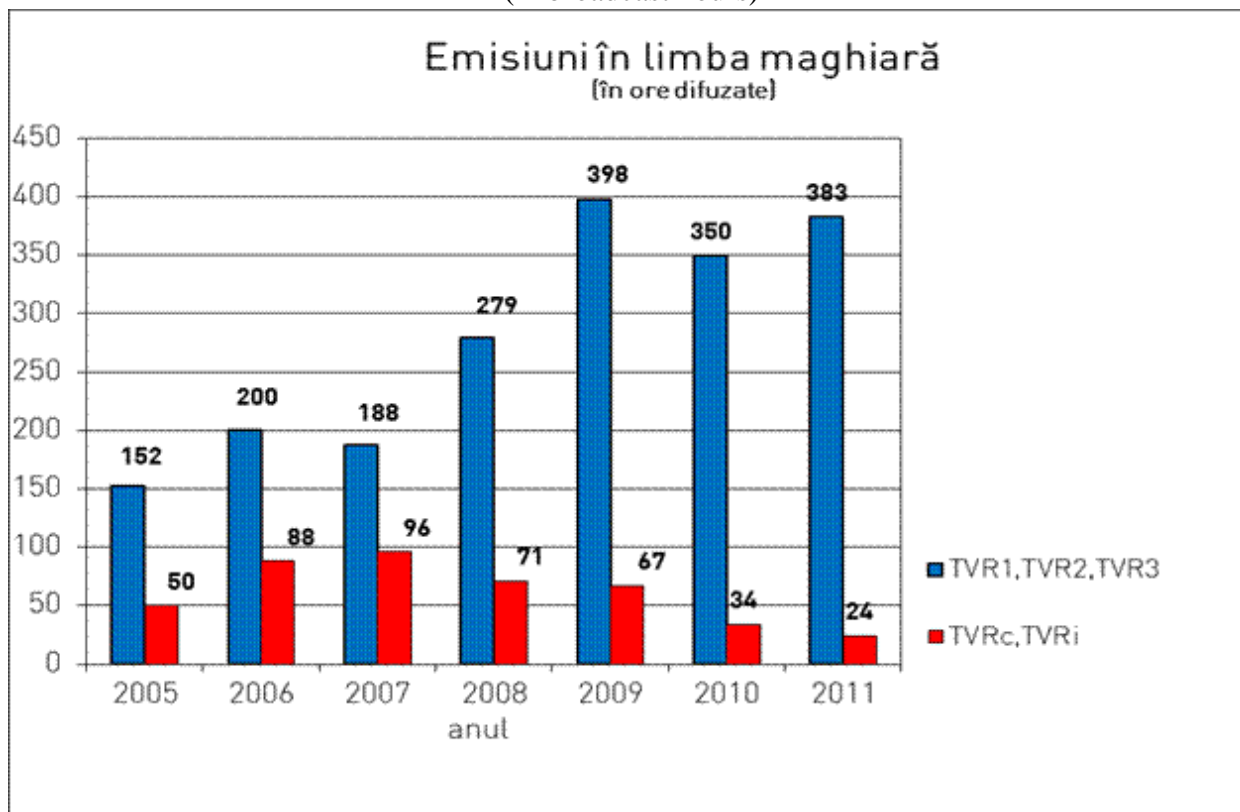
TVR considers as a positive fact the constant maintaining of duration and starting hours of television programs in Hungarian, which is advantageous for the maintaining of target public. Broadcasting hours remain however outside prime-time, the active population being unable to watch the programs, a fact which is shown both in weaker audience data and in the availability of potential coproduction or sponsorship partners. On TVR1 and TVR2, due to some sport or parliamentary broadcasts, special editions etc. a few television programs are yearly cancelled, without the possibility of rescheduling. On TVR2 and TVR3, in the summer schedule (3-4 months), materials are being rebroadcasted due to the diminished or non-existent budget.

Through summarizing the data illustrated in the Yearly activity reports of SRTV (provided by production editorial offices of television programs in Hungarian) a chart which represents the total broadcast hours on the national channels can be drawn as follows:

The dynamics of television programs in Hungarian with national broadcast between the years 2005-2011:

TV shows in Hungarian

(in broadcast hours)



Notes:

- in the national total, habitual television programs in Hungarian were also included, being produced by territorial studios (Cluj, Tîrgu-Mureş, Timișoara) for TVR2 and TVR3;
- the substantial growth from 2008 is due to TVR3 foundation;
- since the summer of 2010 TVR International has no longer television programs in Hungarian, but as a matter of fact it doesn't broadcast on Romania's territory.

Besides the nationally covered television programs cited earlier, there are television programs in Hungarian produced by Minority Editorial Offices of some **TVR Territorial Editorial Offices** and broadcasted on local (regional) frequencies, as follows:

Studio	Day	Hour	Duration	Total week
TVR Cluj	M-F	16.00-16.55	55 min.	275 min.
TVR Tg.-Mureş	M-F S,S	17.00-17.55 8.00-10.00	55 min. 120 min.	395 min.
TVR Timișoara	Wednesday	17.30-18.00	30 min.	30 min.

Regarding the broadcasts **in German**, the schedule has also continuity for several years. Because of the way the broadcast audience is measured, clear information concerning the broadcast consumers group is not available, but we can estimate that it exceeds numerically the German minority from Romania (due to the spread of the German language).

German editors defend as well the idea of training sessions for journalists as the ones from the Hungarian and other minorities editorials do. In 2011 there was only one such program - "The minorities expression in audiovisual", developed in partnership by TVR Timisoara studio and DIR.

The TVR's Editorial Directorship and the Broadcast Editorial Office for Other Minorities are in charge of implementing programs with and for all minorities, except for Hungarians and Germans. The current program schedule is the following:

- **"Intercommunity" (Conviețuiri)** - TVR 1, Wednesday, 16.00-17.00 - news, magazine;
- **"The first step" (Primul pas)** - TVR 2, Monday, 14.35-15.30 - magazine dedicated to the Roma minority;
- **"Together in Europe" (Împreună în Europa)** - TVR 2, Friday, 14.35-15.30 - reportage magazine;
- **"All together" (Toți împreună)** - TVR 3, Wednesday, 12.40-13.20 – magazine in minority languages;
– TVR 3, Monday, fortnightly, 12.40-13.20 – multiethnic magazine;
- **"Together in Romania" (Toți în România)** – TVR 3, Friday, 17.30-19.00 – multiethnic magazine in collaboration with the regional studios;
- **"Identities" (Identități)** -TVR Cultural, Monday – Wednesday, 16.45-17.15 - documentaries, portraits, monographies.

Through its editorial program, the Office for other minorities focuses on the following ethnic communities: **Albanian, Armenian, Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Greek, Jewish, Italian, Macedonian, Polish, Russian-Lippovean, Roma, Ruthenian, Serbian, Slovak, Tatar, Turkish, Ukrainian**, which are all recognised and enjoy Parliamentary representation. Through these programs, TVR promotes the image of each minority, accurately presenting the problems they are facing, as well as aspects of their social and cultural life. The programs are being done in both Romanian and the languages of the ethnic communities, the Romanian subtitles being mandatory. The national minorities constitute the main audience of these programs along with the majority population.

According to the legislation in force, the editorial office Department for other minorities, through its objective and impartial programs, presents the realities of the socio-politic and economic life of the national minorities in Romania and ensures the proper information of minority citizen on issues of public interest, while at the same time guaranteeing a non-discriminatory content on grounds of ethnicity, race or religion. TVR programs promote social, cultural and traditional fundamental values of the national minorities in both Romanian and the respective languages of the minorities, having an equally informative, cultural, educational and entertaining aim. In this respect, the editorial productions of the office for other minorities depict key aspects of the life of specific ethnic groups (history, art, tradition), while also presenting famous minority personalities.

These programs cover: newsletter – weekly events chronicles (10%); infotainment – reportages (35%); art and culture – documentaries, interviews (20%); entertainment – traditional music and dances (10%); education – school, interviews (10%); religion (10%); others (5%).

Romania continued to offer support to national minorities' initiatives, regarding the use of minority languages in media and culture.

All the organizations members of the Council of National Minorities, including *Pro Europe Roma Party*, benefited every year from allocations from the state budget to support their cultural life, language, traditions, religion. In general terms, these allocations have increased from year to year and were monitored by the DIR of the Government. In 2012 alone, the total amount allocated to the national minority NGOs was of 79.200.000 lei, according to the Government Decision no. 31/ 2012 and 70 projects initiated by different NGOs were financed by the DIR.

Art. 11- Use of minority languages to indicate place names

The Department for Interethnic Relations, through its territorial representatives, continues to work closely with the organizations of national minorities and local government authorities in order to ensure the implementation of the relevant legal provisions related to the posting of bi- or multilingual inscriptions in the mother tongue of minorities and will continue to do so in the future.

Art. 12- Multicultural and intercultural dimension of education

After the publication of the book "History of national minorities" in 2008, DIR continued holding working meetings with teachers of experimental high school. Such meetings were held in Bucharest in 2010 and 2011 and in Sibiu in 2011. DIR also encouraged the establishment of a small working group of history teachers working on developing new teaching materials on the history of minorities.

Many of the programs organized or supported by DIR in 2011 and 2012 continued to focus on fostering intercultural dialogue and education in the spirit of students and young people. We mention only two examples:

- Training for *Youth Diversity makes a difference*, held from November 2011 to April 2012 in Suceava, funded by the *European Youth in Action* program;
- *The ethnic diversity - a chance for us*, held in Drobeta in July 2012;

Also, intercultural education by studying history and languages was a priority of the Commission for Education and Youth within the Council of National Minorities. We mention some of its activities:

September 2011	September 26 – <i>The European Day of Languages: "MALLtilingualism - voices and colours"</i>	Bucharest
October 2011	German teachers Conference – Minority languages teaching workshop	Brasov
November 2011	Participation in <i>Gaudeamus</i> book fair	Bucharest
March 2012, August 2012	Participation of minorities in the <i>Book, press and music fair</i>	Bucharest Sinaia
May 2012	Europe Day	Bucharest

As regards access of Roma to education, it is to be mentioned that education is one of the most important domains on which the social inclusion actions of the Romanian Government have been focused. Therefore, since 1992 Romania has constantly developed programs and taken positive discriminatory measures targeting the Roma ethnics.

Significant progress has been achieved in increasing the number of Roma pupils and students who access and fully benefit from all the measures the Romanian Government has taken for the Roma communities and vulnerable groups.

Specific regulations in the field of non-discrimination include Order no. 1540/2007 of the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports banning the segregation in schools.

Individual cases of breaching the non-discrimination legislation are handled within the framework that regulates the activity of the National Council for Combating Discrimination. Among other, the Council has issued sanctions against educational units which were late with implementing the relevant legislation.

During 2009-2012, the National Agency for Roma implemented six projects as principal partner funded by the European Social Fund Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007 - 2013. This six strategic projects were implemented at national level, have an implementation period of three years and a total value over 22.2 million Euros, out of which over EUR 18.6 million contributions from the European Union and 3.6 million Euro national contributions.

Under Priority Axis 2 - Linking lifelong learning and labor market, preventing and correcting early school leaving, two projects totaling over 6.4 million Euros, out of which 5.2 million Euros representing EU contribution and 1.2 million Euros representing national contribution have been contracted. Through these projects activities were undertaken in order to support and to keep pupils in education programs ("after school" programs), to reintegrate in schools of those who have early left school ("second chance" programs) and to raise awareness among parents concerning the education system, providing integrated guidance and counseling services for people with risk of leaving school early.

Projects such as: "Education of Roma children - the way to a stable employment" were developed, which the aim to increase the level of education of Roma children in rural and urban areas, by ensuring access to education and reducing early school leaving. For example, this particular project was implemented at national level and promoted specific measures, as complementary education system to facilitate access to education for 4800 Roma people.

Article 14- Teaching of minority languages and in these languages

The Law on education has a special chapter on the *education of persons belonging to national minorities*. Persons belonging to national minorities have the right to study in their mother tongue at all levels and forms of education, as well as the right to types of education for which there is a sufficient request, in accordance with the law.

The education system for national minorities is part of the general education system, and includes nursery, primary, secondary (junior and senior secondary) schools, vocational and apprentice schools, postsecondary and master craftsman training. Almost 12% of these units (approx. 23000) are schools with instruction in the languages of national minorities or with sections in the languages of national minorities. Out of the total number of units and sections with instruction in the languages of national minorities, approximately 88% operate in Hungarian. More than 5% of the total numbers of pupils attend schools with instruction in their mother tongue. Education in the languages of national minorities is organized in separate or mixed

education units (Romanian – Hungarian, Romanian – German, Romanian – Serbian). In mixed units, one of the deputy principal of the school is a member of the respective national minority. Besides the education process, a series of extracurricular activities are organized either in Romanian, or in Romanian and the mother tongue of the national minorities.

The national minorities that benefit from these provisions are: Armenian, Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, German, Greek, Italian, Hungarian, Polish, Romani, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Turks and Ukrainian. Among these, the less numerous minorities that benefit from these provisions are: Armenian, Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Greek, Italian, Polish, Turk and Tatar.

In public or private high schools and universities, there are study lines in languages of national minorities. For ethnic Hungarian and German students, courses are delivered in their respective languages upon request. Training of mother tongue teachers for Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Greek, Polish and Russian-Lipovan, Serbian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Turkish and Romanes is provided for in universities of Bucharest, Constanța, Suceava and Timișoara. In the public education system, more than 5% of the students belong to national minorities, and almost 4% to the private education system.

In order to make the teaching-learning of the mother tongue more effective, alternative textbooks have been drafted, separate for pupils of each minority.

Concerning the recommendation of increasing the efforts to ensure an adequate supply of textbooks in minority languages, it is to be mentioned that the supply of textbooks is annually completed by order of the Ministry of Education and the textbooks are accordingly re-printed. In the schoolyear 2011-2012, 44 titles have been re-printed for the use of 10 national minorities with a smaller number of pupils, and in the school year 2012-2013, 12 such titles have been re-printed for 9 national minorities.

As regards the support offered to teaching in minority languages of less resourceful minorities, as well a successful example of consultation with the representatives of national minorities, we mention the example of the teaching in **Tatar and Turkish languages which is done in cooperation with the representatives of these minority languages speakers**. The teaching is done both at the academic level (e.g. the department of Turkish language and literature within the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures – the University of Bucharest) and at the pre-university level. There are also private educational institutions in Constanta and Bucharest teaching in these languages. The demand for **Turkish** and also the dynamics for studying Turkish is higher in comparison to the demand for Tatar. This can be explained by the attention and support granted by the Turkish state offers to learning Turkish in Romanian schools, through the action of the General Consulate of Turkey in Constanta.

The teaching in minority languages benefits from a regular consultation and collaboration mechanism that involves all the relevant stakeholders such as: the Commission for Education and Youth within the Department for Interethnic Relations, the county School Inspection Offices, the organizations of national minorities and the civil society.

Study of the Romani language

As regards the teaching of/in Romani language as well as improving the possibilities to study in Romani according to the needs and requirements of Romani speakers, the following elements must be mentioned:

- Granting **21 places annually** to young Romani speakers for their admission at the section for Romani language and literature within the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures – Bucharest University. In the period 2000 – 2010 approximately 600 Romani schoolmasters and teachers for the primary and pre-school education were trained, as well as Romani teachers, at the same University (The Department for distance learning CREDIS) and at *Babes – Bolyai* University from Cluj Napoca (between 2006-2010, at the Faculty for Psychology and Education Sciences)
- Intensive initial training carried out within summer language courses and methodology studies for Romani language, for the potential Romani language and history teachers – annually, 56 persons were trained within the courses organised by MECTS, financed by UNICEF. The program is held starting with 1999
- Teaching of 3-4 hours/week of Romani native language for grades I-XII, respectively 1 hour/week of Romani history and traditions, for grades VI and VII). From over 220.000 - 260.000 students with recognized Romani identity, annually (students from pre-school and high-school), approx. 26.000 – 31.000 students (11-13%) have classes of Romani language and history, which are even held **entirely** in the Romani language (with a smaller number, of approx. 900 students in preschools and schools).
- The continuous support for teaching in Romani as native language, at pre-school level, by bilingual approaches (Romani-Romanian, Romani-Hungarian). During the school year 2011-2012, 20 kindergartens were teaching in Romani as native language, using bilingual teaching approaches.
- Continuous financing of several national school contests in Romani language and history, again within the school year 2011 - 2012 (for the national school Olympics for Romani language, XIIIth edition (January-April 2012, 72 contestants at the national phase), the National school contest for Roma history and traditions (Vth edition, April 2012), for 36 students.
- Continuous elaboration of curriculum and education materials, as well as auxiliary textbooks in/for Romani language, history and traditions, intercultural education and diversity etc., together with partners. In Romania, MECTS has an entire set of textbooks for Romani language and literature, history and traditions, all for the compulsory education grades, but also for the academic level. Also, in **2011 *The guide for the school mediator (for Romani communities) was edited and printed, material drawn up by MECTS and UNICEF in order to support education for Romani children.***
- By Government Decree. no. 1221/2011, the Government has adopted the second strategy of Romania for Roma - ***Inclusion strategy for Romani citizens belonging to Roma minority for the period 2012-2020.*** The education chapter includes measures for further promotion of Romani language by the construction of a national network of school mediators, by training and employing professors for Romani language and by implementing a curriculum for Romani language.
- **Romani language** has also started to be promoted in other fields such as:
 - The Ministry of Justice has certified 7 persons, Romani speakers, as translators to accompany Roma in the Courts of law.
 - The Roma organisation represented in the Romanian Parliament – Roma Pro Europe Party - has a weekly broadcast of 2.5 hours on a private TV Channel

(OTV). The broadcast presenters are Romani speakers, and some interviews are in Romani language.

Art. 15 – Participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public affairs

Promoting ethno-cultural identity and intercultural dialogue were achieved in most of the activities, which were financed through projects based on specific values that pursued values such as knowledge of the cultural heritage of national minorities, promotion of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of Romania and consolidating good interethnic relations.

Projects were initiated by NGOs from all over the country and were financially supported by DIR. In 2011, DIR has provided grants to 79 projects, and in 2012 to 101 projects. The funding line is made available to organizations, associations and non-profit foundations in Romania which perform actions falling within the competency of the Department for Interethnic Relations.

Most activities supported by grant funds from DIR were focused on education for ethnic minority children in different languages, non-formal education, culture expressed in minority languages, the implementation of the legislation on the use of minority languages in public administration, the fostering of the civic spirit of minority youth, the recovery of the cultural heritage of the communities.

As regards **the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public affairs**, it is to be mentioned that, following the **parliamentary elections of December 2012**, there are 18 deputies in the Romanian Parliament, representing each his/her respective minority, elected from the lists of candidates of the organizations representing national minorities, as well as 18 deputies and 9 senators representing **exclusively** the Hungarian minority. Among these parliamentary representatives, there are also 3 representatives of the Roma.

At local level, the results of the **local elections** organized in June 2012 ensured the representation of national minorities as follows: the Hungarian minority is represented by 2 presidents of county councils, 212 mayors, 2741 local counsellors, 102 county counsellors coming from three political parties (the Hungarian Democratic Union, the Hungarian Peoples Party of Transylvania and the Civic Hungarian Party), the Roma minority is represented by 1 mayor and 161 local counsellors, coming from three political parties (the Democratic Civic Alliance of the Roma, the Pro Europa Party of the Roma, the National Union of Roma Communities), the Russian Lippovans are represented by 1 mayor and 22 local counsellors, the Germans are represented by 9 mayors, 72 local counsellors, 11 county counsellors, the Bulgarians are represented by 1 mayor and 8 local counsellors, the Croatians are represented by 1 mayor and 6 local counsellors, the Ruthenians are represented by 3 local counsellors, the Tatars and the Turks are represented by 5 local counsellors, the Slovaks and the Czechs are represented by 19 local counsellors, the Polish are represented by 5 local counsellors, the Serbs are represented by 11 local counsellors, the Ukrainians are represented by 22 local counsellors.

Roma employment opportunities

Regarding particularly Roma employment opportunities, it is to be mentioned that through the provisions of article 3 letter d) of Law no.76/2002 on unemployment

insurances system and workforce employment stimulation, with subsequent amendments, equal opportunities on the labor market are ensured for all those interested, disregarding the age, sex, ethnical background, gender etc.

According to article 93 from the above mentioned law, the state grants facilities to employers who hire unemployed people and maintain them in business for a period of at least 6 months from the employment date. Those employers benefit from the reduction of the sum representing the contribution of 0,5% to the unemployment state budget. This reduction is given starting with the next fiscal year, for a period of 6 months and represents the reduction of the monthly due sum with 0,5% for each percent from the share of newly hired personnel, according to paragraph (1), from the medium number of personnel hired with individual work contract signed that particular year.

At 31.07.2012, through organizing professional training courses with funding from the unemployment assistance state budget, 42 Roma people were employed and 29 Roma people were employed through organizing professional training courses with other funding than state budget (PHARE, SF). Until 31.08.2012, the number of Roma people who accessed the active measures was 31.057, from which 3.991 were employed.

In order to insert the registered unemployed people on the labor market, the National Agency for Employment (NAE) / County Agency for Employment (CAE), taking into account the socio-professional characteristics of the registered Roma people, has used sets of personalized stimulation measures, giving each person the opportunity to benefit from one or more services, in order to be integrated or re-integrated as fast as possible on the labor market.

Moreover, in order to reintegrate unemployed Roma people on the labor market, in the Labor force employment program for 2012, a **special program was included, called "140 Program"**, especially designed for communities with high numbers of Roma ethnics. Through this program, the employment of a total number of 2.000 people was aimed, approximately 42% from the total number of Roma people targeted as being employed in 2012.

Until 31.08.2012, the number of unemployed Roma included in free professional training courses was 876 people, from the total of 24.159 unemployed people included in training courses.

At national level, NAE through CAE has organized in the first semester of 2012, job fairs for Roma people (in Botoșani, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Prahova). Due to these job fairs, 41 people were employed.

Art. 18- Bilateral co-operation

The contacts with the countries of origin of the organizations of persons belonging to national minorities from Romania are increasing in frequency and diversity topics, and the assistance and cooperation programs already have good traditions. An example of this is the collaboration with the German authorities, which has achieved excellent results. In 2012, the celebration of 20 years from the conclusion of the bilateral treaty between Romania and Germany was marked by various programs, with positive impact on the minorities' issues. Two such programs, conducted by the *Friedrich Schiller House of Culture in Bucharest* in May-June 2012 were financially supported by DIR.

The dialogue in the field of national minorities with Ukraine registered positive trends. There have been numerous contacts; the Union of the Ukrainians permanently collaborates with the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Bucharest.

DIR has encouraged, in the recent years, contacts with countries of origin and has made, along with the organizations represented in the Council of National Minorities, visits and exchanges of good practices with Turkey (2010), Greece (2011), Ukraine (2012).