**Information on the measures aimed at ensuring the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in Ukraine**

The rights of persons belonging to national minorities, proclaimed by the Constitution of Ukraine, are guaranteed by laws of Ukraine that regulate various fields of public life such as education, media, and cultural activities.

*Education*

The Laws of Ukraine “On Education” and “On Complete General Secondary Education” guarantee the persons belonging to national minorities the right to education in publicly funded institutions of pre-school and primary education both in the minority language and in the state language. To ensure that every secondary school graduate is fluent in the state language and thus has equal life opportunities for further education and employment as well as for participation in social and political life, a certain share of curriculum is required to be carried out in the state language. Education in privately funded institutions can be conducted in any language without any specific curriculum requirements except for the general provision that fluency in the state language must be ensured as one of the learning outcomes.

The measures aimed at the realization of these rights, including printing of textbooks in the languages of national minorities of Ukraine or education of teachers and tutors, are funded from the state or local budgets. Ukraine provides funding for effective realization of educational rights of persons belonging to national minorities in their languages. In 2019, printing and publishing of nearly 367000 copies of 98 textbooks in the languages of national minorities were publicly funded. According to the data available from the regional administrations, in 2020/2021 study year, there were 933 schools with a national minority language as the language of instruction, among them 642 schools with Russian language as the primary language of instruction, 101 with Hungarian and 71 with Romanian. There are also 693 functioning pre-school educational institutions where national minority languages are used.

*Media*

Ukraine promotes the use of national minority languages and ensures the information rights of national minorities through public broadcasting. Broadcasters of Public Joint Stock Company “National Public Television and Radio Company of Ukraine”, where the Ukrainian government owns 100 percent of shares, provide programs in the languages of national minorities and for national minorities of Ukraine on a regular basis as well as programs about national minorities.

A special Coordination Center for National Minorities Broadcasting (CCNMB) was established within the National Broadcasting Company in 2019 and became fully operational in 2020. The CCNMB facilitates the production for and about national minorities at national and regional levels of broadcasting. In particular, it assists regional departments in producing high-quality programs on the topics related to national minorities as well as in the languages of national minorities.

The total running time of content (broadcasts) in languages of national minorities or for national minorities of Ukraine on TV channels of the public broadcaster in 2020 was approximately 800 hours per year. The total running time of similar programming content (broadcasts) on radio channels of “National Public Television and Radio Company of Ukraine” in 2020 reached around 10000 hours per year. Most of such broadcasts were delivered in German, Hungarian, Romanian and Russian languages. Others included the Arabic, Bulgarian, Crimean Tatar, Gagauz, Moldovan, Romani, Slovak languages.

Regional branches of the public broadcaster also have editorial offices for the national minorities residing in the respective areas. There are, for instance, Hungarian and Slovak editorial offices within the broadcaster’s Zakarpattya regional branch, Gagauz and Bulgarian editorial offices in Odesa, Romanian editorial office in Chernivtsi.

*State support for cultural activities*

During 2018-2020, the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, a special state institution tasked with distributing funding for cultural activities and projects, received 338 requests for funding for the projects aimed at supporting cultural identities of Ukraine’s ethnic communities or for those developed by their associations.

It has been calculated that around 70 million UAH (around 2.1 million EUR) had been eventually donated to these projects by mid-2020. Most active receivers of this state funding turned out to be projects supporting Crimean Tatar, Georgian, German, Greek, Jewish, Polish, and Romani cultures.

The Crimean House, a state enterprise that, inter alia, organizes Crimean Tatar language courses and cultural events dedicated to Crimean ethnic communities, in particular Crimean Tatars and other peoples who historically consider Crimea to be their home, also functions under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine. Regrettably, a large number of national minority families have been forced to flee Crimea following temporary occupation of the peninsula by Russia.

Funding for the activities of national minorities in Ukraine may also be provided via programmes of regional administrations. In 2019, around 13.3 million UAH were directly allocated to support such activities (data for 2020 will be available in May 2021).

*Encouraging inclusive dialogues*

In 2020, Ukraine established the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience. The work of this agency facilitates dialogue with national minorities and improves understanding of the policy challenges and possible approaches in this sphere. As of today, the State Service has been supporting dialogue with a wide range of communities: Arabic, Bulgarian, Gagauz, German, Greek, Hungarian, Jewish, Romanian, Russian, and Slovak as well as the African Council of Ukraine and other umbrella organizations of national minorities. This also includes the three Crimean ethnic communities that suffered the most because of Russia’s temporary occupation of Crimea ‒ Crimean Tatars, Karaites, and Krymchaks.

*New Roma Strategy*

The Strategy for the Protection and Integration of the Roma National Minority into the Ukrainian Society and the Action Plan for its implementation were in action till December 2020. In the autumn of 2020, the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience, building upon international recommendations, suggestions from governmental agencies and Roma NGOs, developed a draft for the new 10-year Strategy that foresees action plan revisions every 2 years to ensure constant evaluation and maximizing chances for effective policies that can be updated and adapted provided the context and the most recent experience. The draft is currently at the final stages of consideration.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_