

Hungary's Periodic Report in the Framework of the Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

2018

Executive summary

During the years that have passed since the ratification in 2008 of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter Convention) and the submitting in 2012 of the first four-year country report, the Hungarian State made efforts to act as actively as possible in the interest of serving the purposes of the Convention both in Hungary and abroad, within the limits of its material and human resources and organisational capacities. Even before the Convention was drafted, the Hungarian Parliament had already adopted acts that created the necessary framework and legislative background for the protection of cultural diversity, and the maintaining and preservation of the traditions of different minorities. By ratifying the Convention, Hungary declared that it gives priority to cultural diversity and considers it a pathway towards the future and sustainable development.

In this light, Hungary took several measures for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions and for the support of intercultural dialogue. Among measures taken in Hungary, we can refer to the adoption of the Act on hungaricums, the launch of the Csoóri Sándor Programme or the multi-channelled support for minorities living in Hungary and for Hungarian minorities living abroad. As regards international cooperation, we are going to present the respective achievements of Hungarian cultural diplomacy and the cultural dimension of the Visegrad Group below.

The Hungarian State traditionally supports the involvement of civil society organisations into political decision-making so it consulted the representatives of civil society with regard to its measures taken for the purposes of the provisions of the Convention, too. In Hungary, the National Cultural Fund is the institution in charge of state-civil communication related to the subject of the Convention.

It emerged as a challenge during the application of the provisions of the Convention that Hungary had to find the balance in complying with its obligations arising from the provisions of the Convention and playing an active role in the protection of global cultural diversity between keeping its commitments proportionate with its possibilities and harmonising its own external policy purposes with those enshrined in the Convention.

1. Technical information

a) Name of Party

Hungary

b) Date of ratification

2008

c) Ratification process (e.g., parliamentary procedure)

Voting by the Parliament, promulgation by way of an Act. (Act VI of 2008)

d) Total contribution paid to IFCD (so far)

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e) Organization(s) or entity(ies) responsible for the preparation of the report

Ministry of Human Capacities

f) Officially designated point of contact

g) Date report was prepared

May 2018

h) Name of designated official(s) signing the report

Mr. Péter Fekete, Minister of State for Culture

i) Description of the consultation process established for the preparation of the report and names of representative(s) of the civil society organizations involved

2. Measures

Hungary is committed to cultural diversity. The cohabitation of different cultures has a long history in the territory of Hungary. The efforts our country makes with regard to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions are illustrated by the fact that the Government of Hungary had adopted laws before the drafting of the Convention that created the necessary framework and legislative background for the protection of cultural diversity, and the maintaining and preservation of the traditions of different minorities. In this context, we can refer to Act LXXVII of 1993 on the rights of national and ethnic minorities which clearly states that *“The preservation, maintaining, reinforcement and carry-over of minority self-identity is an inalienable right of the minorities”* and that *“Minorities have a right to maintain and develop their traditions and language, and to preserve and enrich their material and intellectual culture.”* We also have to mention Act LXII of 2001 on Hungarian people living in neighbouring countries an express purpose of which is to preserve, promote, and research cross-border Hungarian national traditions, to maintain Hungarian language, literature, culture and folk art, or to restore and maintain Hungarian-related monuments. By ratifying the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Hungary declared that it gives priority to cultural diversity and considers it a pathway towards the future and sustainable development

Besides, we also have to note that due to its relatively low population number, small territory and different historical determinations, Hungary can contribute to an intensive intercultural dialogue, cultural exchanges and global cultural diversity mainly with its own culture and by maintaining its own specific expression forms. In this light, Hungarian measures adopted for the maintaining and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions can be interpreted in the framework of the following four purposes.

The **first purpose** is to present and promote Hungarian ways of cultural expression, to protect Hungarian language and to present and promote it abroad. The Preamble of the new Fundamental Law declares the following: *“We believe that our national culture is a rich contribution to the diversity of European unity.”* Consequently, the Hungarian State considers the protection of Hungarian culture its task since we can contribute to global cultural diversity in the most active way.

The **second purpose** is to protect the identity and ways of cultural expression of minorities living in Hungary.

It follows from the first two purposes that the **third purpose** is to support the preservation of the identity of Hungarian minorities living outside the Hungarian borders and to reinforce their links maintained with the mother country.

And the **fourth purpose** is to present other peoples and cultures of the world in Hungary, thereby enriching Hungarian culture, making it more adoptive and colourful and encouraging the intercultural dialogue. The implementation of this purpose is helped by Hungarian minorities since it is mainly for minority communities to keep an active cultural relationship with the mother country of that minority in the case of several minorities.

We can see now that the above four purposes are very hard to separate and their realisation is interrelated. This system of the four priorities gives the framework for certain steps of Hungarian cultural policy about which we cannot present a comprehensive view in this report. So what we wish to do is to characterise certain related measures from a non-exhaustive approach.

2.1. Measures taken in Hungary

2.1.1. Act on hungaricums

The Hungarian Parliament passed Act XXX of 2012 on Hungarian national values and hungaricums. According to the text of the Act, hungaricums and Hungarian national values include not only agricultural and food products or procedures but cultural goods and skills as well (of course, this does not mean that the first ones cannot have any cultural value but, on the contrary, they may).

The Act on hungaricums is a framework Act which gave the basis for the implementing Government Decree No 114/2013 on the regulation of the selection of Hungarian national values and hungaricums. According to this Decree, the survey, registration, categorisation and promotion of the latter was started, together with making them known for present and future generations and maintaining them. The aim is a collective work as wide as possible, and to create a real asset repository. National values are identified and categorised in the so-called Pyramid of Hungarian National Assets and the Commission for Hungaricums (hereinafter Commission) selects hungaricums among these.

The first step of the national value pyramid is municipality-level asset repositories which can be prepared by local governments optionally. Data from such asset repositories have to be sent to county level or, in the absence of such a level, directly to the Commission. Neighbouring local governments can establish a Regional Asset Repository Commission which prepares the regional asset repository and sends its data to the relevant County-level Asset Repository Commissions. Similarly, county-level governments can establish a county-level asset repository the data of which are also sent to the Commission.

Each ministry categorises its own national assets (sectoral asset repositories) as well, sending their documents to the Commission. By law, products subject to European Union protection and internationally recognised material and intellectual assets are considered national assets. Hungarian and cross-border social organisations and groups may also engage in collective work but any natural person may initiate to enter a national asset into an asset repository. According to the Act, *“The repository of national assets is enriched by the assets of peoples living together in Hungary, nationalities recognised as state-constituting factors, and individuals and communities living in neighbouring countries or throughout the world who consider themselves Hungarians.”*

The Commission summarises and categorises the lists sent to it in the Hungarian Asset Repository. It selects the assets to qualify as hungaricums and to be included in the Collection of Hungaricums according to a special law. National assets subject to European Union protection or those which are internationally recognised qualify as hungaricums by law, without special assessment. Current data of each list created in this way can be viewed at www.hungarikum.hu.

The Chair of the Commission is the Minister in charge of agricultural policy while its secretarial duties are provided by the Ministry of Agriculture. The so-called specialised hungaricum committees perform specialised background activities in order to ease the Commission of its burdens and to implement its measures. These specialised committees involve the representatives of the relevant professional chambers, other professional and social organisations, experts, researchers and educators.

The trade mark certifying the hungaricum is an important part of the regulation. The production of hungaricum products induces the launch of small and medium enterprises and offers development opportunities for industrial companies so it improves their viability on the long term. Simultaneously, the commercial and catering choice is expanding. By targeted development, it may be part of rural development programmes and may contribute to the boosting of rural tourism. All this influences the image and attraction of the municipality, the

region and the country, on the whole. Together with the improvement of the viability of Hungarian small and medium enterprises, it results in long-term economic development.

The Ministry of Agriculture may authorise natural or legal persons caring for or maintaining the hungaricum to use the hungaricum trade mark, upon their request. The registration of hungaricum products is a necessary but not sufficient precondition of the market entry. These products become known and attractive for consumers only if the standard quality expected by consumers is continuously maintained and controlled, a comprehensive marketing and communication strategy is elaborated, domestic market opportunities are expanded and a targeted foreign market promotion activity is implemented.

As regards the diversity of cultural expressions, the Act on hungaricums is of an outstanding importance since it protects specifically Hungarian forms of cultural expression and those intellectual products the creation of which amounts to a contribution to the development and enrichment of Hungary, of Europe and also of the whole mankind, by the Hungarian people. This protection is needed in order to allow the Hungarian people, the number which is small in global comparison, together with minorities related to the Hungarian people and Hungary to keep its own identity in reaction to the challenge of globalisation, thus contributing to European and global cultural diversity.

2.1.2. Csoóri Sándor Programme

Folk tradition serves as the basis of living everyday life and of solving their problems for the present generations, too. In order to strengthen this, the Government established the Csoóri Sándor Programme (hereinafter Programme) to support organisations operating in genres of folk culture which can create communities.

For this purpose, the Government created the Csoóri Sándor Fund in the 2017 and 2018 budget which is the source for the implementation of the Csoóri Sándor Programme. Named after Sándor Csoóri, poet, who died in 2016, **the purpose of this Programme is to help the professional work of folk dance and folk music groups and folk song communities, be them Hungarian or ethnic ones working in Hungary or Hungarian ones working cross-border, and of communities creating folk objects from 2018.** The Government allocated HUF 2.5 billion in 2017 and HUF 5 billion in 2018 to this. Therefore it is a support programme which can be planned with and relied on, thus guaranteeing the keeping of our intellectual and material heritage, and the long-term value-based activities of folk artisanal, dance, music and verbal genres and the whole folk art movement.

For the preparation of calls for tenders announced in the framework of the Programme and for the assessment of tenders, the minister in charge of culture established a professional Advisory Board involving Hungarian national folk dance and folk music associations and professional organisations working cross-border.

The Programme is open for non-professional groups which have operated continuously and regularly at least for two years and have a legal personality. **In 2017, 1,349 ensembles and groups received support**, among them youth ensembles through the mother organisation. Among them, **1,332 organisations already have their valid supporter's documents and agreements.** Support can be used by the organisations **to make folk dresses**, to purchase musical instruments, technical tools helping dance learning for rehearsal rooms, to finance professional education work, and to use living folk music services during their productions.

From among the supported organisations, 565 are Hungarian organisations working outside Hungary; communities without legal personality which are usually smaller

can implement their programmes from the budget of big national professional organisations and institutions.

35 organisations were awarded HUF 37.8 million to support roma folk music ensembles and these organisations may have received support for other purposes, too.

From 2018, the support is awarded in the form of an open call, managed by the **Human Capacities Support Management (EMET)**.

2.2 Support for the culture and identity-keeping of minorities living in Hungary

Hungary provides support for the keeping of the cultural identity of nationalities through several channels. The majority of these are involved in our periodic country report about the realisation of the Hungarian commitments related to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe.

Act CLXXIX of 2011 replacing Act LXXVII of 1993 on the rights of national and ethnic minorities (hereinafter Njtv.) states that *“all Hungarian citizens belonging to some nationality have the right to declare and keep his self-identity... cultural diversity and linguistic difference is the source of enrichment and not of division,*

cultural values created by nationalities are organic part of the cultural heritage of Hungary... Hungary protects nationalities, ensures the maintenance of their cultures and the usage of their mother tongue... promotes the realisation of their cultural autonomy”.

Hungary supports the keeping and mediation of the cultural identity of nationalities in the area of community culture through the arts and in the area of public collections through the operation of museums, libraries and archives, too.

2.2.1. Amended legislation related to public culture

The amendment of **Act CXL of 1997 on museum institutions, public library services and public culture** states that museum institutions, the library network and the public culture institutional system constitute a **network for basic cultural services** which aims at providing access to values necessary for the development of society for all, thus reinforcing national identity and **mainstream the effects of culture on welfare, societal development and economic performance**.

Main points of the amended Act related to public culture:

- **It introduced the notion of “basic public culture services”** which is a legal guarantee for the **quality provision** of community culture public services.
- It determines the types of public culture institutions and community spaces ensuring basic public culture services and the basic personal conditions for their operation, together with the volume of providing basic services.
- It lays down **state tasks related to the maintenance of folk crafts, tradition keeping and living folk tradition**.

The law determines the tasks of the specialised area related to **the protection of the culture of minorities** at several points:

- together with the implementing regulation of the law, which is just to be published, it states that one of the tasks of the community culture institutional system is to provide for the conditions of the carry-over of traditional community cultural values, **and to support ethnic and minority cultures and the culture of the Hungarian minority living abroad** (in the framework of providing basic public culture services),

- it allows that **ethnic self-governments be able to establish public culture institutions**, along with the State and the municipality self-governments in the future, too,
- state tasks related to tradition-keeping include tasks related to the support of **all traditional ethnic cultures of the Carpathian Basin**.

2.2.2. Book publishing and library services for nationalities

Several laws are related to **library services for nationalities**. The Preamble of Act CXL of 1997 on museum institutions, public library services and public culture (hereinafter Kultv.) provides that **the preservation and worthy continuation of ethnic cultural traditions; the enhancement of personal, intellectual and economic conditions for community and personal culture and education; activities improving the citizens' quality of life and carrying values; and the facilitation of the operation of institutions and organisations serving the implementation thereof are in the common interest of the society**. Kultv. states among the fundamental principles that everyone has the right to find out about cultural property and its importance in historical developments and in the formation of national and ethnic self-awareness, and about the protection of this property, through the activity of museum-type institutions, library services, education, community culture, awareness raising, the press and mass communication. **Public libraries provide services for the ethnic population, too:** in order to have the general right mainstreamed, public libraries can be used by everyone with regard to library services and their basic services provided in the library are free under § 54(1) of Kultv.

According to § 64(3) of Kultv., the local government may conclude an agreement with the **county library** instead of maintaining a **public municipality library** and may operate a space for library services, information and community purposes which is apt for accommodating library services provided by the county library. In such spaces, county libraries providing the service provide for access to ethnic library documents (books, newspapers, journals, CDs, DVDs, foreign-language documents and other library documents) in reading rooms, and their loan and purchase in according to § 3(1) of Decree 39/2013 (V.31.) of the Minister of Human Capacities on the operation of the **Library Services System**. Pursuant to the **Decree of the Minister of Human Capacities, the ethnic self-government maintaining an ethnic library may use the services of the county library** under an agreement so that it may provide library services of proper range and quality for the ethnic population. According to § 66 of Kultv, **the county library “performs and organises library services for the ethnic population of the county” with regard to the whole territory of the county**. In this context, the county library participates in ethnic library services for large villages and towns in addition to those for small villages (document services and programmes).

In accordance with § 41(1)(2) of Njtv., **library services provided in the mother tongue of nationalities** are coordinated by the **National Library of Foreign Literature** (hereinafter OIK) and OIK, county libraries and the Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library of Budapest (hereinafter FSZEK) provide their services through a public library system.

Legislative changes published in 2013 to 2014 clarified the rules of the organisation of library services provided for the ethnic population from several aspects, and these also inform the ethnic population about the use of library services corresponding to their rights. In 2014, Decree 30/2014 (IV.10.) of the Minister of Human Capacities on priority tasks of the national museum, the national specialised museum, the national library, the national specialised library and the library of the state university was published which stated in § 8(17) that it is a **priority task of the national library to cooperate with the national**

specialised library coordinating the library services provided in the mother tongue of nationalities, that is, OIK. This task reinforces the cooperation of libraries for the purposes of realising the provision of library services of modern quality for the ethnic population.

In Decree 51/2014 (XII.10.) of the Minister of Human Capacities on professional indicators necessary for the annual working plan of museums, national specialised libraries and county libraries, the Ministry **provided for professional indicators** on the way ethnic population uses library services. Such professional indicators are

- the number of programmes reinforcing ethnic community identity and the number of participants attending the programmes,
- the number of ethnic documents provided by the county library,
- the number of documents received by ethnic collections,
- the number of publications in ethnic languages.

Library services provided for libraries with an ethnic collection are coordinated by **OIK**. Information related to minority issues is a priority task of libraries. Services can be used in ethnic languages as well. With support applied for from Social Renewal Operational Programme (TÁMOP) based on EU funds, the ethnic subportal of the library was completed where library-related information can be read in the languages of 13 minorities living in Hungary. An online information service entitled "*Ask the librarian in your mother tongue*" was started, allowing for information in 9 ethnic languages.

OIK is also responsible for **coordinating ethnic basic libraries** (19 county libraries and Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library of Budapest). It compiles a proposal for purchases based on the book markets of target countries and the offer of the Hungarian book market from which the partner libraries may order books according to their needs. Documents ordered are purchased by OIK which manages the related administration and finance tasks. It is continuously in contact with partner libraries and suppliers.

Libraries founded and operated by national minority self-governments also participate in performing the tasks. Libraries which are well equipped with fictional and informative books in minority languages operate in schools providing for minority education, too.

The Hungarian Society of Ethnography which is one of the most prestigious scientific civil organisations of the country has published its series of volumes of studies entitled *Ethnography of nationalities living in Hungary* for forty years. The purpose of the organisation is "*to study present and past peoples of the Hungarian State and the historic Hungary and to maintain brotherly consent and the feeling of belonging together between peoples living in Hungary through mutually getting information about each other*". As far as we know, it is a unique initiative in Central Europe. The series of publications has been published in minority languages and/or Hungarian since 1975. The above mentioned volumes of studies provide a prestigious publication opportunity for the own scientific research workshops and university education spaces of minorities and for professionals of the mother countries. These books are included in the collections of mother countries and big libraries of the world, too, apart from those of the relevant communities living in Hungary. A compilation in Hungarian is published selected from the studies of each volume published in the mother tongue or in two languages from time to time. For several decades, this series of books have been supported by the current ministry in charge of culture and that in charge of minority policy while national minority self-governments also provide partial support in some cases. In the reporting period, 2 to 4 ethnography volumes on nationalities were published.

The Heritage and Culture Repository of Educational E-books and Media uploaded hundreds of documents (books, periodicals, images and audio material) to the internet, financed from substantial state support.

National document services for nationalities

In 2014, the National Library of Foreign Literature had HUF 5,300,000 in its budget for national document services for nationalities from the planned HUF 6 million. From this, HUF 1,299,397 was spent on the **expansion of the ethnic collection of OIK**. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the whole sum of HUF 6 million allocated for national document services for nationalities was available in the budget of the institution. From the above sum, HUF 2,135,468 was spent on the expansion of the ethnic collection of OIK while in 2016 it was HUF 2,014,972 and in 2017 it was HUF 2,031,822. They purchased up-to-date ethnic fiction and specialised literature, thus ensuring access to documents in the mother tongue for minorities living in Hungary.

In 2014 and 2015, the 19 county libraries and FSZEK received a **list of recommendations** from 11 territories of ethnic languages (Ukrainian, Greek, Roma, Croatian, Polish, German, Romanian, Serbian, Slovakian, Slovenian and Rusyn). The lists of recommendations of 2016 and 2017 covered all the 13 ethnic language territories (Ukrainian, Greek, Roma, Croatian, Polish, German, Romanian, Serbian, Slovakian, Slovenian, Rusyn, Armenian and Bulgarian).

The list of recommendation broken down by languages prepared for partner libraries shows an improving trend in the coverage of ethnic language territories and in the quantity of recommended documents in the list. The list of recommendations contained 613 documents in 2014, a total of 694 documents in 2015, 769 documents in 2016, and 768 documents in 2017.

In recent years, from 2014 to 2017, an obligatory sum of HUF 10,000 was spent on the purchase of Roma books.

	Sum used for purchasing documents in the framework of ethnic services	Number of documents purchased	Documents in Roma languages or of Roma topics from among the documents purchased
2014	HUF 5.3 million	1407	109
2015	HUF 6 million	1032	108
2016	HUF 6 million	1035	109

As regards the number of ethnic documents purchased in 2017, we have no exact data. **The number of ethnic documents in the OIK collection was 78,825 in 2017 from which 98 documents were of Roma language or topic.**

Nationality database

The information of nationalities in their mother tongues is facilitated by the availability of library-related information in all the 13 ethnic languages while specialised information is available in 10 ethnic languages. Research and information related to nationalities is ensured by the *Nationality Database* which is continuously enhanced in OIK. The Nationality Database records publications related to nationalities, allowing for their retrieval. The number of records in the database was 124,752, to which 3,612 new records were added in 2014, 2,668 in 2015, 2,740 in 2016, and 3,184 in 2017 so a **total of 135,387 records were entered in 2017.**

Digitisation of ethnic documents

The National Library of Foreign Literature helps the protection of ethnic documents by digitising them, selecting material the digitisation of which ensures access without the danger

of damaging the original documents. Due to digitisation implemented in cooperation with ethnic self-governments and the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Science, the majority of development challenges was eliminated, satisfying user's needs, giving access for readers to the content and information they needed, and contributing to the realisation of the purposes of the institutions and social policy aims. In 2016, 6 cooperations were established with the following ethnic self-governments:

- National Self-Government of Greeks in Hungary
- Greek Self-Government of Budapest
- Cultural Association of Greeks Living in Hungary
- National Slovak Self-Government
- Slovakian Self-Government of Budapest
- Research Institute of Slovaks Living in Hungary.

In the context of digitisation, OIK submitted a tender to the National Cultural Fund to implement its programme entitled *Research of nationalities and local history 2 – Intellectual and cultural assets, library documents and digitisation – professional training* for 2018 in 2017. It received a support of HUF 479,346 to implement its activity.

Programmes

The National Library of Foreign Literature ensured the maintenance and mediation of the cultures of minorities and nationalities living in Hungary by organising nationality-related programmes the number of which is in constant rise in recent years.

Number of programmes reinforcing ethnic community identity of the OIK		
2015	2016	2017
11	13	15

2.2.3. Support for cultural institutions of minorities

a) Nationality archives

As bodies performing other public tasks, national ethnic self-governments are entitled to establish public archives in the sense of § 21 of Act LXVI of 1995 on public documents, public archives and the protection of private archives materials, for the preservation of its public documents older than 15 years which were created by them. When needed, the founder shall provide for meeting the conditions determining the operation of the archives as required by § 15(2) of the Archives Act: the employment of at least one employee of higher education qualifications having archives skills and the creation of conditions ensuring proper keeping and research of documents (locked storeroom in the archives complying with document protection principles, purchase of acid-free boxes for the storing of documents, operation of a research room) by the deadline. No such request has been submitted to the Minister of Human Capacities so far since the quantity of documents of permanent value is but a couple of document running metres which would not justify to establish archives.

In accordance with § 17(1a)(e) of Act LXVI of 1995 on public documents, public archives and the protection of private archives materials, **the National Archives of Hungary** is competent to manage the archives materials of the boards, offices and institutions of ethnic self-governments. The following are linked to national ethnic self-governments: *Bulgarian Cultural, Information and Documentation Centre, Museum and Archives for the Polish Living in Hungary, Armenian Cultural, Information and Documentation Centre, National Roma*

Library, Archives and Repository, Documentation and Information Centre maintained by the National Self-Government of Romanians Living in Hungary, a Serbian Cultural and Documentation Centre in Hungary, Documentation Centre of the National Slovak Self-Government, and Ukrainian Cultural and Documentation Centre in Hungary.

In this period, there was no substantial change in ethnic issues in the period examined in the area of archives.

b) Nationality museums

The Museum of Ethnography, the Hungarian Open Air Museum, several church collections and city museums of county coverage and museum institutions maintained by municipalities collect the material remnants of minorities living in Hungary. Since all counties has or had inhabitants of ethnic origin, all county-level museum organisations have to provide for minority-related tasks.

The social responsibility of the **Museum of Ethnography** was reinforced by continuous cooperation with the members of local communities, ethnic minorities and social-purpose foundations in 2014. These actively participated in the creation of exhibitions and at programmes related to the exhibitions, too. In the context of providing for minority-related tasks, the Museum of Ethnography elaborated workshops for pupils of elementary and secondary schools entitled *Nationalities in Hungary* in 2015, linked to its permanent exhibition entitled *Traditional culture of the Hungarian people*. For the purposes of protecting and mediating the culture of minorities as a way of ensuring cultural diversity, the Eötvös József Roma-Hungarian Society for Pedagogy and the Roma Nationality Self-Government of District IV – Újpest organised an exhibition based on the temporary exhibition entitled *Disdain and Self-respect* of the Museum of Ethnography as an event on the International Roma Day in 2017.

Different regional units of the **Hungarian Open Air Museum of Szentendre** collect German, Croatian, Slovakian, Roma, Rusyn, Greek buildings, objects and documents and the Museum organises several ethnic folklore programmes every year. Other skansens of the country collect from among the material culture of further nationalities as well. It is a priority task of the Hungarian Open Air Museum of Szentendre **to keep the traditions and habits of special days closely related to national identity alive**. The most evident types of programmes of the implementation of this purpose are festivals. Related to the Easter holidays in 2015, the Museum hosted a programme aiming at the presentation of EU developments for the audience in the framework of which the Easter habits of nationalities living in Hungary, that is, Vend, Slovak, German and Croatian people featured in the exhibitions of the Museum were presented.

In order to have the cultures of nationalities known, the Hungarian Open Air Museum elaborated a workshop for several age groups focusing on minority existence, the co-habitation of nationalities and the mutual influence of different cultures on each other, thus ensuring the integration of ethnic cultural contents into public education.

In the framework of social responsibility, the museum elaborated a new programme reinforcing national and ethnic identity, ensuring the access to museum institutions for minorities and nationalities living in Hungary. In this framework, it entered into cooperation with several German ethnic schools in 2016, organising thematic programmes and programme days on minority and ethnic existence, reinforcing nationality identity.

Apart from the protection of the cultural values of minorities living in Hungary, the support of their activity enriching culture is also a priority task. Besides the above described measures of the Museum of Ethnography and the Hungarian Open Air Museum, the **Palóc Museum of the Hungarian National Museum** provides museum pedagogy programmes to ensure cultural experience which can be provided by a museum for them, too, for free

(financed from TIOP and TÁMOP sources). Due to its museum pedagogy programmes, the cultural experience which can be provided by a museum can be ensured for a lot of students living in hard conditions and for Roma children who constitute a substantial minority.

The Hungarian Orthodox Church Museum of Miskolc, the Serbian Orthodox Church Art Collection of Szentendre (Serbian Church Museum) and the Orthodox Church Art Collection of Keckskemét (Greek Church Art Museum) have a rich church-related material. Simultaneously with the building of the new Serbian orthodox chapel in Pécs, a **regional church art collection** was opened in the old prayer house on its yard in 2015. The Museum of Szentendre is going to be renovated due to a government support of HUF 465 million in 2018.

National minority self-governments established several **institutions which collect museum values and maintain the collections professionally**. The State gave support for the opening of the *Serbian Institute in Budapest, the Slovene Peasant House in Felsőszölnök (Kühár Memorial House)* and the *August Šenoa Croatian Club in Pécs*. The following operate as national self-government institutions: the institution registered as *the Christian Collection of Croats Living in Hungary* founded by the National Croatian Self-Government in Peresznye, Vas County, the *National Roma Library, Archives and Repository, the National Roma Museum Collection and Exhibition Gallery of Public Interest, the Museum and Archives of the Polish Living in Hungary, the Museum Collection and Exhibition Point of Public of Rusyns Living in Hungary, the Library of Rusyns Living in Hungary, the Slovakian Document Centre and Legatum Kft.* which is the professional organisation of Slovakian peasant house museums.

Nationality basic institutions

The amendment of § 39(4) of Kultv. which entered into force on 1 January 2013 introduced the concept of nationality basic institutions. The need to legally consolidate the concept which was already in use for years came up several times, mainly with regard to *Kanizsai Dorottya Museum in Mohács* (Croatian, Serbian and Slovenian material), the *German Nationality Museum* affiliated to the *Kuny Domokos Museum in Tata*, and the *Munkácsy Mihály Museum in Békéscsaba* which has a Slovakian and Romanian material. According to the definition, nationality basic institutions are museum institutions **the basic tasks of which include the performance of nationality-related tasks or in the collection of which the proportion of cultural goods in nationality languages or related to nationalities reach 25%**. We have to stress that the amendment did not introduce the concept of nationality basic museum. It wanted to leave the option open for public interest museum exhibition spaces and collections, too, partly with a view to Szentgotthárd. During the procedure on the issue of the operation authorisation, the minister in charge of culture may classify a museum institution as a nationality basic institution when especially requested.

Since the amendment of the Act entering into force on 1 January 2013, five self-governments requested the Minister to classify the museum institution maintained by it as a nationality basic institution (*Pável Ágoston Local History and Slovenian Nationality Collection in Szentgotthárd, German Nationality Exhibition in Tata, Kanizsai Dorottya Museum in Mohács, Türr István Museum in Baja, Heimatmuseum Nimesch – German Nationality Peasant House in Himesháza*) which he did.

Classified museum institutions were involved in the clarification of the professional content of the new legal concept in order to provide a more detailed regulation for the system of criteria. The amendment of Kultv. adopted in 2017 (§ 37/A(1)) states that museum institutions classified as nationality basic institutions **should focus on nationality culture in their public culture programmes and permanent exhibitions**.

Performance of nationality-related tasks by national museums and city museums of county coverage

In accordance with Decree 51/2014 (XII.10.) of the Minister of Human Capacities *on professional indicators necessary for the annual working plan of museums, national specialised libraries and county libraries* which has been in force since **January 2015**, the criteria for the performance assessment of museums are determined by law, too. These **include criteria for the performance of nationality-related tasks.**

In the field of the performance of public relations tasks, a professional indicator is the number of participants attending the programmes. There is a special indicator for publications in nationality languages published by the employees of museums among scientific publications in Hungarian and foreign languages. As regards exhibition activities, there is a professional indicator for the number of exhibitions organised in the mother country of nationalities and for the related number of visitors.

Based on the experiences of recent years, it is mainly **public culture and public relations activities to feature nationality-related programmes in the case of collections where the focus is not on nationalities.** There were 75 programmes with a total of 9,776 participants in 14 municipalities in 2015, 265 programmes with 14,350 participants in 17 municipalities in 2016, and 268 programmes with a total of 13,612 participants in 14 municipalities in 2017. As regards central museums maintained by the Ministry of Human Capacities (EMMI), data on programmes reinforcing nationality identity are the following: there were 80 programmes with 26,996 participants in 8 institutions in 2015, 112 programmes with 32,382 participants in 7 institutions in 2016, and 176 programmes with 14,772 participants in 8 institutions in 2017.

Public-interest museum collections and exhibition spaces

In Hungary, public-interest museum collections and exhibition spaces, including peasant house museums, local history, church history and institutional history collections, memorial houses etc. are important constituents of the local cultural life of regions and municipalities. Irrespective of their maintainer, owner or legal status, they embody the keeping force of folk/community culture and keeping to local community life. Institutions are an objective form of collective memory, presenting the folk culture and material heritage of the past of a municipality/region, being a focussed space of tradition-keeping. Buildings and furniture present past life forms, helping to understand the history and lifestyle of the community, and the cognitive elements of identity. Therefore it is natural that exhibition spaces called peasant house museums have an outstanding role among institutions for the keeping and carry-over of the identity of nationalities in Hungary.

Ethnic peasant house museums

The number of peasant house museums in Hungary is substantial in the European context as well. They are usually maintained by a local government or maybe by civil organisations or private individuals. More than half of ethnic peasant house museums in Hungary keep and present German materials coordinated by **the Jakob Bleyer Heimatmuseum/ Bleyer Jakab Local History Collection of Budaörs** while 25% of them keep and present Slovakian materials. Of course, we have Croatian (*Croatian peasant house museum in Lakócsa and Kópháza*), Romanian (*Romanian Peasant House Museum in Kétegyháza*), Serbian, Slovenian (*Kühár Memorial House*), Roma (*Roma Peasant House Museum in Hodász*) exhibition spaces and those for the small nationalities – Polish, Rusyn, Ukrainian and Armenian –, too, although their number is less. They are usually maintained by the local self-government or the local ethnic self-government. One of the priority professional tasks of the **Hungarian Open Air Museum** is to coordinate methodology-related tasks linked to the professional development

of peasant house museums and to the reinforcement of their cultural and tourism-related roles. The State provides support for their development by way of calls for tenders. Their professional interests are represented by the **Association of Hungarian Peasant House Museums**. For the implementation of its purposes, the Association established regional organisations. Each member of the Board coordinates the tasks for the professional representation of one region and cross-border territories and ethnic peasant house museums.

In May 2018, the German ethnic museum of **Budaörs** was renovated and the renovated German ethnic peasant house museum of **Kecskéd** in Komárom-Esztergom county was opened.

Support from February 2015 to February 2017

Public collections have no nationality-related funding. Museum institutions performing nationality-related tasks, when they are maintained or supported by the local government, may apply to the **Kubinyi Ágoston Programme** which aims at the professional development of museum institutions.

If it is about the performing of nationality-related tasks, it is necessary to attach the opinion of the ethnic self-government of the relevant municipality or, in its absence, region or, in its, absence of the national self-government. The representative of the organisational unit in charge of nationalities of the Ministry of Human Capacities traditionally participates in the work of the assessment committee.

Nationality-related supports provided in the framework of Kubinyi Ágoston Programme in the last two years were the following: for 4 nationalities in 5 municipalities a total of **HUF 8,900,000 in 2015**, and a total of **HUF 7,400,000** for 3 nationalities in 7 municipalities in 2016.

Since **collections and peasant house museums** featuring these ethnic cultures are also authorised museum institutions, they are entitled to all state budgetary support provided for museum institutions. As regards these opportunities, first we have to mention **calls of the Museum College of the National Cultural Fund**. Sources targeting the professional support of museums maintained by local governments are also of priority importance. Support purposes of calls for tenders announced for the development of nationality museums include the preparation, creation, full renovation or modernisation of the permanent exhibition as well as especially the creation of an exhibition presenting the values of the national and ethnic minority culture, and the publication of catalogues, exhibition guides, brochures and electronic guides related to the exhibition in several foreign languages.

During recent years, support from the National Cultural Fund allowed the implementation of projects promoting the protection and mediation of the ethnic culture in the fields of museum, library and archives domain as well.

As regards the ever-expanding own institutional system of **national minority self-governments**, there are a lot of special cultural institutions or complex institutions the tasks of which include cultural activities as well. These are financed by the State by integrating the funding into the annual budget of the relevant national minority self-government.

c) Ethnic theatres

Ethnic theatres represent special highlights in Hungarian theatre life. Their activities are related to the community life, traditions and culture of the nationalities in several ways. Elements of the ethnic culture add value to theatre performances, presenting for the members of the nationality their culture and language due to their identity-increasing power. They wish to target several age groups in the language of the nationality. For older generations, the language means the home, too, apart from entertainment. These support language learning in

schools and the widest possible knowledge of the ethnic culture in relation to the educational programmes of ethnic schools.

Besides keeping the cultural heritage and the traditions, the purpose of ethnic theatres is to keep and carry over the ethnic language by their representation through experience. Ethnic theatres create communities within the nationality, too, reinforced by the feeling of belonging together, the knowledge about the same culture and cooperation in its keeping alive.

There are more than 20 ethnic theatres with more than 20 new performances in each year in ethnic theatres of Hungary. From among professional minority theatre companies, the German theatre in Szekszárd called Deutsche Bühne receives direct support from the budget while other companies receive annual operational support by calls for tenders. The Deutsche Bühne/German Theatre in Hungary is maintained jointly by the Tolna County Government and the National Self-Government of Germans living in Hungary. The second German company, Deutsches Theater Budapest/Budapest German Theatre operates in Budapest. The Croatian Theatre of Pécs has a professional company and is very successful. From 2012, it received support from the budget just like the German Theatre in Szekszárd.

The Vertigo Slovakian Theatre and the Serbian Theatre in Hungary is maintained by the national minority self-governments while Roma and Bulgarian theatre groups like Karaván Art Foundation, Cinka Panna Roma Theatre Foundation, Romano Teatro Cultural Association in Miskolc, Maladype/Meetings Theatre focusing on the Roma language and the Malko Teatro (Small Theatre) which have mainly Bulgarian-language performances operate as foundations or associations. There are non-professional theatre companies in the Greek, Croatian, Slovenian and Ukraininan communities and in ethnic educational institutions, too.

The support allocated for ethnic theatres which was a total of HUF 90 million in 2014 was more than doubled and a further HUF 100 million has been available for operational costs since 2015. Within the support of nationalities, the support of theatres was also increased and HUF 130 million is available for the support of ethnic theatres in the 2018 budget, apart from other cultural support. At the call for tenders of 2018 for performing art organisations, 8 organisations representing ethnic theatres were granted a support of HUF 90 million from which HUF 23 million was granted to the Croatian Theatre in Pécs by EMMI. The total support of HUF 654 million was spent on the renovation and expansion of the building. The German Theatre in Szekszárd received HUF 200 million to support its renovation completed by 2016. The expansion of the Serbian theatre at Nagymező Street, Budapest received a support of HUF 60 million which allows that the theatre hosting the ethnic theatre festival operate as a hosting theatre for other nationalities, too.

Ethnic theatre meetings are organised annually from central support in Budapest (Jelen/Lét Festival) and sometimes in the country, too. Ethnic theatres have good relationship with the companies playing in the same language in neighbouring countries. They often perform in each other's countries. Since 2008, there is an Association for Ethnic Theatres in Hungary for the coordination of common interests and of the festival.

d) Ethnic folklore ensembles

The number of ethnic folklore ensembles is very high. Examples include *Torch Croatian Artistic Ensemble*, *Budapest Gypsy Orchestra*, *Rajkó Artistic Ensemble*, *Kalyi Jag*, *Mór Wind Musical Ensemble*, *Pável Ágoston Slovenian Choir*, *Vujicsics Ensemble* or *Jantra Bulgarian Dance Ensemble*. The Hungarian Heritage House is a national institution and service centre established for the maintaining and keeping of folk traditions in the Carpathian Basin. According to its founding deed, it maintains the living and revivable traditions of

ethnic minorities and carries them over into the culture of our days. Its multimedia database and retrieval system contains several thousands of materials of the majority of minorities living in Hungary. *Fonó Music House in Buda* often features ethnic groups among its folk music ensembles to perform, too. Since ensembles and institutions are maintained in the most different forms, they are supported by the sources of local governments, minority self-governments, ministries, associations and calls for tenders etc.

e) Hungarian Institute for Culture and Art

We have to refer to the varied nationality-related work of the background institution of the Ministry currently in charge of culture, **Hungarian Institute for Culture and Art** (MMIKL). On the one hand, the institute has a nationality-related and Roma organisational unit and, on the other, a special nationality-related and Roma board of cultural experts was established as the advisory board of the director-general after 2000, where experts of minority civil organisations are represented. The board organised cultural professional conferences and thematic workshops. It calls for ethnic photography applications in every two year, awarding the best creations and presenting them at an exhibition first in its centre, and then nationwide. Three representative photography albums were published from the material of the exhibitions, entitled *Our nationalities on images*. The Institute regularly organises the **Nationality Gala** on the Day of Nationalities from 2006. Non-professional artists and artistic communities performing at the gala present their own cultures on their mother tongues. On this occasion, the **Pro Cultura Minoritatum Hungariae professional prize** is awarded to individuals and institutions for the work for the culture of the communities of which was outstanding.

2.2.4. Structure of the support system

Direct central support for nationalities and ethnic minorities in Hungary is provided for by the Budget Act. Key elements of supports granted to nationalities and ethnic minorities in Hungary:

- annual operating support framework of settlement-based and regional minority self-governments;
- appropriation to cover the annual operating costs of national minority self-governments;
- supports for institutions operated by national minority self-governments,
- support framework of national and ethnic minority NGOs;
- support framework for the take-over and operation of minority institutions;
- minority coordination and intervention framework and then
- appropriation for the support of minority-policy activities,
- special supplementary support framework for ethnic education and schooling tasks,
- support framework of nationality theatres.

In accordance with the Minority Act (Act on the rights of nationalities as from 1 January 2011), national self-governments of nationalities and ethnic minorities living in Hungary may establish or take over institutions for the performance of their obligatory and voluntary tasks and the creation of the cultural autonomy of the minority represented by them. Now the national self-governments of all the 13 minorities living in Hungary have their educational or cultural institutions maintained by them.

These institutions rarely have a single purpose only, and the majority of them are engaged in complex (partly cultural) activities. According to the Minority Act, people

belonging to a minority may establish associations, parties, and social organisations, including cultural ones, to express and protect their interests.

In the recent period, the number of nationality institutions was increased from 12 to 82 and, simultaneously, the sums spent on this domain were tripled to reach HUF 10.5 billion in 2018. In March 2018, a house created by a government support of HUF 80 million hosting the **South-Transdanubia Centre of the National Croatian Self-Government** was opened in Pécs. It will host the bureau of the nationality self-government and the **scientific institute of Croats living in Hungary**. It is planned to establish a **Croatian-Hungarian cultural centre** in Szemely which is a village close to Pécs, by an investment of HUF 130 million. The **Bulgarian Cultural House in Budapest** is planned to be renovated with the support of the Hungarian and Bulgarian government in 2018.

2.2.5. Support for Roma people living in Hungary

The mother tongue of about three-fourth of Gipsy people living in Hungary is Hungarian (the so-called Romungro), 15-18% speaks some version of the Romani language (the so-called Roma), and 7-10% speaks the archaic version of the Romanian language (the so-called Beash). The Parliamentary ombudsman of minority rights did not agree with the use of the Roma nationality name with regard to the whole community. Each organisation of them still think that their identity is best described with the name “cigány” (Gipsy).

As in the case of all nationalities, the Gipsies think that the key identity-forming element for them is their specific culture which is often influenced by living together with neighbouring peoples, mainly with the majority people. Gipsy people in Hungary have values which are part of Hungarian culture and history and also enrich Europe.

Supports detailed above include various support for these communities (**the nationality of the biggest population number in Hungary**), too. By way of an example, we mention that the National Gipsy (from 2011 Roma) Self-Government received a budgetary support of HUF 235.3 million in 2009 and 2010, and HUF 267.2 million in 2011. Support for the purposes of their maintained institutions was HUF 78.6 million annually. Besides, their priority institutions like *Rádió C*, *the Hungarian Gipsy Ensemble*, *Rajkó Artistic Ensemble* and the *First Roma House Museum* receive an annual support of HUF 30 to 40 million.

The main objective of **Public Foundation for Gipsies Living in Hungary** is to promote the keeping of the self-identity of Gipsies living in Hungary and their social integration, the reduction of their unemployment, the increase of their chances in school and off-school education and the protection of their human rights.

Art is a priority domain of the social inclusion of Gipsies and therefore the Government supports the related initiatives. Ferenc Snétberger guitar artist established the **Snétberger Musical Talent Centre** in Felsőörs to detect and mentor the talented Roma youth in the whole Carpathian Basin with a support of more than HUF 1 billion of the Norwegian Fund and the Government. As a result of the Snétberger method, there are 60 to 70 groups which perform well in the field of jazz, classic and world music, rather than in Gipsy music. The Government provided an extra source of HUF 300 million to the work of the talent centre at the end of 2016.

In March 2018, the **founding stone of Cziffra György Roma Educational and Cultural Centre (Roma Cultural and Methodological Educational Centre)** was laid. This institution representing all forms of art which is named after György Cziffra, world-famous Gipsy piano artist which is planned to be opened in District VIII of Budapest in 2019 shall provide a community space for Gipsy and non-Gipsy Hungarians to cultivate and know the authentic ethnic traditions, artistic heritage, values and contemporary present of Gipsy culture. The building shall host a theatre room able to feature musical and dance productions, too,

permanent and thematic exhibitions, a musical, dance and film workshop, a professional studio, digital archives and library and a studio and editorial room from where a radio programme may be broadcasted.

2.3. Support for Hungarian communities living outside Hungary

The Hungarian State provides substantial support for the institutions and projects of Hungarian native groups abroad especially because we think that the connection between Hungarians living abroad and Hungarian institutions and the Hungarian cultural domain is of key importance in the continuous regeneration of identity. The current Hungarian Government provides constant support for Hungarians living abroad the major part of which was spent on the helping of cultural institutions and programmes.

2.3.1. Bethlen Gábor Fund

Since the radical renewal of the institutional system of the support policy in 2010, the new focal body of this domain is still Bethlen Gábor Fund (BGA). Its strategy is to concentrate support instead of fragmentation. The main fundamental principle of the system of calls for tenders is partnership involving cooperation between the relevant actors of Hungarian state administration and, especially, common work with civil organisations abroad. Major directions of support policy are determined by the priorities of the **Hungarian Standing Conference** which is an umbrella body for Hungarian organisations operating abroad adopted in agreement. BGA prepares its annual budgetary proposal on the basis of these. Besides, the document entitled *Hungarian national policy – the framework of national policy strategy* declares that support policy has to target the enrichment of communities living abroad. Cultural institutions have a key role in the promotion of the cultural and intellectual enrichment of Hungarian communities.

For the promotion of the work and mobility of Hungarian artists living abroad, the Hungarian State supports several programmes through Bethlen Gábor Alapkezelő Zrt. the aim of which is the development and the activities for the mediation of quality culture of Hungarian artists living abroad. Simultaneously with supporting artists and artistic communities, they support the distribution of cultural goods created outside Hungary, too, through the helping of several publishing houses, theatres and musical ensembles.

2.3.2. Use and teaching of the mother tongue

We believe that the cultural and linguistic reproduction of Hungarians native groups abroad can be ensured if there are institutions which carry over and mediate the culture and the language. Therefore Hungary promotes the use of the mother tongue by communities living abroad mainly by supporting Hungarian cultural institutions. Besides, in several cases we have to achieve that the right to use the mother tongue be fully ensured in neighbouring countries and that this right be enforced. Therefore the Hungarian State supports the work of civil and cultural organisations the purpose of which is to expand the language usage space and information and awareness-raising about linguistic rights.

People can keep their Hungarian identity outside Hungary if they practice Hungarian language not only in their close community but if they are able to attend Hungarian kindergartens, schools, colleges and universities as well. The Hungarian State provides priority support for education in the mother tongue. One of our major achievements is that Hungarian higher education institutions were established outside Hungary. The Hungarian State itself maintains such institutions. Among others, the **János Selye University in**

Komárom (Komárno, Slovakia), Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania and Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute in Beregszász (Beregovo, Ukraine) receive priority support.

2.3.3. Professional support for the Carpathian Basin Community Culture Round Table

The public culture activities of Hungarian native groups abroad now have its institutional background. Regions in the Carpathian Basin established cultural institutes the cooperation of which resulted first in a network of institutes and then in the Carpathian Basin Community Culture Round Table (KKK) in the autumn of 2008. The institutes and the round table formalising the cooperation provides long-term support for public culture work in each region and represents the universal aspects of Hungarian community culture as methodological and cultural service centres, training spots, bases for accepting and disseminating information and for calls for tenders.

The National Institute for Culture concluded strategic agreements with the institutions of the Carpathian Basin Community Culture Round Table which keep the material and intellectual values of the Hungarians living outside Hungary with a view to networking cooperation as the first event of the IVth Strategic Conference entitled *Networking – Community initiatives* of 11 June 2014.

In the framework of the agreement, the Parties cooperate in the following domains:

- They consult each other in content and organisational issues of outstanding importance concerning Hungarian public culture and issue common declarations in important professional fields. They provide mutual representation at their discussions and working groups which have strategic purposes and which affect the quality of community culture.
- They are engaged in a coordinated professional methodology development activity: in the field of community development and the development of the methods of creative and cognitive community activities, and the survey, digitisation and revitalising of community cultural heritage.
- The mutual visualisation of the events of national, regional and local public culture events (at the website of the Institute, at the websites of the affiliated institutes of KKK and in the journal entitled *Szín – Közösségi Művelődés*).

2.3.4. “Living Traditions Centres”

The **Hungarian Heritage House** as a national cultural institution for the carry-over of folk tradition in the Carpathian Basin started to organise cross-border networking in 2017, establishing so-called branches (Living Traditions Centres) in the Transcarpathia region (Ukraine), Transylvania (Romania), the Voivodina region (Serbia) and the Hungarian-inhabited parts of Slovakia.

The first is **the domain of event organisation**, by permanently reinforcing the folk dance/folk music/handicrafts initiatives already existing in the region and satisfying the burning needs, on the one hand, and by reinforcing mobility, that is, promoting the travelling of local actors to other regions, and to have outstanding talents of other regions appearing and adopted at events organised in those countries, on the other.

The task of the **second domain, that of collections** is to receive collections stored elsewhere but originating from the region in copy, for use or for services and to have their own collections integrated into the “standard” database of the Carpathian Basin established in the institution. This activity includes the survey of “blank spots” where no collection activities

have been performed so far but which are valuable for their ethnography and folk music and the organisation of collection activities.

The third big task is to organise the carry-over of living traditions. It includes the organisation of accredited training courses for local community culture experts and teachers and the launch of accredited training courses granting trade qualifications in the area of crafts, according to local needs, of course.

2.3.5. Support for the cross-border tour of the Hungarian State Opera

The Hungarian State Opera is a determining institution of our national culture. It has been by far the biggest ensemble since its founding, representing all types of art as such. Being one of the biggest opera institutions of the world, it has untouched resources which can be mobilised for national purposes. With a view to its rank as a national institution, its tasks should cover programmes for Hungarian native groups abroad. However, the Opera could not have provided a cross-border tour in the constantly filled theatre season (not even in the summer) in the last 133 years but now the closing of the Ybl Palace at Andrásy Avenue due to modernisation is a good opportunity for presenting opera performances in municipalities inhabited by Hungarians. The “Carpathian Home” Opera Tour visits municipalities where most Hungarians live, presenting the force of national culture bringing people together. Therefore it is able to raise the feeling of belonging together and provide an experience which can be remembered for a long time for Hungarians living abroad and for the opera ensemble, too.

2.3.6. Support for Csángó people living in Moldva

The Hungarian Government attaches special importance to Csángó Hungarians living in Moldva (Romania). As stated by Professor Tytti Isohookana-Asunmaa, Finnish politician, Csángó Hungarian communities bear special values the disappearance of which would concern all of Europe. The Council of Europe adopted a draft report on the protection of the Csángó culture in 2001.

The Csángó Hungarian community is especially endangered demographically and opportunities for Hungarian education are highly limited. The low number of Hungarian educational institutions and of Hungarian teachers is another problem. Therefore Hungary pays special attention to the support of the educational programmes of Csángó Hungarians, and also promotes the work and programmes of several Csángó organisations. The dialogue concerning diaspora minorities was granted an institutional framework: we established the **Diaspora Commission of the Hungarian Standing Conference** to reconcile interests and prepare for decisions in this subject, involving experts.

2.4. International Cooperation

2.4.1. Results of the Hungarian cultural diplomacy in the field of presenting Hungarian culture abroad

Hungary tries to present its own culture abroad in the framework of several programmes, thus contributing to cultural diversity. The major aim of these programmes is to make the works, achievements and outstanding artists of Hungarian culture accessible and known for the foreign audience. These include the memorial year dedicated to Franz Liszt or those dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Robert Capa photographer, György Solti conductor and János Szentágothai neurologist doctor or, more recently, the Semmelweis Memorial Year

in 2015 or the Kodály Memorial Year in 2017. Apart from thematic seasons, Hungarian cultural diplomacy also organises big presentations linked to a certain target country or Hungarian cultural institute operating abroad in order to promote Hungarian culture.

The first such **cultural season** was *MagyART* in France in 2001. It was followed by *Ungheria in Primo Piano* in Italy, *Magyar Magic* in England, *Hongarije aan Zee* in the Netherlands, the Hungarian season in Russia, *Ungarischer Akzent* in Germany, the Hungarian cultural season in China, and the very successful *Extremely Hungary* in New York and the programme entitled *Modernity by Hungary* in 2016. The *Hungarian Cultural Season in Poland* was organised in 2016/2017.

Programmes organised in the framework of these seasons were very positively accepted. The Hungarian cultural diplomacy was able to contribute to cultural diversity in an active way by presenting the culture of Hungarian people and minorities living in Hungary. Civil artists always participate actively in the organisation of cultural seasons together with state actors. Programmes are compiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade together with the ministry in charge of culture. Seasons provide a good opportunity for Hungarian artists to present their skills abroad, in interaction with other cultures.

Hungarian cultural institutes operated **abroad** by the Hungarian Government and **Hungarian delegations** regularly feature writers, filmmakers, visual artists, musicians and media of nationalities living in Hungary in their programmes. These are the most frequent in institutions operating in the territory of the mother countries of the relevant minorities (Berlin, Stuttgart, Vienna, Bratislava, Bucharest, Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana). The guest appearance of Roma artists was promoted in the Hungarian institutes of remote countries and continents, too. Cultural institutes of the mother countries operating in Hungary often feel it important to involve the artists of their nation living in Hungary into their programmes.

However, we strongly believe that the constant expansion of our cultural diplomacy links can contribute to intercultural dialogue. With a view to this purpose, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade established new specialised cultural diplomacy posts at several embassies, together with continuously developing and expanding the network of Hungarian cultural institutes abroad.

Hungary tries to promote the diversity of cultural expressions by international cultural grants, too. The **Hungarian Scholarship Board** provides an opportunity to apply for as many as forty types of grants. Possible target countries are extremely varied, including Vietnam, Hong Kong, India, Iran, other Asian countries and the most countries of Europe. Students arriving at Hungary are supported by the **Stipendium Hungaricum** programme and the Campus Hungary programme launched by the Balassi Institute which is now entitled **Campus Mundi** programme.

Therefore all artists in Hungary, **including those belonging to minority communities**, may participate in artist exchange programmes as provided for in international cultural conventions and working plans coordinated by the Ministry of Human Capacities. For them, countries of their mother tongues are priority targets. Here we have to mention the role of Hungarian institutes operating abroad and cultural institutes of mother countries operating in Hungary in the organisation of exhibitions and appearances of ethnic artists in Hungary as well as exchange relations of ethnic theatres.

2.4.2. The Visegrad Group

The Visegrad Group is a regional organisation of the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. The major purpose of the cooperation is the common representation of the economic, diplomacy-related and political interests of these Central European countries, and the coordination of their eventual measures, but their cooperation was given a cultural

dimension, too, during the existence of the organisation of more than 20 years, building on traditionally strong links between the member states in the most fields of diplomacy.

The most important cultural body of the Visegrad Group is the **International Visegrad Fund**, established by the four member states to reinforce their cooperation in the fields of culture, science, education, research and youth policy in 2000. The Fund is the most successful common enterprise of the Visegrad countries according to the views of several experts. It is demonstrated by the fact that its budget was as high as EUR 7 million in 2012. This amount is provided by the member states in equal shares. The International Visegrad Fund provides support for international art camps, too, apart from cultural projects. Its grant system supports the exchange of students between the member states of the Visegrad Group, but students from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine and Kosovo may also apply for support for their studies in the Visegrad countries from the Fund. (Students from the Visegrad countries may apply for support for their studies at universities of the above-listed countries.)

In 2017/2018, Hungary held the Presidency of the Visegrad Group. In the framework of presidential events, there are several programmes (e.g., V4 concert series, film festival, theatrical meeting) for the introduction of artists from the countries of the region and to know the rich Central European cultural heritage.

In the field of public collections, priority presidential events shall include the following programmes mediating and promoting Hungarian culture in 2018:

- **Hungarian National Museum:** *Visual memories of the Austro-Hungarian compromise of 1867 and the dual state* – the organisation of an exhibition of paintings and graphic works and of a stage discussion,
- **Hungarian Open Air Museum:** The organisation of a conference and accompanying event entitled *Open air museums in Central Europe. Developing museums and local communities in Visegrad countries*. Folk dance event and musicians' meeting of the Carpathian Basin.
- **Museum of Fine Arts:** *Active Collections*. The organisation of a conference and workshop on V4 collection mobility.

3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

The Hungarian State traditionally supports the inclusion of civil society organisations into policy-making. Such state support and encouragement is especially needed because the civil society is traditionally weak in the most post-socialist Eastern and Central European countries and social activity is not really high as several scientific works highlighted it. However, an important tradition of cooperation between the public administration and the civil society has emerged since the change of the political regime, together with state and local government support for civil society organisations.

The most relevant Hungarian body closely related to cultural diversity and the involvement of civil society, either, is the National Cultural Fund (NKA). State and non-state actors of the cultural domain are represented in the specialised colleges of NKA and thus the Fund is one of the most important fora of civil reconciliation within the domain. Due to its financial weight and sponsoring role, NKA is a focal point through which the self-government of the cultural domain may be realised. The Fund promotes and protects the diversity of cultural expressions in the way described in the part on measures of the report.

This system applies to the operation of Bethlen Gábor Fund, too, which is competent in the support for Hungarian communities living outside Hungary.

4. Key achievements reached and the arising challenges during the implementation of the Convention

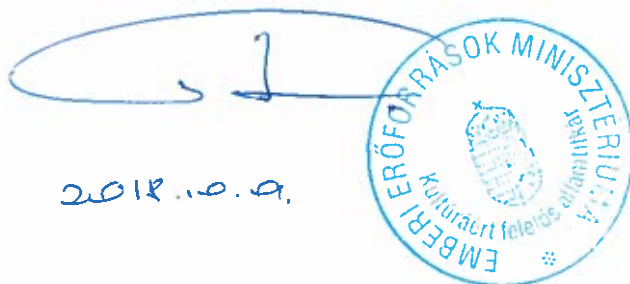
It follows from the above that Hungary may not interpret and manage cultural diversity in the same way as the states which are more developed, bigger, more populated than it or which may have a colonisation history due to its size, number of population and other features. However, we have to note that Hungary cannot manage the Convention in the same way as the developing states, either, due to its relatively more positive economic, social and lifestyle indicators. Therefore the major challenge for Hungary which prevent from the efficient implementation of the provisions of the Convention is that certain provisions of the Convention were not interpreted smoothly and the clarification of the way Hungary can promote the protection of the diversity of cultural expressions efficiently in the spirit of the Convention, which may be a common problem for several other states having similar features.

In the case of Hungary, there are no developing countries with which the Hungarian government would keep an extremely close political and economic relationship due to the common past and the resulting cultural links. Also, the resources of the State do not allow to finance big international programmes and policies in the field of cultural diversity regularly. Therefore Hungary had to find the balance in complying with the provisions of the Convention and playing an active role in the protection of global cultural diversity between keeping its commitments proportionate with its possibilities and harmonising its own external policy purposes with those enshrined in the Convention.

The solution was to adapt the provisions of the Convention to the four priorities presented above. The cited provision of the Fundamental Law of Hungary demonstrates the approach according to which the Hungarian State can contribute to cultural diversity by protecting the Hungarian culture and especially Hungarian ways of cultural expression, with a view to the interests of Hungarian people the number of which is low globally. This purpose can be the motivation for the deepening of cultural links with Hungarian native communities living abroad and for the increased support of the culture of minorities living in Hungary, in order to make Hungarian culture more inclusive.

It follows from the above that a country following the presented policy may easily become exclusive on its own domestic cultural market against the cultural and intellectual products of other cultures and peoples. Hungary tries to avoid this error by allowing the widest possible room for manoeuvre for the cultural diplomacy efforts and cultural advertising activities of all other states within its borders, and to encourage their cultural organisation activities as far as possible.

2018.10.9.



The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by the date "2018.10.9." and a circular official stamp. The stamp is from the Ministry of Human Resources (EMBERI ERŐFORRÁSOK MINISZTERIUMA) and contains the text "Kulturáért felelős államtitkár" (State Secretary for Culture) and a small emblem of Hungary.

Annex

Internet references

The part dedicated to the Ministry of Human Capacities of the Hungarian Government website:

<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources>

Website of the National Cultural Fund:

<http://www.nka.hu>

Website of the Bethlen Gábor Fund:

<http://www.szulofold.hu/>

Website of the State Secretariat in charge of cultural and scientific diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and of the Hungarian Scholarship Board:

<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-foreign-affairs-and-trade>

<http://www.kormany.hu/hu/kulgazdasagi-es-kulugyminiszterium/kulturalis-es-tudomanydiplomaciaert-felelos-allamtitkar>

<http://www.scholarship.hu/Welcome.asp?lang=eng>

Website of the International Visegrad Fund:

<http://visegradfund.org/>

Report and recommendations of the Council of Europe about the Csángó minority:

<https://rm.coe.int/0900001680517681>

<https://rm.coe.int/0900001680516dee>

<https://rm.coe.int/09000016804ea733>

<https://rm.coe.int/0900001680517fd4>

<https://rm.coe.int/0900001680518506>

Website of Culture Point Bureau:

http://www.kulturpont.hu/index_en.php

Website of the Hungarian Society for Ethnography:

<http://www.neprajzitorsasag.hu/>