

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

**Recommendation RecChL(2005) 2
of the Committee of Ministers
on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
by Croatia**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 7 September 2005
at the 936th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. in the light of the situation in the field and of the observations made by the Committee of Experts in its report, specify, in the third State periodical report, the municipal territories which are concerned by the application of Part III of the Charter and review the declaration appended to the instrument of ratification;
2. promote awareness and tolerance vis-à-vis the regional or minority languages and the culture they represent as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Croatia, both in the general curriculum at all stages of education and in the media;
3. offer pre-school education in the Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages and, regarding primary and secondary education, at least the teaching of Ruthenian, Slovak and Ukrainian within regular school hours in the territories in which such languages are used;
4. develop a coherent strategy in the field of teacher training and provide adequate teaching materials for minority language education;

5. take the necessary measures to ensure that the legal possibility for the speakers to use their regional or minority languages in relations with the relevant branches of the State administration is fully implemented in practice ;
6. take immediate action to implement the use of bilingual place-names in all relevant cases;
7. grant the speakers a language-specific and more significant presence on public television and develop a presence on the regional radio stations also for those languages that do not yet benefit from it;
8. clarify the nature of the traditional presence of the Slovenian language in Croatia in co-operation with the speakers.