

Hungary

o. Introduction

- o.1 Hungary [*Magyarország*] currently covers approx. 93,000 km² and has a population of about 10.2 million. 64% of the population live in urban, 34% in rural areas. With approximately 1.8 million inhabitants Budapest is the largest Hungarian city. Other major cities include Debrecen (approx. 200,000 inhabitants), Miskolc (approx. 170,000), Szeged (approx. 155,000), Pécs (approx. 155,000) and Győr (approx. 125,000).



The Republic of Hungary is a parliamentary democracy. Its state structure has a three-level administration: there are (1) 3,131 settlements/municipalities [*település*], (2) 19 counties [*megye*] plus the city of Budapest; and (c) 7 regions [*régió*]. The 19 counties are: Bács-Kiskun, Baranya, Békés, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Csongrád, Fejér, Győr-Moson-Sopron, Hajdú-Bihar, Heves, Jász-Nagykunszolnok, Komárom-Esztergom, Nógrád, Pest, Somogy, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Tolna, Vas, Veszprém, Zala. Hungary's transition from a single-party political and a planned economic system into a multi-party democracy and market economy proceeded relatively smoothly due to Hungary's familiarity with bargaining mechanisms and the relative flourishing of the second (grey) economy starting in the mid 1960s after the revolution. Since 1997 Hungary's economic growth has reached rates around 4% a year (with a slight decrease since 2001). Exports have been an important factor in economic growth.

1. General aspects

- 1.1 Ruled by Árpád, the Magyars (Hungarian tribes) arrived in the plains around the Danube river in 896 A.D. where they found Avar, Slavic, and Celtic populations who had settled there.

At the beginning of the 11th century Steven the Great, a descendant of Árpád, founded the kingdom of Hungary and started spreading Christianity and West European social norms with the help of German knights and Italian and French monks. The growth of the Hungarian kingdom was halted when, in 1526, the Turks invaded the country. In 1541 the Turks succeeded in conquering the major central part of Hungary, including the dual capital of Buda and Pest (which was to become Budapest in 1873). In 1689 Hapsburg-led European troops managed to expel the Turks from Hungary. As a consequence Hungary had to acknowledge the House of Hapsburg's permanent claim to the Hungarian throne. In the years following 1689 Hapsburg rule was consolidated and a period of economic, social and cultural development started. Hungary became a multiethnic country offering land and employment to Western European groups as well as to Balkan groups fleeing Turkish rule. A period of unrest occurred in 1848-49. It was, however, quickly put down by Franz Joseph I and led to the formation of the Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy in 1867. At that time Franz Joseph was crowned King of Hungary.

- 1.2 After World War I, following the defeat of its ally, Germany, the Hapsburg Empire and the multiethnic Hungarian state fell apart. After the Treaty of Trianon in June 1920 millions of Hungarians became citizens of the new states emerging from the ruins of the former empire. Hungary was reduced to one third of its former territory. The lost parts went chiefly to Romania, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. A strong dislike for the results of the Treaty of Trianon motivated Hungary to become one of the minor Axis powers in World War II. Stalinist communists took power in Hungary after a short-lived attempt to establish a post-war pluralistic democratic system. In 1947 a peace treaty with Hungary, Romania, Italy, Bulgaria and Finland was signed in Paris. Hungary's borders were defined to be identical to those of 1 June 1938 (the 'Trianon Borders') with the difference that Czechoslovakia received three villages: Oroszvár (today's Rusovce), Dunacsúny (today's Cunovo) and Horvátjásfalva (today's Jarovce). In 1956 the reform-communist Prime Minister, Imre Nagy, led a revolution against the communist regime. The revolution was crushed by Soviet troops. After a period of repression Hungarian leaders installed a more moderate communist regime, introducing some capitalist features. In 1989, after more liberal communist tendencies had started appearing in all Soviet republics, Hungary proclaimed its independence. In 1991 the last Soviet soldiers left Hungary's territory. In 1999 Hungary became a member of NATO. On 1 May 2004, Hungary became a member of the EU.

2. Demographic data

- 2.1 Demographers at the [Central Statistical Office](#) agree that the size of a nationality in Hungary varies according to the questions asked in the census. The tendency is for the "nationality" figures to be smaller, and for the "mother tongue" figures to be larger. The largest figure is usually obtained in answer to the question: "What language other than your mother tongue do you speak?". Note, however, that after the two World Wars census results have been strongly affected by, e.g., population exchanges, re-settlements and the attribution of collective guilt to entire minorities. This explains (a) the differences from one census to the next that are due to a combination of real demographic changes and people's readiness to identify with the minority or majority populations and (b) the deviation between official census figures and estimates made by minority organisations. The difference between official census figures and estimates made by minority organisations is shown in Table 1, which is based on data from the beginning of the

1990s. The actual population with minority identity and commitment is likely to be somewhere between the census figures and the estimated figures.

Table 1: National Minorities in Hungary in 1990

Minorities	mother tongue	minority membership	Estimated number
Roma	48,072	142,683	400,000-600,000
German	37,511	30,824	200,000-220,000
Slovakian	12,745	10,459	100,000-110,000
Croatian	17,577	13,570	80,000-90,000
Romanian	8,730	10,740	25,000
Polish	3,788	no data	10,000
Serbian	2,953	2,905	5,000-10,000
Slovenian	2,627	1,930	5,000
Bulgarian	1,370	no data	3,000-3,500
Greek	1,640	no data	4,000-4,500
Armenian	37	no data	3,500-10,000
Ukrainian	674	no data	2000
Ruthenian			6000
Total:			835,000 - 1,083,955

Following complaints by minority organisations and the Hungarian minority self-governments (\Rightarrow 3.3.2.) efforts were made to reduce the gap between census data and estimates at the time of the 2001 census. To achieve this goal the national self-governments of the minorities were involved in the preparation of the census. As a result of various consultation rounds the 2001 census form contained four questions (as opposed to only two in 1990) that specifically asked information about identity, mother tongue, cultural ties and language use in the family and with friends. Several answers could be given in view of the potentially existing multiple ties. Official results of the 2001 census are not yet available. The data used further on in this report are unofficial summary data provided by the [Central Statistical Office](#) and the [Office for National and Ethnic Minorities](#).

- 2.1 At the time of the 2001 census the total population of Hungary was 10,198,000. Most of the people declared to be of Hungarian nationality. The number of people belonging to the 13 officially recognised national minorities in Hungary (\Rightarrow 3.3. on the definition of nationality) is listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Results of the 2001 Census

minority group	mother tongue speakers			minority membership			use of minority culture and traditions	number of those using language with friends
	1990	2001	change %	1990	2001	change %		
	Number							
	1990	2001	change %	1990	2001	change %	2001	2001
Bulgarian	1,370	1,299	-5.2	...	1,358	...	1,693	1,118
Roma	48,072	48,685	1.3	142,683	190,046	33.2	129,259	53,323
Greek	1,640	1,921	17.1	...	2,509	...	6,140	1,974
Croatian	17,577	14,345	-18.4	13,570	15,620	15.1	19,715	14,788
Polish	3,788	2,580	-31.9	...	2,962	...	3,983	2,659
German	37,511	33,792	-9.9	30,824	62,233	101.9	88,416	53,040
Armenian	37	294	694.6	...	620	...	836	300
Romanian	8,730	8,482	-2.8	10,740	7,995	-25.6	9,162	8,215
Serbian	2,953	3,388	14.7	2,905	3,816	31.4	5,279	4,186

Slovak	12,745	11,816	-7.3	10,459	17,692	69.2	26,631	18,056
Slovenian	2,627	3,187	21.3	1,930	3,040	57.5	3,442	3,119
Ruthenian	674	1,113	1,098	...	1,292	1,068
Ukrainian		4,885	5,070	...	4,779	4,519
Total	137,724	135,787	-1.4	213,111	314,059		300,627	166,365
Budapest		16,061			29,884		35,372	21,958
Countryside		53,973			115,262		115,520	66,920
Villages		65,754			168,914		149,735	77,488

Based on data of the Central Office of Statistics

Compiled by the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities

As Table 2 shows 314,059 people or roughly 3% of the total population declared themselves as belonging to one of the 13 national minorities in Hungary in 2001.

- 2.2 Hungarian citizenship is inherited by birth (*ius sanguis*), thus the children of Hungarian citizens are generally also eligible to become Hungarian citizens. People born prior to 1957 could only inherit Hungarian citizenship from their father, but those born after 1957 can inherit it from either parent. The assessment of the citizenship can be very complicated due to the historical changes of borders and citizenships in Central Europe and so this work is done exclusively by the Citizenship Department of the Ministry of the Interior in Budapest.
- 2.3 Judging from the data in Table 2, less than half of the people who declared themselves as belonging to one of the 13 national minorities declare the language corresponding to that minority to be their mother tongue. In the case of the Roma, Greeks, Croats, Poles, Germans, Armenians, Serbs and Slovaks the number of people using the minority language with friends exceeds those who declared that language to be their mother tongue. The results from the Bulgarians, Romanians, Slovenes, Ruthenians and Ukrainians show exactly the opposite.

3. Language policy

- 3.1 Hungary has no law stating that Hungarian is the official language. Everyone is free to use his native language. Act XX of the 1949 [Constitution](#) [*alkotmány*] of the Hungarian People's Republic already made discrimination according to sex, or nationality punishable by law and guaranteed all citizens equal opportunity of education in their mother tongue and the use and practice of their national culture. Art. 68,2 of the amended Constitution of 1989 of the Hungarian Republic declares that the national and language minorities are under the protection of the Hungarian Republic. They are entitled to full political participation, to practice their own culture, to use their mother-tongue, to receive education in their mother-tongue, and to use personal names in their language. The 1993 [Minorities Act](#) [*kisebbségi törvény*] (\Rightarrow 3.2. and 3.3.) provides individual and collective rights for the national minorities, pertaining to personal autonomy and the creation of self-governments. The fact that the Hungarian government is vitally interested in fostering language maintenance among Hungary's national minorities also reflects Hungary's deep concern for the right of Hungarian minorities in neighbouring countries.
- 3.2 Hungary started preparing for the self-administration of national minorities in the early 1990s. With Government Decree 34/1990 (VIII. 30.) the Hungarian government established the [National and Ethnic Minorities Office](#) [*Nemzeti és Etnikai Kisebbségi Hivatal*]. As an independent government organisation operating under the supervision of the Minister of Justice the Minorities Office is

in charge of preparing the Government's minorities policy decisions and of developing its minorities policy programme. The Minorities Office assists in developing the government programme for implementing the Minorities Act and maintains continuous relations with the [Minorities Ombudsman](#) [kisebbségi szószóló]. These two essential features of minority policy in Hungary (the Minorities Act and the Minorities Ombudsman) are discussed in more detail below.

- 3.3 Act LXXVII on the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities [*nemzeti és etnikai kisebbségi jogok*] (also referred to as the Minorities Act) was passed in 1993. Subsection (2) of Section 1 of the Minorities Act practically adopted the so-called Capotorti definition of national and ethnic minorities. According to this definition, national and ethnic minorities are all groups of people that have lived in Hungary for at least one century; they represent a numerical minority in the country's population; their members are Hungarian citizens; they are distinguished from the rest of the population by their own languages, cultures, and traditions; they demonstrate a commitment to the importance of preserving all of these and expressing and protecting the interests of their historical communities. The groups that, according to the regulations of the Minorities Act, are considered national groups are, in alphabetical order, Armenians, Bulgarians, Croats, Germans, Greeks, Roma, Poles, Romanians, Ruthenians, Serbs, Slovaks, Slovenes, and Ukrainians. If any other minority wants to prove that it fulfils the conditions that are stipulated in the Minorities Act, at least 1,000 voting citizens who declare themselves to be members of this minority can submit their initiative to the Speaker of Parliament. No such initiatives have been made since 1993.
- 3.4 According to the Minorities Act minority languages may be used by anybody anytime anywhere. Members of Parliament have the right to use their language in Parliament. Local governments must write their decrees and announcements in the minority language. In addition to Hungarian, forms and documents used must be made available in the minority language, and place names and public signs can also be used in the minority's mother tongue. Personal names of individuals may be used in documents in non-Roman script, but in such cases Hungarian must be used side by side with the minority language. Minority groups have the right to create their own schools using the minority language as the medium of instruction, or it plus Hungarian.
- 3.5 The Minorities Act gives the 13 national minorities the right to establish self-governing bodies. Minority self-governing bodies are elected bodies that represent the interests of national or ethnic minorities at local or national level. The current number of local self-governments is listed in Table 3. The national minority self-governments represent the minorities at the national level. National minority self-governments are formed on the basis of electoral assemblies following the formation of local self-governments. In total there are 13 national self-governments (one for each recognised national minority). As partners in legislation and state administration they can give their views on planned legal regulations concerning their minorities and they can monitor minority education. The legal framework for electing minority self-government representatives was stipulated in the course of amending Act LXIV on the Election of Local Government Representatives and Mayors of 1990. There are some state-acknowledged problems related to the electoral mechanism of self-governments. One is the so-called 'cuckoo phenomenon', meaning that in some cases persons who do not belong to an actual minority and do not possess any knowledge of the minority language still manage to be elected into the self-government of the given group. Another problem arises in the attempt to provide the minority groups with parliamentary representation. The minorities do not have a guaranteed representation in the Hungarian parliament. Currently an amendment to the Minorities Act is under discussion. A

primary objective of the amendment is the further development of the system of minority self-governments. The amendment aims to encourage self-governments to take over minority institutions and to provide the framework of state guarantees necessary for the transfer.

Table 3: Minority Self-Governments per County in January 2004

	Bulgarian	Roma	Greek	Croatian	Polish	German	Armenian	Romanian	Ruthenian	Serbian	Slovakian	Slovenian	Ukrainian	Total
Budapest	21	22	19	18	15	23	16	18	15	16	14	2	4	203
Főváros	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	11
Bács-Kiskun		33		11		23				3	3			73
Baranya	1	110	1	31	1	85			1	4			2	236
Békés		25			1	8		12		1	17			64
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	2	149	1	2	12	9	3		9		17	1	1	206
Csongrád		15	1	1	1	2	1	5		4	3		1	34
Fejér		19	1	2	3	16	1			3	2	1		48
Győr-Moson-Sopron	1	17	1	8	1	11	1					1		41
Hajdú-Bihar	1	44					1	9		1				56
Heves		58	1		1	1					2			63
Jász-Nagykun Szolnok		39			1									40
Komárom-Esztergom		13	1		3	20	1				9		1	48
Nógrád		59				2					20			81
Pest	3	69	3	4	4	37	2		5	10	24		1	162
Somogy		59		6	1	5	1							72
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg		106			2	7	1		1		1		1	119
Tolna		40	1	1		34				1	1			78
Vas		18		11		10						8		47
Veszprém	1	32		1	4	43	1				1		1	84
Zala		56		11		4	1							72
Total	31	984	31	108	51	341	31	44	32	44	115	13	13	1,838

Source: Office for National and Ethnic Minorities

- 3.6 Paragraph (2) of Article 32/B of the Constitution created the post of Parliamentary Commissioner for National and Ethnic Minority Rights [*nemzeti és etnikai kisebbségi jogok országgyűlési szószólója*]. This commissioner, often referred to as the Minorities Ombudsman, investigates any kind of abuse that comes to his attention and initiates measures in order to remedy them. Act LXXX of 1993 on Parliamentary Guarantee of Civil Rights [*emberi jogok országgyűlési biztosítása*] gives details on the tasks of the minorities ombudsman.
- 3.7 Apart from the Ombudsman several other legal protection institutions started to operate in the 1990s. These include, e.g., the National and Ethnic Minorities Legal Protection Office, the Office for Enforcing Roma Rights and Interests, the Conflict Prevention and Legal Protection Office of the Roma Parliament, and the Legal Protection Office of the Roma Civil Rights Foundation. These offices provide the people who contact them with legal counsel and representation. Institutions such as the Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary and the Public Foundation for the Hungarian Roma provide minority funding. Minority cultural programmes are financed by the Ministry of National Cultural Heritage [*Nemzeti Kulturális Örökség Minisztériuma*]. To highlight the importance of language minorities, to attract public attention and develop and maintain a minority-friendly social atmosphere the Hungarian Government declared December 18, the day in 1995 on which the General Assembly adopted the *UN Statement on the Rights of People of National, Ethnic, Religious, and Language Minorities*, as Minorities Day. As one of the important events on Minorities Day, the Minorities Prize, is awarded every year

- 3.8 Significant regulations for minorities in Hungary can also be found in Act CXL of 1997 on the Protection of Cultural Goods, Museum Institutions, the Supply of Public Libraries, and Public Education (often referred to as the Act on Culture). The Act on Culture emphasises the need for the preservation and maintenance of the minority cultural heritage, among others through a network of minority central libraries. The Ministerial Decree on the Organisation and Operation of the Library Network states that minority central libraries must include children's books, fiction, technical literature and periodicals, as well as library documents prepared by any technical process in the native language of the given minority. The National Library of Foreign Literature in Budapest, county libraries, local and school libraries function as minority central libraries.
- 3.9 The Minorities Act (\Rightarrow 3.2.) makes provisions for the languages of recognised minorities in education. Art. 43 of the Act states that children belonging to a minority have the opportunity to be educated in their mother tongue or 'bilingually', i.e. in their mother tongue. The education of minorities in their mother tongue or 'bilingually' may be provided in minority kindergartens, schools, or in classes or groups within schools, according to local possibilities and demands. It is compulsory to establish a minority class or group at the request of the parents or legal representatives of eight students belonging to the same minority group. Art. 50 of the Minorities Act guarantees the compilation of textbooks and the provision of equipment necessary for minority education. According to Art. 46 of the Minorities Act it is the duty of the state to train native teachers to provide education in the mother tongue or 'bilingually' to minorities. Teacher and student exchange is encouraged through various international agreements. All teachers in minority education are obliged to take professional development courses every seven years.
- 3.10 The most fundamental measures necessary for creating consistency with the Minorities Act were taken with the enactment of Act LXXIX of 1993 On Public Education [*Oktatási törvény*] and its amendments in 1996, 1999 and 2003. The Government issued the National Core Curriculum [*Nemzeti Alaptanterv*] with Government Decree 130/1995 (X. 26.) in order to modernise the public education system. This Curriculum was introduced in 1998. In conjunction with the changes in the structure of general education, the government also considered the reform of minority education timely and necessary. The Ministry of Culture and Education issued Decree No. 32/1997 (XI. 5.) on "Guidelines for Pre-School Instruction and School Education of National and Ethnic Minorities" and "Guidelines for Academic Education of National and Ethnic Minorities".
- 3.11 In addition to the above mentioned Act on Public Education the legal framework of pre-school education is defined by Government Decree No. 137/1996 (VIII. 28.) on Issuing the National Master Programme for Pre-School Instruction, and by Decree No. 32/1997 (XI. 5.) on "Guidelines for Pre-School Instruction and School Education of National and Ethnic Minorities". According to the guidelines of Decree No. 32/1997 (XI. 5.) there are three types of minority pre-school education. In the *first type*, i.e. native language pre-schools, all pre-school life is organised in the minority language but children are provided the opportunity to become familiar with the Hungarian language, culture and musical tradition. In the *second type*, i.e. bilingual pre-schools providing minority instruction, both languages, i.e. the minority language and Hungarian, are used in pre-school activities. The ratio of the use of the two languages should be determined in the instruction programme based on the linguistic knowledge of the children at the beginning of the pre-school period. The *third type* involves pre-schools providing Roma cultural instruction (\Rightarrow Romani in Hungary for more details) that may be conducted either in the minority

language, bilingually or in the Hungarian language within the framework of Roma cultural instruction. In the year 2000, about 20,000 children attended pre-primary educational institutions educating in national languages. They made up 5.4% of children attending pre-primary educational institutions. The following table, provided by the Ministry of Education, shows the number of pre-schools providing minority instruction in the school year 1999/2000 and the number of children receiving minority instruction in pre-schools in the same year:

Table 4: Minority Pre-School Instruction in 1999/2000

	pre-primary schools	children in minority pre-primary schools	children in bilingual pre-primary schools	Total
German	263	1,488	12,653	14,141
Slovakian	73	103	2,947	3,050
Croatian	37	253	1,135	1,388
Romanian	14	130	417	547
Serbian	9	87	94	181
Slovenian	5	0	112	112
Total	401	2,061	17,358	19,419

Source: Ministry of Education

- 3.12 As explained in the Second Periodical Report of the Government of the Republic of Hungary on the Implementation of its Commitments Assumed by Ratifying the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe, published in 2004, minority primary education may be organised according to the following types. In the *first type* (native language education) the minority language is used for all subjects with the exception of Hungarian Language and Literature. The *second type* (dual language minority education) provides school instruction in two languages. Subjects other than the minority language are also taught in the minority language. At least 50% of the weekly obligatory classes shall be in the minority language. The *third type* (language teaching education) takes place in Hungarian, but the minority language is studied by the pupils in the frame of a minimum of four classes per week (five classes in the case of German). There are only few schools with native language education (*first type*) in Hungary. It is the third type that is prevalent in the Hungarian educational system. The reason for this is that, for demographic reasons and due to the advanced stages of linguistic assimilation, children entering school hardly know their minority language. Table 5 below lists the number of schools, teachers and pupils involved in minority primary education in Hungary in the school year 1999-2000.

Table 5: Minority Primary Education in 1999-2000

	German	Romanian	Serbian	Croatian	Slovak	Slovenian	Greek	Other	Total
<i>Number of schools</i> ¹⁾	284	14	11	34	59	4	2	5	395
<i>Number of teachers</i>	1,130	67	20	88	136	10	3	7	1,461
<i>Number of language groups</i>	3,197	97	32	211	364	20	9	11	3,941
<i>Number of pupils</i>	46,254	1,198	275	2,526	4,424	116	83	137	55,013
<i>% of the total number of pupils</i>	4.8	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7
<i>Pupils in native language education</i>	758	427	164	319	92	-	-	-	1,760
<i>Pupils in dual-language education</i>	4,911	188	-	-	658	22	-	-	5,779
<i>Pupils studying the language</i>	40,585	583	111	2,207	3,674	94	83	137	47,474

1) Schools may have pupils belonging to several different minorities.

Source: Ministry of Education

- 3.13 The second periodical report on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages does not mention two forms of minority education that are listed in Decree No. 32/1997 (XI. 5.) issuing “Guidelines on Pre-School Instruction and School Education of National and Ethnic Minorities” and the “Guidelines on Academic Education of National and Ethnic Minorities”. The *fourth type* mentioned in this decree (academic improvement education for the Roma minority) ensures familiarization with Roma cultural values and the teaching of information on the history, literature, arts, music, dance culture and traditions of the Roma minority. Instruction in the Roma language is a non-obligatory element of this programme, but depending on the needs of the parents, it ensures instruction of the Romani variety spoken by the parents (\Rightarrow Romani in Hungary for more details). The *fifth type* (intercultural education) can be organised by schools implementing any of the former four types for those pupils who do not take part in minority education in the school in question. The goal of this form of education is to teach pupils about the culture of the particular minority within the framework of non-required class hours. No data could be obtained on these forms of education.
- 3.14 The legal framework of secondary education is defined – in addition to the Act on Public Education – by Decree No. 32/1997 (XI.5.) on “Guidelines on Pre-School Instruction and School Education of National and Ethnic Minorities”. Access regulations relating to minority secondary education are contained in Decree No. 24/1997 (VI. 5) of the Minister of Culture and Public Education on Regulations for Basic Education Examinations, and Government Decree No. 100/1997 (VI.13.) on the Regulations for the Secondary School Final Examinations, which together define the requirements of organisation and contents of minority secondary school final examinations. The detailed requirements of the final examination in the subjects of minority languages, knowledge of minority literature and minority nationality studies are presently being worked out. Table 6 shows the number of students in secondary schools offering education in a minority language or courses on a minority language in the academic year 1999-2000.

Table 6: Minority Secondary Schools in 1999-2000.

	Number of institutions		Number of students in secondary grammar-schools		Number of students in specialized secondary schools		Total
	minority language, bilingual	lang. instr.	minority language, bilingual	language instr.	minority language, bilingual	language instr.	
German	4	9	1,007	692	122	157	1,978
Slovakian	2		105		13		118
Croatian	2		219				219
Romanian	1	2	129	128			257
Serbian	1		126				126
Slovenian		1		9			9
Roma		1		118			118
Total	10	13	1,586	947	135	157	2,825

Source: Ministry of Education

- 3.15 Although the Public Education Act allows all of them to choose any form of education the Bulgarian, Greek, Polish, Ruthenian and Ukrainian communities have no minority schools. They develop their native language skills mostly in so-called ‘Sunday schools’, i.e. within the framework of an activity beyond the system of public education. For these communities that are characterised by the low number and wide scattering of their members, the organisation of education

mainly started subsequent to the adoption of the Minorities Act. The amended Public Education Act (Subsection (5) of Section 86) provides them with the opportunity of organising a new form of education: the *supplementary minority education* that provides the organisation of education within the school system for those minorities that have no schools of their own.

- 3.16 Following the Minorities Act (Art. 18), minorities have the right to initiate the establishment of higher education in their own language. The Act also states that it is the State's responsibility to provide training of language teachers for the instruction of minorities. In Hungarian higher education, nursery-school pedagogues, teachers instructing minority language and literature and minority teachers are trained (\Rightarrow language reports on teacher training institutions). There are special minority language and literature departments in institutions of higher education. In most minority departments, a lecturer from the minority's 'country of origin' who is made available by a bilateral international treaty assists instruction. The qualification requirements for certain basic degrees in faculties of arts and letters and social sciences, including the training requirements of minority studies at college or universities, are published in accordance with the provisions of the Act on Higher Education (Government Decree No. 129/2001 (VII. 13)). The Decree is meant to ensure the equivalence of certificates received abroad and in Hungary.

Table 7: Minority Languages in Higher Education in 1999-2000

Language of national group	Number of students in the academic year 1999/2000
Croatian	93
German	(4,746)*
Romanian	102
Serbian	66
Slovakian	228
Slovenian	6

Source: Ministry of Education

*The number in parentheses includes the number of students studying German as a foreign language (in German departments, language teacher training for students with a German major), in addition to students belonging to the German minority.

On the basis of bilateral agreements several minorities have the opportunity to apply for scholarships to take part in courses in their mother country on a full-time or part-time basis. In the case of certain minorities (Slovak, Serb, Croatian, Romanian) they may even receive scholarships from the mother country.

- 3.17 In the last years several minority research institutes have been set up by minorities to study their native traditions, past and present (\Rightarrow language reports for more details). The Department for Non-Hungarian Nationalities of the Hungarian Ethnographic Society operates parallel to these institutes, conducts research to explore the ethnographic values of minority cultures, and regularly publishes its findings. The UNESCO Minority Sociology Department within the Sociology Institute of ELTE University in Budapest primarily researches Roma society. The Office for National and Ethnic minorities in Budapest provides minority specific information.
- 3.18 Hungarian law guarantees minorities access to the media. The Minorities Act provides legislation requiring public television and radio stations to ensure that national and ethnic minority programmes are produced and broadcast on a regular basis. Act I of 1996 on *Radio and Television Broadcasting* (often referred to as the *Media Act*) made the preparation of programmes dealing with the culture and lives of minorities a compulsory responsibility of the public service media. The same act

also authorizes the national minority self-governments to delegate a member to one of the boards of the foundations overseeing public broadcasting in Hungary, such as the Public Foundations for Hungarian Radio and Television.

- 3.19 On Hungarian public radio there currently are native-language radio programmes for all national and ethnic minorities. The average broadcasting time of minority programmes in the Hungarian public radio presently exceeds 10 hours a day. Members of the minority national self-governments have the right to decide independently how they will use this time. The producers of the minority programmes are located in three cities in the country: Pécs (Croatian, German) Szeged (Romanian, Slovak, Serb) and Szombathely (Slovenian). The programmes of the Bulgarian, Greek, Polish, Armenian, Ruthenian and Ukrainian minorities are produced in Budapest. Minority programmes of national coverage are broadcast in the evening hours, between 6:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Minority broadcasts can be received on the short and medium wave frequencies of the public regional radio stations. Regional minority programmes are broadcast in the morning as well as in the afternoon (⇒ Table 8 and language reports for details on the minority radio programmes). With a view to acquaint the majority society with the history, culture and traditions of the minorities, the public service Hungarian Radio launched a 55-minute programme entitled '*Egy hazában*' ('in one homeland'). This programme in Hungarian provides information to the listeners about the life, culture and history of the minorities living in Hungary. Furthermore public service radio transmits a 3-hour programme on minorities every three months, with contributions from the local stations. In order to introduce minority culture, the public-service broadcast two radio programmes a month in 2003 within its very popular programme '*Jó éjszakát gyerekek!*' (Good night, children) in Hungarian from the collection of fairy tales of the following minorities: Bulgarian, Roma, Greek, Polish, German, Armenian, Romanian, Slovakian and Ukrainian. Croatian, Ruthenian, Serbian and Slovenian fairy tales will be broadcast in 2004. Besides Hungarian national radio also the Catholic radio and a number of private radio stations broadcast in minority languages.
- 3.20 Public-service television broadcasts weekly nation-wide for the Croatian, German, Romanian, Slovak and Serbian minorities, and also broadcasts nation-wide for the Slovenian minority every second week. The programmes are produced in the same places as the radio programmes (⇒ 3.8.1). The Bulgarian, Greek, Polish, Armenian, Ruthenian and Ukrainian minorities share the programme time of the biweekly magazine '*Rondó*'. '*Rondó*', along with the *Roma magazine* that is broadcast once a week and the Cigany Forum that is broadcast four times a year are all edited in Budapest. The broadcasting time of weekly or biweekly programmes is 26 minutes each (⇒ Table 8 for more details). The broadcasting of minority programmes takes place between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. on workdays on Channel 1 of the Hungarian Television. The programmes are repeated on Saturdays in the morning on satellite Channel 2. In the opinion of the minority leaders, this broadcasting time does not allow easy access to these programmes.

Table 8: Minority Broadcasting

	Television	Radio
Croatian	26 min./week (repeated)	90 min./day, regional 30 min./day, country-wide
German	26 min./week (repeated)	idem
Romanian	26 min./week (repeated)	idem
Serbian	26 min./week (repeated)	30 min./day + 50 min./4 times a week, regional 30 min./day, country-wide
Slovak	26 min./week (repeated)	120 min./day, regional

Slovenian	26 min./twice per month (repeated)	30 min./day, country wide 30 min./week, regional 30 min./week, country-wide
Roma	26 min./week (repeated) and 4 times/year 52 min. for the programme 'Cigany Forum'	30 min./6 times a week, country wide
Armenian	'Rondo' (shared programme for six minority groups: Armenian, Bulgarian, Greek, Polish, Ruthenian and Ukrainian), 52 min./ twice a month (26 min. repeated)	30 min./week, country-wide
Bulgarian	'Rondo'	30 min./week, country-wide
Greek	'Rondo'	30 min./week, country-wide
Polish	'Rondo'	30 min./week, country-wide
Ruthenian	'Rondo'	30 min./week, country-wide
Ukrainian	'Rondo'	30 min./week, country-wide
Multiethnic (programme about minorities intended for a majority audience)	'Együtt' (Together); 52 min./twice a month (26 min. repeated)	'Egy hazaban' (in one homeland); 30 min./week (one week every month the programme lasts 180 min.)

Source: Gosselin 2003

Hungarian Television broadcasts the programme called '*Együtt*' (Together), a documentary workshop, every second week, for 52 or 26 minutes. This programme intends to disseminate information on the situation of minorities in Hungary to a wide audience. The MTV Religious Editors (MTV = *Magyar Televízió*) regularly broadcast masses in the native languages of minorities for the Roma, German, Slovak, and Croatian minority groups. The series has continued in 2004 by also broadcasting masses in Romanian and Serbian. And in general, public service television's news programmes report minority affairs in brief.

- 3.21 As is the case for radio and television the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities and the Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities also finances some minority printed media. Each of Hungary's minorities has at least one publication supported by public funds (\Rightarrow language country reports for more details).
- 3.22 Most Hungarian minority members live in small settlements and little villages and have not had many opportunities to have access to the 'outer world'. In order to facilitate the information and communication work of the minority self-governments in native languages, the relevant Ministry provided subsidies in 2003 through tenders whereby almost two-thirds of the local minority self-governments (i.e. 1,005 self-governments) received IT devices. Internet connections are generally provided in the community houses (www.telehaz.hu). As a first step, the minority printed news appeared on the Internet. Thanks to the Internet, the printed news of minorities can be read on the World Wide Web sometimes earlier than in printed form. Hungarian Radio opened a minority page on its Internet website where the advance information and contents of minority programmes and the reports on major minority events are available. Among the national minority self-governments, the Bulgarian, Greek, Croatian, German, Slovakian, Slovenian, and Ukrainian self-governments have launched their own websites. Armenians, Romanians, and Poles are represented through their national organisations or organisations in Budapest or in the provinces and have their own website on the Internet. Minorities have started developing their own homepages and use one of the following three forms: (1) some pages are published in trilingual versions, i.e. in addition to the minority language, in Hungarian and English, (2) some publish information in the minority language and in Hungarian, and (3) others only use the minority language. About 20% of the websites created by minority communities and institutions are published in Hungarian only. The other 80% of them are published in the minority language as well as in Hungarian. Only very few sites use

any of the Roma dialects. Most of the Roma-related websites disclose information in English and, occasionally, in Ruthenian and Slovakian. Ukrainian websites are also sometimes published in English, too. At the end of 2003, 81 internet websites concerning Hungarian minorities were operated by the minorities themselves (⇒ language reports for more details). Presently there are more than 100 minority websites on the Internet which deal with more than one Hungarian nationality. Among websites introducing minority-related issues, *Etnonet*, a minority Internet newspaper operating independently, deserves special mention. The Ministry of Information and Communication supports the project 'Digital Secondary School' aimed at assisting those pupils who have failed to complete their traditional secondary education to obtain their secondary school certificate.

- 3.23 In 2003 Act I of 2002, referred to as the New Act on Criminal Procedure entered into force (replacing Act XIX of 1998 on Criminal Procedure). Section 9 of the New Act directly refers to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and allows everyone to use their native language in criminal proceedings in speech and in writing. The New Act on Criminal Procedure modified the provisions relating to interpretation. Now the use of interpreters is mandatory where regional or minority languages are used. The cost of translation and interpretation are borne by the State (Section 339 subsection 2). Civil proceedings are regulated by Act CX of 1999. The law states that the official language of proceedings is Hungarian. Courts shall, however, allow the use of the native minority language before the court. According to the ECMRL report of 2004 neither the Minorities Ombudsman nor the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities have received complaints with regard to the exercise of minority language rights during the past years.
- 3.24 According to the provisions of the Minorities Act, local governments shall provide signs with the name of the settlement, streets, public offices, and public authorities in the mother tongue of the minority (in addition to the Hungarian wording and name variant, with identical contents and form), whenever it is requested by the local minority self-government operating in their district of competency. Following Art. 53 of the Minorities Act the municipal government must ensure that the forms used in the course of administrative procedures are also available in the minority language. The municipal government must also ensure that the announcement of its regulations and the publication of its announcements are made in the language of the minority as well as in Hungarian. To ensure the usage of the minority language in public life the local government has to publish its decrees, its decisions affecting the life of minorities, and the minutes of its sessions in the language of the local minority (ies). Often, the documents are made public either by broadcasting them on local cable television, or by publishing them in a local newspaper. A problem related to the use of minority languages in (local) administrations is the technical language training of public officials speaking a minority language. Some national minority self-governments started using glossaries that contain technical expressions used in public administration both in Hungarian and in the minority language. The Government supports the publication of such glossaries.
- 3.25 Act XCVI of 2001 on the Publication of Business Advertisements, Shop Signs and Certain Announcements of Public Interest in the Hungarian language stipulates that Hungarian must be used in all public service announcements, in all signs purporting economic advertisement, and in all signs indicating shops/businesses. There is only one exception to that general obligation: Article 6, subsection (4) of the Act says that "the requirements defined here will not prejudice the commercial advertisements and signs posted in the minority languages defined in Article 42 of Act LXXVII of 1993 on the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities, in settlements

where the minority using the language concerned has a minority self-government." No other regulations exist in Hungary relevant to the use of language of economic actors. People decide for themselves which language they wish to use in their activities and correspondence.

- 3.26 Hungary has sophisticated language minority legislation and an almost fully-fledged language policy. Nevertheless the legislation needs some fine-tuning (election system of self-governments) and there seems to be a rather large gap between theory (legislation) and praxis (the state the language minorities find themselves in and the way in which legal measures are put into practice). According to language minorities two main reasons for the existing gap between 'theory' and 'praxis' are (1) the slow pace with which state regulations are transformed into concrete measures on the local level (sometimes due to lack of awareness on behalf of the officials); and (2) the lack of funding of (potential) minority initiatives.

4. The European dimension

- 4.1. Hungary signed the European Charter for Minority or Regional languages on 5 November 1992. Ratification followed on 26 April 1995. The Charter entered into force on 1 March 1998 and, according to a declaration made by Hungary, applies to the Croatian, German, Romanian, Serbian, Slovak and Slovene languages. The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities was signed by Hungary on 1 February 1995. It was ratified on 25 September, 1995 and entered into force on 1 February, 1998.
- 4.2. Bilateral treaties with direct relevance to minorities include the Treaty on Good-neighbourly Relations and Friendly Co-operation between the Republic of Hungary and the Slovak Republic (19 March 1995); Treaty on the Bases of Good-neighbourliness and Co-operation between the Republic of Hungary and Ukraine (6 December 1991); Declaration on the Principles of Co-operation between the Republic of Hungary and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in Guaranteeing the Rights of National Minorities (31 May 1991); Treaty between the Republic of Hungary and Romania on Understanding, Co-operation and Good Neighbourliness (16 September 1996); Treaty between the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Croatia on Friendly Relations and Co-operation (16 December 1992); Convention between the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Croatia on the Protection of the Hungarian Minority in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Minority in the Republic of Hungary (5 April 1995); Treaty on Friendship and Co-operation between the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Slovenia (1 December 1992); Convention on Providing Special Rights for the Slovenian Minority Living in the Republic of Hungary and for the Hungarian Minority Living in the Republic of Slovenia (6 November 1992); Declaration on the Principles Guiding the Co-operation between the Republic of Hungary and the Russian Federation regarding the Guarantee of the Rights of National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (11 November 1992).