

**New School Year,
Old Problem**

**Lack of Textbooks for
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**Office for Human and
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Regionalism as a Good Mechanism for Protection of Minorities

Aida Ćorović

Centre for Migration Studies



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HIGHLIGHT

Amending the Law on National Councils



The Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government and the Office for cooperation with civil society are inviting the representatives of civil society organizations, whose goals are achieved in the field of protection and promotion of the rights and status of national minorities, to participate in the Working Group for the preparation of the Draft law on amendments to the Law on National Councils of National Minorities.

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Petty Politics and National Councils

National Councils of National Minorities are bodies of cultural autonomy of national minorities and, as such, are of paramount importance for the members of national minorities. Position in such a council is certainly an excellent source of authority in the community for each individual.

Such knowledge triggers the campaigns among the compatriots, promotes own ideas for the advancement of the status of certain national minorities and anticipates the election results which ensure legitimacy in the community.

Although legally it is not possible to achieve any significant financial gain by participating in the activities of the National Council, since the position in the National Council of National Minorities does not involve any significant financial compensation, the general opinion is that the members, especially the President of the National Council of National Minorities, in addition to a number of privileges, is entitled to a significant financial compensation, and it is this financial compensation that is taken as a source of motivation for carrying out such an important task.

Even if this were the case, it is a very inadequate source of motivation because it is not proportional to the importance of the function being performed. However, judging by the activities carried out by the councils from the last election until today, it cannot be said that the work of a member of the National Council of National Minorities was not a responsible one and that it did not require a substantial amount of time while the compensation was within the limits of an average salary of civil servants.

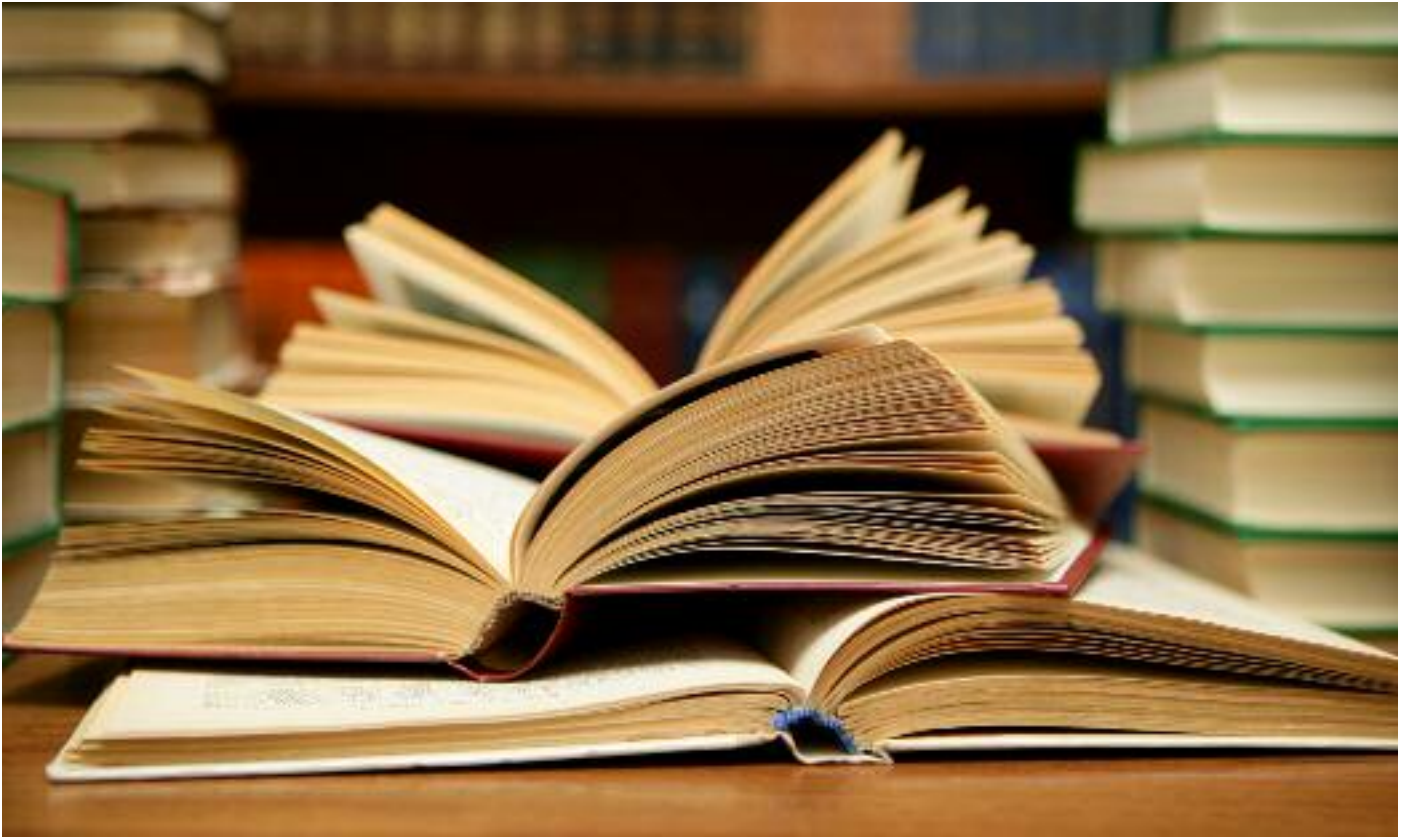
Although without any basis and apparently placed as a lie, information that members and the President of the National Council receive substantial financial compensation for the performance of their functions, produces a very bad effect and impairs the reputation of the function about which members of national minorities should be unified at a very high level, for it is this very unity and reputation of the National Council of National Minorities that the strength and power of an institution, whose main task is to safeguard cultural identity, depends on. Anything else is just petty politics.

30 different national minorities live in Serbia



and ONE newsletter for all

Lack of Textbooks for Minorities



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ational communities in Serbia have been faced with difficulty to purchase textbooks for years. National Councils in accordance with their abilities purchase books, but they do not have enough money.

In Subotica, in addition to classes in Serbian language, classes are also held in Hungarian and Croatian language. In addition, children also have the opportunity to study the subjects Bunjevac speech with elements of national culture as well as the Hungarian language, as the language of the community in classes where teaching is conducted in Serbian language.

Primary School "Matko Vuković" in Subotica is attended by 650 students, of which 120 of them are taught in the Croatian language, from the first to the eighth grade. In addition, children also learn the Hungarian language as the language of the community, while teaching in the Roma language has not been present for several years because of the lack of interest. The purchase of textbooks stands out as the main issue for this.

"We had some difficulties regarding the

minority languages, but this year all that is necessary for teaching the Croatian language has actually been translated, so that now we have the textbooks from the first to the eighth grade in the Croatian language fully covered", said the Acting Principal of the Primary School "Matko Vuković", Mirjana Stevanović.

In Vojvodina, this year nearly 1600 first graders who attend classes in the Hungarian language have enrolled. The Hungarian National Council told us that they also face the problem of the lack of textbooks for secondary schools, especially vocational subjects, and that the exact number of students in primary and secondary schools will be known next week.

The situation is similar in teaching the Croatian language in Subotica, which has been present for 14 years, while the Bunjevac speech with elements of national culture, children have been learning

in the last ten years.

"I teach Hungarian language as optional for children who have expressed a desire to learn it. Unfortunately we lack textbooks. I have some older textbooks, but mostly I prepare the material myself", explains Beata Vujković Lamić, teacher of the Hungarian language as the non-mother tongue.

Ana Čavrgov, teacher of Croatian class explains that the HNV in cooperation with the Ministry used to purchase textbooks from Croatia, which were not fully adequate, but they have used them.

"In the past few years we have been using one textbook and one grammar book from the first to the fourth grade. It would be good to have separate textbooks for each grade", said Nevenka Dulić, teacher of Bunjevac speech.

Bojan Vidaković is a fourth grade student and loves to learn Bunjevac speech. He and his friends believe that they should learn as many languages as they can, because it enriches them. The problems are the quality and availability of textbooks, as well as the price.

Amending the Law on National Councils of National Minorities

The Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government and the Office for cooperation with civil society are inviting the representatives of civil society organizations, whose goals are achieved in the field of protection and promotion of the rights and status of national minorities, to participate in the Working Group for the preparation of the Draft law on amendments to the Law on National Councils of National Minorities.

The Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government shall approach in the forthcoming period the preparation of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on National Councils of National Minorities. Amendments to this law are foreseen as an activity in the Draft Action Plan for Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamen-

tal Rights), to improve the rights and status of the members of national minorities. For this purpose, a Special Working Group for preparation of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on National Councils of National Minorities shall be formed, whose work will include the representatives of relevant state organs, national coun-



Канцеларија за сарадњу
са цивилним друштвом

cils of national minorities, civil society organizations and the professional public.

Interested parties should submit their applications for participation via the following

email address - vladimir.pasajlic@civilnodrustvo.gov.rs, no later than Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 15.00 hours (full name, name of the organization, phone number and email address).

BOSNIAK COMMUNITY

Regionalism as a Good Mechanism for Protection of Minority Nations

Vice-Presidents of the Bosniak National Council, Vasvija Gusinac and Muhedin Fijuljanin, participated in the presentation of Principles of integration policy of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia, held in Belgrade, organized by the Forum for Ethnic Relations.

Participating in the discussion, they pointed out the number of problems with which the Bosniak national community is faced in exercising their rights, pointing to directions and modalities of their solution.

In particular, they stressed the need to change the existing legislative framework, refine the status of national councils and establish adequate protection mechanisms, as well as clear criminal sanctions for violators of the law with regard to minority rights.

As one of the modalities for the estab-

lishment of minority self-government, Vice-Presidents of BNV, Vasvija Gusinac and Muhedin Fijuljanin, emphasized decentralization of power through the establishment of the so-called middle, regional level.

Speaking on the issue of integration, they pointed to the danger of assimilation of minorities, saying that when it comes to the Bosniak people, there are a lot of unresolved issues from the past, and that it is necessary to implement adequate lustration in this regard. Glossa: As one of the modalities for the establishment of minority self-govern-

ment, Vice-Presidents of BNV, Vasvija Gusinac and Muhedin Fijuljanin, emphasized decentralization of power through the establishment of the so-called middle, regional level.



Paunović Denies Šajn's Accusations

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irector of the Office for Human and Minority Rights, Suzana Paunović, denied the President of the National Council of the Roma national minority, Srđan Šajn, who accused her and the recent President of the council, Vitomir Mihajlović, of corruption.



"Suzana Paunović, Vitomir Mihajlović and Slavko Jovanović (President of the Executive Committee of the Roma Council) promised money from the budget of Serbia in the amount from 200,000 to one million dinars to each member of the National Council of the Roma national minority if at the next session they support the election of Vitomir Mihajlović as the new President of the Council", it was said in a statement made by Šajn.

Director of the Office for Human and Minority Rights, in a statement for Beta agency responded that there it is not possible that the office is using budget funds to pay individuals.

Paunović also noted that an independent auditor has been engaged, who shall control and guarantee the legality of spending the funds.

"The budget money is transferred every month to all national councils, including the Roma", said Paunović.

Šajn has called investigative and judicial authorities to act in accordance with the powers and initiate procedures for establishing the criminal liability of Suzana Paunović, Slavko Jovanović and Vitomir Mihajlović in the use of budget funds of the Office for Human and Minority Rights of Serbia and the National Council of the Roma national minority.

"As a sign of protest to all the pressures exerted on members of the National Council of the Roma national minority, the current majority of the Council has scheduled protests before the Government of Serbia and on the road to the border crossings into the EU with the slogan -Justice or Asylum", it is said in the statement

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It is added that the "current majority" requests from the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government to record, in accordance with the law, that the new leadership of the council was elected and to "show that the state is stronger than individuals and that the fight against corruption is equal for all". The Roma Party, led by Srđan Šajn, said in September that at the session of the National Council of the Roma national minority, held in Leskovac, the President of the Council, Vitomir Mihajlović, was dismissed with two thirds of votes.

As previously announced, Šajn was elected for the new President.

As noted, Slavko Jovanović, the former President of the Executive Committee of the Council, was dismissed and in his place Dragoljub Acković was appointed. In the public, both Šajn and Mihajlović state that they are the presidents of the council.



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Ćorović: Status of Minorities Better, Lacking Legislative Framework

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tatus of minorities in Serbia is now much better than it was in previous decades, and if compared to the time when Slobodan Milošević was in power, the situation is incomparable, said the Human rights activist and a female MP in the Serbian parliament, Aida Ćorović.

In an interview for "European Western Balkans" (EWB), Ćorović said that there are things that still need work, and cited as an example the need for the state to urgently improve the legislative framework, because, at this moment, she says, it is not satisfactory.

"I will allow myself to give one, perhaps, rough formulation and say that minorities live in a kind of schizophrenia because Serbia has the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, which regulates the functioning of National Councils as the mechanisms for minority governments, but there is no law that regulates the status, position and everything else regarding minorities", said Ćorović.

Interestingly, she says, that if you ask the politicians in the ruling coalition and also the politicians who represent the minority, you will hear praises about the state of minority rights in Serbia.

"But if you ask the citizens belonging to national minorities, you will hear the opposite", said Ćorović. She believes that there is a gap between what the laws and documents represent and what, as she says, the reality is.

Also, she added, there is a certain gap between what the laws say and what the practice of certain rights

shows, and in some areas we still have insufficient or inconsistent exercise of rights, for example, in the field of education in mother tongue.

"I myself, as an activist who for many years has been dealing with the rights of minorities, mind the way we have treated minority rights thus far and their realization in everyday life. The current practice, including the National Councils of National Minorities have done more to reach the ghettoization of minorities, than their integration into the Serbian society", said Ćorović.

Minorities, she said, mainly frantically fight for their rights and have no contacts with other minority groups, which indicates the existence of competition and some kind of egocentrism compared to the others.

The second striking feature, which is inherent to efforts for the fulfilment of minority rights, she says, is the total and the astonishing lack of interaction with the people in the majority.

"This is why we have a generation of young people from ethnic minorities who feel that Serbia is not their homeland, who do not know the young Serbs, who do not understand the young Serbs. The same is true the other way around – young Serbs do not know anything about their neighbours, Bosniaks,



Albanians, Hungarians, Roma, there is a high degree of social distance among the youth", said Ćorović noting that, as she said, unfortunately, numerous studies show that social distance among young people is still surprisingly high.

All this, she believes, indicates that the policies dealing with the integration of minorities, minority governments and, in general, minority rights are failing the test.

"Therefore we have an outdated educational system, which is responsible for keeping the old matrix, full of hate speech and nationalist platitudes, which are still finding their way through a number of lessons and subjects poisoning the young people", said Ćorović.

Besides education, she says that she also sees a great responsibility of the media for not having a sufficiently good attitude towards the minorities, because for years our public has been exclusively bombarded with inter-ethnic tensions, conflicts and problems, and there is never news about the positive and inspiring examples, which certainly are present in the "real life".

"Of course, the other, numerous areas of public life must be redefined and re-arranged, so that we can talk about the full realization of minority rights, but we must be aware that this is a long term process that requires time, but also a continuous dialogue on these topics", concluded Ćorović.

Young Serbs do not know anything about their neighbours, Bosniaks, Albanians, Hungarians, Roma, there is a high degree of social distance among the youth

Work on the Adoption of the New Law on National Councils of National Minorities: Possible Solutions

Round Table was held in Belgrade, in the organization of the Centre for Migration Studies, with the aim to discuss the expectations and perspectives of minority policy with the representatives of National Councils of National Minorities and the representatives of state bodies, in the anticipation of the new Law on National Councils of National Minorities.

In the presence of a large number of representatives of national minorities, the participants were addressed by the Director of the project, Biljana Jović, who welcomed everyone and pointed to current developments regarding the amendments and the work on the adoption of the new Law on National Councils of National Minorities. She also pointed out the different solutions applied in the Member States of the European Union.

After her, the participants of the meeting were addressed by the Professor of the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, Tanasije Marinković, who introduced them to his work. He said that in the year 2000, the “Belgrade Centre for Human Rights” designed the project “Draft Constitution of the Republic of Serbia”, about which the Venice Com-

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mission expressed its opinion, and supported the text. Some solutions from this draft have found their place in the present Constitution.

He noted that the Constitutional Court’s

decision was crucial for further work on the improvement of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities and explained that the identity issue was resolved by the Constitution of Serbia taking over various models in 2006.

“This is due to political compromises and the lack of clear decision on how we want to define the Constitutional identity of Serbia. The provisions that Serbia is a civil state, under Article 2 of the Constitution, explain that sovereignty belongs to the citizens, who exercise it independently and through their elected representatives. There are also provisions that the right to vote is general and equal. On this basis we can say that Serbia is a civil state. The general view that we get by observing the Constitution is somewhat modified by looking at other provisions of the Constitution”, pointed out Professor Marinković.

According to him, the decision referred to in Article 1 of the Constitution says that Serbia is a state of Serbian people and other citizens who live in it. It is the norm, since no rule derives from it. One



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norm specifies the ethnic principle. Article 13, paragraph 2, of the Constitution prescribes that the state of Serbia should maintain connections with Serbs outside Serbia. Therefore, it is thus identified through its ethnic dimension. The Serbian Constitution also proclaims the rights of national minorities in Article 14. It contains a sub-section on the rights of national minorities. Those provisions are specified in much detail reflecting the constitutional identity of Serbia.

Preamble to the Constitution of Serbia starts with "Considering the state tradition of the Serbian people and equality of all citizens and ethnic communities in Serbia..." The Professor said that this should seriously be considered. It is essential that we know the most rational way to interpret the text of the Constitution. Ethnic communities are part of the constitutional identity of Serbia. In addition to civic identity we also have the multicultural identity. According to him, Switzerland is the model of a successful multicultural community. Serbia demonstrates its multicultural identity through its provisions. According to him, the multicultural identity is more expressed in the Constitution than the ethnic identity. The Constitutional Court's decision did not provide any framework.

Transnational identity is manifested through integration and different forms of connectivity, as well as in the EU. All this affects the identity of a community. This leads to the hierarchy of norms. Professor Marinković said that in his opinion it is better to draw up the new Law on National Councils of National minorities.

The Constitution is the highest legal act, and below it are the signed international contracts and below them the adopted laws. All this must be consistent. The Constitutional Court did not take all this into account.

Also, he did not even find it necessary to mention the Framework Convention on the Rights of National Minorities. We cannot overcome even the international framework, especially the work of the

The Law on National Councils cannot go past the Constitution. Professor Marinković says that he cannot see the problem if the national councils propose, as the Ministries propose to the Government, the determination of the decision on the proposal of a law. The Constitutional Court deprives them of this right, because it is contrary to the Law on State Administration and the Law on Ministries and the Law on the Government

Advisory Committee in the Framework Convention.

Constitutional Court's decision is binding, but the Constitutional Court also adopts interpretative provisions. For example, the provision is not in force due to some shortcomings. Therefore, the

decision of the Constitutional Court must be carefully read. Competencies are what the initiators have attacked in that Law. The decision of the Constitutional Court is not restrictive when it comes to the competencies of national councils. It all stemmed from the fact that the Constitutional Court did not systematically set out what the place of minority rights in our constitutional system is. It immediately defined that national councils primarily have executive powers.

The Professor believes that it is not a good overall view, because if it were, the Court would not have taken the following stance, which is that the Law on National Councils of National Minorities cannot change the competencies, or what is defined in other systemic laws of the Republic of Serbia. Therefore, one cannot change what is defined by the Constitution and other laws. This is controversial for several reasons.

The Constitutional Court indicates that minority rights should enable everyone to feel that they are part of that community, that Serbia is a common house for all. In this sense discrimination is forbidden. In the framework of the Constitution, the national minorities are guaranteed certain rights in the areas of culture, education, information and official use of the language and alphabet, in order to preserve their identity. Minorities should permanently have these rights. According to the Constitution, national minorities should have self-government in these areas, which is more precisely a personal self-government. System approach did not find itself in the decision of the Constitutional Court. The Law on National Councils cannot go past the Constitution. Professor Marinković says that he cannot see the problem if the national councils propose, as the Ministries propose to the Government, the determination of the decision on the proposal of a law.

The Constitutional Court deprives them of this right, because it is contrary to the Law on State Administration and the Law on Ministries and the Law on the Government. We cannot disturb the systemic laws, but the Court did not rule out the possibility that in these systemic



Biljana Jović noted that lately the only initiative in the Assembly, in regard to thinking of new solutions for the new Law on National Councils, was by the minority caucus earlier this year, when a draft resolution for resolving the status of national minorities was presented, based on successful international examples regarding minority rights

laws, in addition to the fact that such law shall be harmonized with the Constitutional Court's decision, one can proceed to partial laws. It would also be proceeded and intervened in such manner regarding the Law on Education, the Law on Local Self-Government and so on.

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Mr Esad Džudžo was also involved in the discussion and said that our total legislation is below the standards established by the 2006 Constitution as well as below the standards of the Framework Convention and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. We have a somewhat rough line when it comes to interpreting Article 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, and that is that Serbia is a mono-ethnic based political community. He pointed out that it is the truth that we encounter on a daily basis, whether it be knocking on the door of some Ministry, Institute, etc.

The keywords are: The 2006 Constitution and the 2002 Law, the legal uncertainty regarding the decision of the Constitutional Court in January 2014, and the issue of law enforcement. Mr Korhec often repeated that the 88 competencies listed in this law could not be fulfilled without the court decision.

This experience was very important for minorities in Sandžak. Mr Džudžo stated that what is important for national minorities is the definition of national councils, the competencies of councils, funding of national councils, as well as the sanctions that do not exist as part of the law. He believes that the Law on National Councils of National Minorities should be given the status of a constitutional law. He would also introduce the concept of two independent bodies, the Ombudsman and the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality. He believes that there is a tendency of reducing the achieved minority rights in the Republic of Serbia, and that minorities are increasingly becoming less of a problem, and more a solution.

He noted that the representatives of national councils held the second two-day traditional meeting of minority councils. He pointed to the fact that various minorities are identified, which find themselves in different positions. The Bosniak community has a motive plus, since it is very noticeable, with 17 registered parties and a tremendous interest in the improvement of their status. It can be said that Bosniaks are only at the stage of rounding up their collective identity rights.

According to him, Article 7 is very important. In the framework of the Principles and objectives of the European Charter, which is the establishment of a middle layer of government, which is the key for the protection and promotion of minority rights.

Through its administrative and management organization, the state should facilitate the enjoyment of the rights of

National minorities want to be active partners of the Country's European path. Legal uncertainty resulted from the decisions of the Constitutional Court and it affected the minorities in central Serbia. He pointed out that there is still hope that the process of European integration of Serbia is unstoppable

minorities.

He noted that they had ambitions to develop all 4 areas of competencies in this two-day consultation, in terms of activities for the material elements. The material elements of the Action Plan were agreed upon, 11 of them. It was allowed to adopt the stance of the Coordination in addition to the Government's proposal. It was pointed out that it is of the utmost importance to prosecute serious violations of human rights in the 90s. After that, Džudžo returned to the question of legal uncertainty.

The laws of 2002 and 2009, were adopted to preserve the rights of minorities in Vojvodina and to enable the use of these rights of minorities outside of Vojvodina. If one would make an overview of whether the rights of minorities have been equalized in central Serbia and in Vojvodina, it would be clear that we are far from that goal today.

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Biljana Jović urged the participants to engage in a debate. She pointed to the discrepancy that exists when it comes to the implementation of legal provisions. She stressed that everyone expected that a Working Group would already be formed and that a public debate on possible solutions for the new law would be initiated.

The question arises whether the postpo-



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nement of the decision on the Law on National Councils of National Minorities for the end of 2018 is related to the fact that first the Constitution needs to be amended and only then the law can be changed.

Esad Džudžo believes that part of the truth lies precisely in the fact that first the Constitution must be amended in order to continue to make changes. Tanasije Marinković said that there is a wider problem, the absence of the rule of law, which affects everyone in Serbia. Minorities feel it more strongly because in terms of identity they have been displaced from the general framework. No problems would exist if the law were applied. The National Assembly does not perform its functions.

Jaroslav Bodnar of the National Council of the Czech national minority has raised the question of what is more meaningful, amendments to the Law on National Councils of National Minorities or the adoption of the new law. Glossa: Law on National Minority Councils should be given the status of a constitutional law.

Ljiljana Bekčić, from the Ministry of Local Administration and Self-Government, informed those present that by the end of 2015, the Ministry will hold a round table on the application of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, together with the representatives of national councils and NGOs. By the end of 2015, a Working group will be formed which will work on the Law on National Councils of National Minorities.

Slavica Mandić, from the Ministry of Local Administration and Self-Govern-

ment, noted that it is nobody's free will on whether amendments to the law or the adoption of the new law should be made. It depends on how many provisions of the law are amended within the law itself.

Sveta Matić, editor of the newsletter *Minority News*, pointed out that the main topic is the issue of the context of minority rights in the Republic of Serbia. He noted that the initiative of Mr Džudžo for the status of the constitutional law is interesting, as it would comprehensively regulate this area, and define the key issues such as the status and other relevant issues. It can be seen that since the election last year, national councils and the Coordination came into a much more effective stage of action. He pointed out that a large number of problems of national minorities is related to communication.

Sali Memeti, from the Egyptian national minority, said that the solutions are essential for further work. He pointed out that they need help in order to quickly get to the finish line and it is necessary that the national minorities get closer to one another.

Emil Lulić, representative of the Hungarian national minority, asked a question about the legal force of the law and the decision of the Constitutional Court. Tanasije Marinković said that he is more for the introduction of the concept of an organic law rather than the constitutional law. In our current Constitution, there is no such category as an organic law. However, some laws are passed by an absolute majority in the Parliament. If it gets worked on later, the organic law will be superior to other laws and a new

scale in the hierarchy of legal norms shall be established, and that is the organic law as a kind of mediator between the common law and the Constitution. If we opt for the organic law, it can be adopted by a larger majority, and it would then have a greater legal effect. One big problem today is that the media does not deal with this issue adequately.

Biljana Jović summarized that perhaps the way to a solution when it comes to making comprehensive amendments to the law or the new law, lies in establishing a hierarchy among the laws themselves, through the introduction of the institution of an organic law, which would have precedence over the other laws. We must look for a solution for a clear definition of the legal status of national councils and of the authority, while the application and conflicts with other laws shall be regulated through the introduction of the institution of organic law.

Esad Džudžo said that talks were held in order for the status of the Coordination of National Minorities to get legally regulated. There was a debate about it and it is still a current issue. He pointed out that it is for the best to have a credible representative of national councils before the state.

Tanasije Marinković supported this idea, which was presented by Mr Džudžo, in order for the national councils to be interlocutors both with the authorities and with the civil society. The new law would be the place to formalize this cooperation. He pointed out that without the effective implementation of rights there are no rights.



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Significant Meeting on Important Topics

President Nikolić with Pope Francis about Stepinac

Pope Francis met in the Vatican with the President of Serbia, Tomislav Nikolić, on the formation of the joint committee of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church that should consider and agree upon the historical facts of the World War II period, and the role of Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac in the Independent State of Croatia that involves a long lasting controversy, reported Radio Television of Serbia (RTS), referring to the Press Office of the Holy See.

Nikolić and Pope Francis talked about the refugee crisis and the Serbia's opposition to Kosovo's accession to UNESCO, in a conversation that lasted 35 minutes. The state leadership of Serbia and the Serbian Orthodox Church believe that Stepinac had a controversial role in the time of NDH, inappropriate to the priestly vocation and question the announced decision to declare Alojzije Stepinac a saint, reproaching his role during the Ustaša regime and the NDH.

In July 2014, in a letter to the Pope, President Nikolić stressed that "efforts should be made, through collective wisdom, not to make a move that would offend anyone, given the past, the

experience of the World War II and the role of Stepinac during this period".

Serbian Prime Minister, Aleksandar Vučić, said ahead of Nikolić's visit to the Vatican and the announced talks on the decision to declare Stepinac a saint, that the state of Serbia, as well as the SPC, without doubt have a negative view on the announced decision to declare Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac a saint.

According to the press service of the Vatican, covered by the media in Belgrade, one of the main topics on the occasion of the refugee crisis were conditions in which the Iraqi and Syrian refugees are and the necessity of "even distribution

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of the burden of crisis".

The Italian agency ANSA said that Nikolić gave Pope Francis a copy of the first legal act in medieval Serbia – Dušan's Code, and an illustrated monograph of Serbian monasteries in Kosovo. "I believe that this visit, although once postponed, was well prepared and served as a preparation to one day have the relations between Serbia and Croatia as a guarantee that the head of the Roman Catholic Church and Serbian Patriarch Irinej can meet in Belgrade, Subotica, Prizren or wherever they desire", Nikolić said after the meeting.





Centar za istraživanja migracija
Center for Migration Studies

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