

**Continuous Work on the
Preparation of the Report
for the Third Cycle
of the UPR**

**To Enhance Cooperation
in the Field of Human and
Minority Rights**

39 Minority News

august 2017



TEFIK RAMADANOVIĆ: Without a Home Country, but With Numerous Problems

**Macedonians Cele-
brated Ilinden in Jabuka**

**The first Albanian Notary
in the South of Serbia**

HIGHLIGHT



Zoran Pašalić and Stephanie Marsal on the Protection of Minority Freedoms and Rights

On August 1, the Ombudsman, Zoran Pašalić, and his associates met with the expert on rights of national minorities, Stephanie Marsal, who leads the TAIEX Mission in charge of the expertise of the Draft Law Amending the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities.



Second Session of the Working Body of the Information Committee of the Coordination of National Councils

At its session, the Committee reviewed the current situation and identified the basic elements that need to be advocated for in the drafting of the Strategy and the legal framework on information in the languages of national minorities.



An Incredible Exhibition in the Babka Gallery

In early August, after the successful exhibition in the premises of the National Bank of Slovakia, the exhibition of Slovak coins and banknotes until the introduction of the euro as the national currency was opened in the premises of the National Bank of Serbia. The exhibition will be available to visitors for 2 months at the Babka Gallery in Kovačica.



The Albanian President Promises Help to Preševo

Albanian President Ilir Meta pledged the Republic of Albania's assistance to the development of Preševo in a conversation with the Mayor of this South-Eastern Serbian municipality, Ardita Sinani, the Albanian TV Top Channel reported.

EDITORIAL 39

Depolitization or A Political Party Office?

National Councils of National Minorities (NCNMs) in our country exist since 2002, when the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities was ratified. As it is already known, national minority councils, as minority self-government bodies, represent a particular national minority in four areas - education, culture, information and official use of languages and alphabet.

From the very beginning of their existence, all NCNMs were focused on these four areas. It is difficult to define which area is the most difficult one. Every national community is unique, with its own problems. However, before the beginning of each school year, the common theme of all councils is education in the mother tongue. A sufficient number of textbooks in the mother tongue, the number of students enrolled, student motivation, parents' motivation, the financing of the mother tongue study, and fate of teachers who are left out of work due to insufficient number of students ... Of course, this list is not final. We have mentioned only a few burning problems that we have to deal with repeatedly every year.

The theme that extends all year round is the politicization of NCNMs. Over the years, most of the NCNMs have been perceived primarily as political party outposts and only secondarily as "minority parliaments" and bodies representing the interests of members of their community. Many NCNMs, instead of expertise, are guided by party interests in the decision making process. And the consequences are slowly becoming apparent.

Elections for NCNM members will be held next year. Whether the media will treat the coming elections as a pure political race, as it was the case in 2014, is currently difficult to predict. According to the recent announcements by Minister Branko Ružić, amendments to the Law on National Councils of National Minorities should contribute to the easier elections process. Will it also contribute to a greater transparency in the work of the councils?

30 different national minorities live in Serbia



and ONE newsletter for all

Without a Home Country, But With Numerous Problems

Although the Roma minority is the most numerous in our country, it is also the most numerous in terms of the number of problems that members of the community encounter every day. However, our state and the international community have made substantive efforts to provide this community with the living conditions adequate for the people living in the 21st century. We talked to Tefik Ramadanović, the President of the National Council of the Roma National Minority about the problems, as well as the steps towards solving them.

In recent years, many acts have been adopted that should improve the position of Roma. Are you satisfied with their implementation?

The National Council of the Roma National Minority has been a constructive partner in all phases of drafting and adoption of strategic acts of the Republic of Serbia. The implementation of the adopted strategic documents and goals needs to be done more quickly and more consistently, and we are here to point this out and help to overcome all obstacles more quickly. The National Council of the Roma National Minority must be actively involved in solving the problems of the Roma people in cooperation with all relevant institutions and bodies of the Republic of Serbia.

What are the most important steps taken in this regard, and where are the biggest problems?

The Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma Men and Women for the period 2016-2025 was adopted. but the adoption of the Action Plan, which sets deadlines for implementation of all measures, as well as sources of financing, was delayed. As a result, there is a delay in its implementation and implementation of other measures from the strategic documents.

Last year, the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma Men and Women for the period 2016-2025 was adopted. When can we expect the first results of this Strategy?

Considering that the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy was adopted in June 2017, I expect the first concrete results by the end of the year. I can say that the Coordination Body for Monitoring of the Implementation of the Strategy has been formed, but according to my knowledge, the work has not yet started at full capacity. The speed and efficiency of the work of this body will have the impact on the dynamics of achieving the results of the Strategy.

Education is one of the key problems of



the Roma community. Are Roma able to learn their mother tongue?

The facultative subject "Roma Language with Elements of National Culture" was introduced into the school system. In the following period, we will advocate increasing the number of schools in which children will be able to study this subject.

Have adequate textbooks been provided?

The textbooks are being prepared and we expect that, by the beginning of the school year, we will have the ABC-book and the picture book for the first and the second grade, as well as the reading book for the third and fourth grade. Our best experts in Romani language, such as Dr. Rajko Djuric, are working on the development of the textbooks.

Do you have any data on how many Roma children complete primary education each year?

We do not have any accurate data, because a large number of children do not declare themselves as members of the Roma community.

What is the situation regarding adult education? Are there some types of education and what kind of interest is there in them?

The program "Functional Education of Roma Adults", funded by the Roma Education and Education Ministry has given good results, but one or two projects are not enough to change the wider picture of the poor educational status of older Roma.

How does the National Council encourage education in its community?

The National Council of the Roma National Minority has been actively involved in the process of applying affirmative measures of enrolment in high schools and faculties, as well as in the process of collecting applications for scholarships for pupils and students. We also actively participate in the distribution of places for accommodation for pupils and students.

What is the situation in the area of information? Is it possible for Roma to be informed in their mother tongue?

Information in one's mother tongue is legally guaranteed to all national communities in Serbia. The Roma population does not have enough media outlets to broadcast the program or publish the texts in the Romany language. One of the priorities of the National Council of the Roma National Minority will be activities aimed at providing better information to the members of the Roma community.

From the above, it is evident that there are numerous regulations that provide



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support to your community, i.e. envisage solutions to the problems you are facing. One of the problems is the discrimination of Roma. How does the Roma community address this problem?

Discrimination is the problem of all citizens. The Office of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality is responsible for dealing with the issue of discrimination and I am sure that they can give a more precise answer to this question. The National Council of the Roma National Minority provides reports on all cases of discrimination to the Commissioner's Office for further action.

Although we have a number of painful issues to talk about, I will try to end this conversation in a more positive light. Each community protects and develops its culture through its artists. In which areas of artistic creation are the Roma most successful?

Roma are talented people. I cannot say in which areas we are most successful, but I will mention only some of the world famous names: Ronnie Wood – front man of the British band Rolling Stones, Elvis Presley, Nicolo Paganini, Django Reinhardt, Franc List, Šaban Bajramović, Esma Redžepova, as well as many others. All of them together are actually the embodiment of the Roma cultural and musical heritage.

Continuous Work on the Preparation of the Report for the Third Cycle of the UPR

Source: Office for Human and Minority Rights



The Head of the Office for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of Serbia, Suzana Paunović, held a consultative meeting in the Palace of Serbia on the occasion of drafting the state report for the third cycle of the

Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

In addition to the members of the Working Group at the Office for Human and Minority Rights for the preparation of the state report, the meeting was attended by contact persons or their deputies in the UNMO

monitoring departments, as well as representatives of relevant ministries participating in the preparation of the report.

According to Suzana Paunović, the preparation of the report for the third cycle of the UPR started in April 2017, and prior to this meeting, nine consultations were held with the representatives of the departments under the authority of implementation of recommendations from the second cycle of the UPR. Meetings were also held with civil society organizations and with independent state bodies.

The report, which is in the final stage, shows the human rights situation in our country since the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, i.e., for the period from 2013 to 2017. As Paunović explains, the report includes institutional mechanisms for monitoring the state of human rights, review of the legislative and strategic framework in line with international standards, and their application in practice in various fields, from health care, social protection, and justice. All measures and activities undertaken at the national and local level have the ultimate goal of enabling citizens to exercise their rights fully, Paunović said.

Our state has the obligation to submit this report to the UN Human Rights Council no later than October 20, 2017, and the Serbian delegation will present the report in Geneva from January 24 - 26, 2018, Paunović noted.

UPR - Universal Periodic Review

Universal Periodic Review is a new mechanism for monitoring the respect of human rights in the member states of the United Nations mandated by the Human Rights Council by UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 of March 15, 2006.

The Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council is based on the examination of three documents (a state report on the state of human rights, a report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights based on reports from UN treaty bodies and UN special procedures information, a report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is based on information from non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders) and on a dialogue with the state delegation. The review is carried out within the Working Group of the Human Rights Council.

During the First Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, which lasted from 2008-2011, the situation of human rights in the 192 countries was considered. For each country, a report on the state of human rights has been adopted, which contains a summary of all steps of the reviews, conclusions and recommendations, as well as obligations that the state voluntarily took over. The Republic of Serbia went through the First Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review on December 5, 2008 and received 24 thematic group recommendations, 18 of which were accepted.

The Second Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review took place in the period 2012-2016. The Republic of Serbia went through the Second Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in early 2013.

Zoran Pašalić and Stephanie Marsal on the Protection of Minority Freedoms and Rights

Source: Ombudsman

On August 1, the Ombudsman, Zoran Pašalić, and his associates met with the expert on minority rights issues, Stephanie Marsal, who, within the TAIEX Mission, is in charge of the expertise of the Draft Law Amending the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities.

In the meeting, the interlocutors exchanged experiences and views on the significance and the role of the aforementioned law for the establishment and implementation of the minority policies in the Republic of Serbia, capacity building of the public authorities, and easier and more efficient execution and protection of minority freedoms and rights, as well as on the obstacles that stand on this path.



The OSCE Mission in Serbia and the Ombudsman for Continued and Enhanced Cooperation

The Office of the Ombudsman has three objectives that are critical for the strengthening of the work of the institution, and they are also envisaged by the Chapter 23. These objectives are the Law on the Ombudsman, among other things, important for better definition and expansion of competences, adoption of a new systematization of jobs, and more adequate office space for the work of the employees in the Office, Ombudsman Zoran Pašalić said in the August 3 meeting with Ambassador Andrea Orizio, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

I will work to increase the visibility of the institution in the public, added Pašalić, as well as the employees who work there. It is my intention to continue the successful cooperation with the OSCE Mission in Serbia, especially in the field of minority rights and gender



equality, but also in launching new joint activities, the Ombudsman concluded.

Ambassador Orizio said that the OSCE Mission, since the founding of the in-

stitution, has supported the Ombudsman and that it will continue with such practice in the future, especially in the area of protection of its independent and controlling function.

Pašalić and Liht: To Enhance Cooperation in the Field of Human and Minority Rights

The amendment to the Law on the Ombudsman in order to define and expand its competencies, systematize jobs and provide more adequate space for the work of the employees in the Office, are the priority goals for the Office of the Ombudsman, Ombudsman Zoran Pašalić said in a meeting with the President of the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, Sonja Liht, held on August 16.

The topics of the meeting included issues of the rights of national minorities, in particular Roma, higher visibility of women in the society and the possibilities of employment of young



professionals living and working abroad. The interlocutors agreed on the need to improve the cooperation of the Belgrade Fund and the Ombudsman in the field of protection of human and minority rights.

Second Session of the Working Group of the Information Committee of the Coordination of National Councils

Source: Czech Council

On Monday, August 14, 2017, in the premises of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority, in Subotica, a second session of the Information Committees of the Coordination of National Councils was held. The sitting was chaired by Mirko Bajic. The session was attended by: Emil Lulić, Nenad Laušev, Niko Čobanu and Ivan Ušumović. The key topic of the meeting was the agreement on their participation in the work on the drafting of a new media strategy for the development of the public information system in the Republic of Serbia.

The meeting was also attended by Istvan Bodzoni, member of the Working Group for the Media Strategy Development. It was noted that direct communication with the member of the working group, Istvan Bozhoni, during the drafting of the Media Strategy will be in order to best define the needs of information in the languages of national minorities.

The current situation has been assessed and the basic elements have been identified that are necessary to advocate for in the drafting of the Strategy and the legal framework on information in the languages of national minorities.



The provision in the Law on Public Information and the Media, which defines that information in the languages of national minorities is considered a public interest, must be the basis for future solutions in exercising the right to information in the languages of the national minorities.

It is necessary to define clearly and establish a way for achieving the public interest as well as the financing. At present, the Law on Public Information and Media stipulates that the public interest in information in the languages of national minorities is executed also by national councils forming the institutions that are publishers of media in the languages of

national minorities, but does not define the method of financing these institutions. It is necessary to establish that these institutions, that is, the media, whose indirect founders are national councils, are program-based financed from the budget in the future, and that pluralism in information is achieved through the media founded by companies and the non-governmental sector through project co-financing.

It was concluded that it is necessary to define clearly the role of the public service in the electronic media, not only within its informative programs, but also in the productions in the languages of national minorities.

The first Albanian Notary in the South of Serbia

Source: Vranjske / Titulli

The Office of the Notary Public for the verification of transcripts and other legally prescribed documents was opened in Preševo, RTK and the portal Titulli.com reported.

In the past, these services were provided by the municipal authorities and the courts.

However, during the transitional period until the opening of this office, the citizens of the Preševo Municipality had to travel to Vranje (about 80

Në Preshevë hapet zyra e parë e noterit (video)

Nga Redaksia
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km in both directions) in order to do notarization of the documents at the Higher

Court in Vranje.

Bejad Iljazi is the only public notary from the Albanian national community who now works in the first public notary office in Preševo.

Although he had passed a professional exam one year ago, the authorities in Belgrade postponed the opening of this office so far.

The Law on Public Notaries in Serbia entered into force in 2014. It took three years to open the Public Notary offices in Preševo and Bujanovac.

The Albanian President Promises Help to Preševo

Albanian President Ilir Meta promised the assistance of the country to the development of Preševo in the meeting with the Mayor of this South-Eastern municipality, Ardita Sinani, the Albanian TV Top Channel reported.

Meta pointed out in the meeting that the cooperation with the municipalities of the South of Serbia, where the Albanians are in the majority, is very important to Albania, as well as the implementation of joint projects in the field of culture, education, sports. To this end, he particularly noted the importance of the economic development of Preševo.

He emphasized that for Albanians in the South of Serbia, integration in all



levels of state and municipal administration is very important, as it will

also guarantee their human and minority rights.

Bosisio and Musliu Meet in Bujanovac

Giacomo Bosisio, the Coordinator of the OSCE Office, met in Bujanovac with Jonuz Musliu, the President of the Al-

banian National Minority Council.

As the Titulli.com portal reports, various topics under the jurisdiction of the National Council of Albanian National Mi-

nority were discussed, such as "the political situation and the situation in the field of education in the Albanian language".

"Children's Wedding" in Kovačica

Source: South Banat

In Kovačica, the Memorial Center "Dr. Janko Buljik" held a traditional "Children's Wedding".

A large number of locals and guests had the opportunity to look at and remember what a Slovak wedding looked like in Kovačica once upon a time.

The Slovak folk costumes, as well as the costumes worn by the bride and groom in the past, are presented. The children's wedding began with the parade of small wedding guests through the center of Kovačica to the "Babka" Gallery, where an exhibition of children's works entitled "Once Upon a Time, There Was One Bibiana" was held.

After the exhibition of the bride,



groom and all wedding guests, the participants presented traditional wedding customs on the local community square. For the eleventh year in a row,

the Children's Wedding was organized by Dr. Janko Buljik from Kovačica, and it was sponsored by the Kovačica municipality.

"From Sherpa Vests to Old Woolen Robes": The House of Forgotten Things in Padina

Source: South Banat

Photo: Hlas Ijudu

"From Sherpa Vests to Old Woolen Robes" is the title of an exhibition that was shown at the Ethnological Museum "Petraš" in Padina this



Saturday.

Wool objects and exhibits, collected and preserved for years, are displayed in the

exhibition at the Slovak Ethno Museum "Petraš". Visitors had the opportunity to see about 150 exhibits, various items including clothes and toys.

Petraš states that the very idea of such an exhibition came from the fact that in the past wool as a raw material was very represented, and today only so much that the objects made of it are a faithful exhibit of some time ago.

Although the emphasis was on the presentation "From Sherpa Vests to Old Woolen Robes", the owner of the museum enabled all those who wanted to see the permanent exhibition of the Ethno Museum "Petraš".



An Incredible Exhibition in the Babka Gallery

In early August, after the successful exhibition in the premises of the National Bank of Slovakia, the exhibition of Slovak coins and banknotes until the introduction of the euro as the national currency was opened in the premises of the National Bank of Serbia. The exhibition will be available to visitors for 2 months at the Babka Gallery in Kovačica.

The Babka Gallery has cooperated with financial institutions for years. The first exhibition was at the World Bank in 1988, at the Monetary Fund in 1997, and then at the Inter-American Bank, which has

contributed to further cooperation and engagement with other financial institutions.

This exhibition is also important for visitors, and possibly monetary affairs experts, who can get a clear and precise picture of the preparations for the entrance of Slovakia into the Eurozone. Since Serbia is entering the EU, this exhibition is particularly important, as it represents a good example of the course of these processes.

This demanding exhibition was prepared at the Babka Gallery under the watchful

eye of representatives of the National Bank of Slovakia, Stanislav Suja and Renata Hushchavova, who are the main organizers.

The exhibition, which opened at the beginning of August, also featured works by painter Vesna Hrčan, including both those created twenty years ago and the more recent ones on the topic of money.

The selection of works "Vesna & Money" adorns the walls of Inter American Bank, and soon it will also decorate the walls of the National Banks of Slovakia and Serbia.

Czech Community

Visit from the Region of Hradec Kralove

Source: Czech Council

Hradec Kralove Region is one of the most developed in the Czech Republic. Luckily, this town is a partner of the Čecho Selo and Kruščica towns, which has had many benefits so far.

The Hradec Kralove delegation regularly visits our region, and, in the middle of August this, it was led by the new regional head, Mayor Jiří Štěpán. He expressed his wish to get acquainted with the leaders of the Bela Crkva municipality, the National Council of the Czech National Minority, as well as with members of the Czech community and locals of Čecho Selo and Kruščica.

The delegation also consisted of associates and members of Mayor's Office: Pavel Hečko, Tereza Nyklíčková, Petra Veselá,

Ivana Tomková and Roman Grossman.

In Čecho Selo, the delegation was greeted warmly, in a festive mood, on the occasion of the 180th anniversary of the existence of this Czech settlement, which is popular with all visitors from the Czech Republic. One day of their visit was reserved exclusively for visiting the Museum, the Cultural Center, the Church of St. Jana, and for socializing with locals. The delegation also visited the sites in Kruščica, hosted by the local community, which is proud of this partnership and a series of successfully implemented projects.

After a meeting with the management of the municipality, guests also paid a visit to the Czech House in Bela Crkva, where they met with the representatives of the Czech National Minority Council, the Czech

Heritage, and the Czech Word from Bela Crkva.

The President of the Czech National Minority Council, Prof. Jože Sivaček, briefed the guests on the status and competencies of the National Council, its work and results. The Mayor was particularly interested in the number and position of members of the Czech minority, relations with other communities, and movements within the Czech community. The President of the Czech Heritage, Štefan Klepaček, delivered presentation about the Heritage's work, whereas Josef Mareš presented the Czech Word. The guests toured the Cultural Center, and, in the library, they were presented with bilingual printed editions by the Czech Heritage and the Czech Word, for which they warmly thanked their hosts.

RTV Panon Presented in Belgrade

Source: www.vajma.info

Partner of the system of public media service of Hungary in Vojvodina, RTV Panon from Subotica, was presented in Belgrade on August 10 – the MTI agency reported.

Istvan Bodzsoni, the director of RTV Panon, told MTI correspondents, among other things, that the leading media is trying to supplement excellent political and economic relations between Hungary and Serbia. He added that Panon is a RTV partner of the Serbian public media service, and added that the most important news related to the Hungarians is reported in the Serbian media and that, at the same time, they promote Jewish and Serbian cultural values.



The Panon RTV daily sends 5-6 reports to Budapest, which are broadcast by the Radio Kossuth and various channels of the Hungarian public television – Bodzsoni said.

He said that, since its foundation in 2006, the Panon RTV became the most viewed and listened media in Vojvodina. The program is broadcast on the

whole territory of Vojvodina and can be watched in about one hundred thousand households.

Bodzsoni reminded that recently, with the support of the Hungarian Government, the construction of the Panon Media Center in Subotica began and that the Center will bring together Panon RTV (television and two radio channels and internet portal), and will provide space for the only daily newspaper in the Hungarian language, "Magyar Szó" and for the "Het Na" weekly.

"Work in this first minority media center will begin next spring," Bodzsoni said, adding that the center will be a bridge between Belgrade and Budapest.

Saint Istvan Holiday Celebrated in Bečej for Two Days

Source: Dnevnik

For two days, in the Donji Grad neighborhood of the town of Bečej, a large number of residents of our biggest town on the River Tisa banks gathered with guests of all religions to attend the program of celebration of the Saint Istvan Holiday, which has been organized by MKD "Petőfi Sándor" for years.

The Hungarian national holiday, dedicated to the first Christian and crowned king of Hungarians, which the Serbian Orthodox Church canonized as St. Stephen, also has traditional customs. In the local Roman Catholic Church dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua, a loaf of bread is made of wheat flour of this year's harvest, which symbolically announces and promises plenitude.

Members of the MKD "Petőfi Sándor" in folk costumes brought bread, together with a replica of the Hungarian crown, to the ceremonial stage at the corner of the Republic and the Nikola Tesla St., where the program took place.



On behalf of the hosts, these gifts were received by the President of the MKD "Petőfi Sándor", Robert Ric, deputy chairman of the Municipal Assembly of Bečej, Erzsebet Kinka, and the President of the National Council of Hungarians, Hajnal Jenő, who addressed the gathered people. A musical program followed in the streets, it was a true ethno exhibition. Around midnight, the fireworks shone over the city skyline, and the celebration continued with a street party under the clear sky.

On the second day, on Saturday, traditional beef paprika stew was prepared in 40 pots, but this was not the only dish that was cooked during the event. The most numerous was the Association of the Bečej Sheep Breeders, which, in addition to the traditional paprika stew, also prepared the "birka" paprika stew.

"Every year, for St. Istvan, we sacrifice one old sheep and cook a meal for all members, and there are 22 of us in our Association plus our families. This year, my family is the host of the feast. It is our sheep that was cooked for this meal, and my wife Milica prepared the "birka" paprika stew, which is rarely found on an everyday table," the President of the Bečej Sheep Breeders Association, György Tamas said.

The first place in beef paprika stew contest was won by the tandem, Franja Varga and Peter Knezi, the second by Maria Martinek, and the third Attila Ferenczi. In addition to the trophies, they were also presented with the food gift packages.

Macedonians celebrated Ilinden in Jabuka

Source: RTV

Photo: National Council of the Macedonian National Community in the Republic of Serbia

The central ceremony on the occasion of the national holiday of Macedonians, Ilinden, was held in Jabuka on August 2, a town where a large number of members of this national minority live.

By laying a wreath at the monument to Goce Delčev, in the yard of the school bearing the name of this national hero, a central ceremony on the occasion of Ilinden - the biggest holiday of Macedonians - commenced in Jabuka. The holiday marks 114 years since Ilinden Uprising against the Turks and the establishment of the Krusevo Republic, which was the first in the Balkans, although it existed for ten days only.

Macedonians also marked the 73rd anniversary of the day when the foundation of the Macedonian statehood was laid down in the Prohor Pcinjski Monastery.

"This is the day when we historically confirmed that we deserve to have our country, our language, and our culture, and I think this is the priceless feeling shared by all Macedonians wherever they are in the world when this day comes," Bojan Djordjev, deputy ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia in Belgrade said.

"We show everyone that we have a historical value that we can now demonstrate in the competition, culture, education and ability to adapt to the environment in which we live, instead of



a revolutionary struggle," Ivan Mitrovski, vice president of the Macedonian National Council added.

Representatives of the Republic and the Provincial Government noted that allocations for national minorities in Serbia have been increased.

"The provincial budget allocated 70% more money than last year for financing cultural, historical, sports projects," Milan Kovačević, Deputy Provincial Secretary for Education, Public Administration, Regulations, and National minorities said.

"We have financed the work of the National Council of the Macedonian National Minority, and, in the previous period, notable progress has been made in all areas," Vlado Radulović from the Office for Human and Minority Rights in the Government of the Republic of Serbia noted.

After the program at the Cultural Center, the celebration of Ilinden, which is also the Jabuka festival, continued in the center of the town, where the 10th international festival "Tavce - Gravce" was organized in honor of this famous Macedonian national dish.



Children and Parents Should Use the Legal Possibility for Education in the Bulgarian Language

Izvor: RTV Caribrod

On August 23, at the "Hristo Botev" elementary school, a meeting was held with parents of students who finished the fourth grade. In addition to the school management, the meeting was also attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria in Belgrade, Radko Vlahov, and the Bulgarian Consul General in Niš, Edvin Sugarev. One of the topics was the advocating for continued education in the Bulgarian language with the parents and the pupils. Ambassador Vlahov believes that parents and students in Dimitrovgrad should use the legal possibility for education in the Bulgarian language, and that they have no reason not to do so, since such an education can later bring numerous benefits.



Director of "Novo Bratstvo" Appointed

The National Council of the Bulgarian National Minority in Serbia, at the 8th regular session, held on Saturday in Bosilegrad, appointed Milo Vasova as the director of the "Novo Bratstvo". Vasov, who, until now, was the Acting Director of the "Novo Bratstvo", was

the only candidate for this post.

Members of the National Council discussed the situation in the field of information in the mother tongue – namely in the media "Novo Bratstvo", Nova RTV Bosilegrad and "Bratstvo", and the state of education in the

mother tongue. The President of the National Council, Vladimir Zahariev, said at the session that, in the next year, in the 1st and 5th grade of elementary school in Bosilegrad, one class receiving education in the Bulgarian Language will be enrolled in each of the aforementioned grades.

Romania Expects Visible Progress in Observance of Rights of the Romanian Community in Serbia

Source: Community of Vlachs of Serbia

Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Meleskanu said that, for Bucharest, the situation of the Romanian minority in the entire territory of Serbia is "a sensitive issue". Meleskanu said he expects some progress in resolving this problem, and stressed that he values the role Serbia plays in the stability of the Western Balkans.

In an interview to the European Western Balkans portal, in response to the comment that, prior to the opening of Chapter

23, Romania expressed concerns about the situation of the Romanian minority in Serbia, Teodor Meleskanu said that "Romania firmly supports Serbia's accession to the European Union". "Last year, Romania agreed to opening of two more complex chapters (Chapter 23 - Justice and Fundamental Rights and Chapter 24 - Freedom and Security), which are crucial for the dynamics of the process of Serbia's accession to the European Union. The implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 23 and the Minorities Action Plan is

very important," Meleskanu said, adding that Romania "will continue to monitor closely the execution of these two documents." Meleskanu stressed that Romania expects visible progress in respecting "the rights of the Romanian minority throughout Serbia", in the fields of education and media, the official use of the mother tongue in the administration, in accordance with Serbian legislation and European standards, as well as in regard to the access to the religious service in the mother tongue".

Milićević: Preservation and Development of Diversity is One of the Permanent Priorities of the Provincial Government

Source: Provincial Government

Provincial Deputy Prime Minister Djordje Milićević attended the ceremony at the Grand Hall of the City Hall in Subotica on the occasion of the celebration of the Bunjevac national holiday "Dužijanca Days 2017".

Congratulating the Bunjevac national holiday on behalf of the Provincial Government, Deputy Prime Minister Milićević emphasized that by celebrating the Days of the Dužijanca, they celebrate the highest human values - diligence, perseverance and honest work, and show that these values are embedded in the foundation of the existence and identity of the Bunjevac Community.



their own existence and persistence in more than three centuries of a long, difficult, but successful struggle for survival and self-sustainment.



"At the same time, you also show how you preserve your own tradition. This tradition gives a special, extremely luxurious nuance to the wide range of diversity in Vojvodina," Deputy Prime Minister Milićević said, adding that the preservation and development of this diversity as a whole, but also of every single segment of it, including the Bunjevac culture and tradition, is one of the permanent priorities of the Provincial Government.

Milićević added that in celebrating the Days of the Dužijanca, members of the Bunjevac community primarily celebrate

He added that, in the turbulent times behind us, this was not easy for anyone, and that, when it comes to preserving one's own identity and pursuing time, the hardest was for those whose population was the smallest.

Lastly, Deputy Prime Minister Milićević reminded that, in 2018, an extremely important jubilee will be marked - 100 years since the accession of the

Vojvodina areas to the Kingdom of Serbia.

"We will celebrate it together, just as the Serbs and the Bunjevacs, in the burning November 1918, stood side by side and brought together historically very important and far-reaching decisions that we are proud of today," Djordje Milićević said.

One of the most important national holidays of the Bunjevacs in Serbia is marked by a rich cultural-artistic and religious program organized by the National

Council of the Bunjevac National Minority. The program began with a formal parade from the Bunjevac Heritage headquarters to the central square in front of the Town Hall, where the Great Bunjevac Kolo was danced, and then a wreath was laid at the monument to Blaško Rajić.

The marking of the "Dužijanca Days 2017" was attended by the Provincial Secretary for Higher Education and Scientific Research, Prof. Dr Zoran Milošević, Assistant and Deputy Provincial Secretaries for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities, Nebojša Kuzmanović and Djordje Vukmirović, officials of the City of Subotica, representatives of the National Council of the Bunjevac National Minority and other distinguished guests.





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