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Written recommendations

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Several aspects regarding the use of minority languages in the public administration and also within the judicial system continue to negatively affect persons belonging to national minorities in Romania, giving way to discrimination. The legislative framework on linguistic rights for national minorities is by no means coherent, various provisions are spread across a range of laws, there being no comprehensive law on minority language use. Moreover, while laws are generally permissive, concrete norms aimed at implementation, monitoring and follow-up are often lacking. There is a general lack of accountability when it comes to enforcing legal provisions regarding minority rights, which needs to be addressed.

Recommendations to the OSCE participating States:

-)] Commit to a more comprehensive approach toward ensuring the use of minority languages in relations with the public administration and within the judicial system.
-)] Set linguistic rights within a legislative framework that also specifies concrete measures for implementation.
-)] Ensure that sanctioning mechanisms are also codified within the relevant laws on the implementation of linguistic rights for national minorities.
-)] Adopt positive measures to ensure the use of minority languages, most importantly by allocating the necessary human and financial resources to these projects.

Recommendations to the OSCE, in particular the High Commissioner on National Minorities:

-)] When monitoring the situation of the rights of national minorities in OSCE participating States, the HCNM should put particular emphasis on studies and data regarding implementation, considering that States often stop at codifying minority rights, including linguistic rights in laws, while doing little to ensure proper application.