

I T A L Y

SECTION A

Capital

Rome 2,687,881 (1993 est.)

Area

301,230 sq km (116,341 sq mi)

Form of government

Republic with two legislative houses

GDP—per capita

Purchasing power parity—\$21,400 (1999 est.)

Population

56,735,130 (July 1999 est.)

Ethnic composition

Italian	94.1%
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This includes small clusters of Albanian-, Catalan-, Croatian-, French-, Friulian-, German-, Greek-, Ladin-, Occitan-, Sardinian-, Slovene-, Roma- and Sinti-Italians

Sardinian	2.7%
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Rhaetian	1.3%
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Other	1.9%
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Official language

Italian

Note: In July 2000 the Italian Parliament agreed to modify the Constitution by adding the words “Italian is the official language of the country”. The lower house of Parliament, the Chamber of Deputies,

approved a draft to modify Article 12 of the Constitution. The proposal must be passed by the upper house, known as the Senate.

Minority languages

ALBANIAN

Albanian is spoken in certain towns Abruzzo, Campania, Calabria, Basilicata, Puglia, Sicilia and Molise regions. The number of Albanian language speakers in Italy is estimated at about 100,000.

CATALAN

Catalan is spoken in the city of Alghero in the northwestern part of Sardinia. About 20,000 people out of a total of 40,000 inhabitants speak the language.

CROATIAN

Croatian is spoken in three communities in the Molise region of the province of Campobasso. Approximately 2,000 to 2,400 people speak Croatian.

FRENCH, (FRANCO-PROVENÇAL)

There is a small French-speaking minority in Valle d'Aosta region where it comes under the influence of Francoprovençal dialects spoken locally. Also the province of Turin's Piedmont region contains several valleys where it comes under the influence of Occitan, such as Val Germanasca, and the valleys of Cluson and Pélis. The population of the Autonomous Region of the Aosta Valley (115,000 inhabitants) is officially bilingual, the French along with the Italian languages. The number of those who use French daily is, according to available statistical data, limited. The native population prefers Francoprovençal dialects whereas immigrants prefer either Italian or its respective regional dialects.

About 4,000 people in Piedmont speak French. In Puglia, according to 1977 estimates, the resident population (1450) had both active and passive competence in the French language.

FRIULIAN

Friulian (or Eastern Ladin) is spoken in the provinces of Udine, Pordenone and in parts of the provinces of Gorizia and Venice. There is no official data, but it is estimated that of a total of 1,230,000 inhabitants in the Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, about 550,000 people speak Friulan.

GERMAN

The German language is spoken in the region of South Tyrol. It is also spoken in various dialectal forms in a number of linguistic islands outside of that area. According to the 1981 census, there are about 280,000 ethnic Germans in the province of South Tyrol. This amounts to 66.4% of the total population. Numerous linguistic islands exist along the ridge of the Southern Alps. The number of German speakers can only be estimated, as no official statistics are available. There are a few thousand people in total, scattered over no less than eleven locations (the Alpine range of Piedmont and the Valle d'Aosta; the province of Trento/Trient; Fersental/Valle dei Mocheni (Mòcheno); Lusern/Luserna(Cimbri; the Asagio plateau in the province of Vicenza; the Veneto area; the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia; Zahre/Sauris, Tischiwang/Timau and the Kanaltal).

GREEK

Greek is spoken in the regions of Puglia and Calabria. The estimated number of speakers is around 10,000 to 12,000 people.

LADIN

Ladin is spoken in certain valleys in the Dolomites, Val Badia, Val Marebbe, Val Gardena, Val di Fassa, Livinallongo, and Cortina d'Ampezzo, all of which are located in the provinces of Trento, Belluno and Bolzano/Bozen. The language is spoken by between 30,000 and 35,000, most of who are bilingual, either Ladin-Italian, or Ladin-German.

OCCITAN

Occitan is spoken in 14 Piedmontese valleys in the Alps (provinces of Cuneo and Torino), in one community (Olivetta San Michele), a few hamlets in the Liguria region (province of Imperia), and in one community (Guardia Piemontese) in the region of Calabria (province of Cosenza). There is no official data on the number of speakers, but estimates are around 50,000.

SARDINIAN

Varieties of Sardinian are spoken throughout Sardinia with the exception of the city of Alghero, where Catalan is spoken.

SLOVENE

There is a Slovene-speaking minority in the Trieste-Gorizia area. There is no official data on the number of speakers. A rough estimate shows

between 50,000 and 100,000 people (out of a total population of 632,000).

ROMA AND SINTI

There are an estimated 50,000 to 80,000 Roma and Sinti in Italy.

Legislation dealing with the use of languages

The Constitution, adopted on December 22, 1947

Framework Law on the Protection of Historic Linguistic Minorities

After a fifty-year wait, Italy's twelve linguistic minorities have finally been granted official protection by the state. The new legislation, which was passed just before Christmas (1999/2000), protects the language and the culture of all twelve indigenous linguistic minorities living in Italy. These twelve include Albanians, Catalans, Croatians, French, Franco-Provençal, Friulians, Germanophone groups, Greeks, Ladins, Occitans, Sardinians and Slovenes. Historically, the Italian Constitution has described these groups as "linguistic minorities", which expressed their right to be protected. But such a provision was effectively diluted by the fact that many of them were not recognized as separate, distinct languages. An example of this is the Friulian and the Sardinian languages, traditionally referred to as dialects of Italian, but are now officially considered independent languages because of the new legislation. The law gives complete power and responsibility to the provincial and municipal governments, which then have to request for the application of the legislation on their own territories. Alternatively, the request can be made either by a third of the municipal councilors or by 15% of the population in that municipality. From now on, regional, provincial and municipal governments have the power of deciding on matters concerning the promotion of minority languages and cultures.

Furthermore, the legislation represents practical help for the local administrations because it allows them to define new types of economic development. Acting for the promotion of the local language and culture also involves working for the economic development of what are frequently, peripheral areas where linguistic minorities tend to live. Under the legislation, a National Fund for the protection of linguistic minorities is to be established. This body will distribute and administer the annual budget of around 20 billion Italian lire among the different local authorities.

The law also contains several educational provisions. An important aspect is the new value given to the teaching of the minority language through such measures as additional lessons at school, experimental

school programs and afternoon classes, since the legislation does not provide any compulsory measures. The use of minority languages will also be allowed in dealings with public administration. The minority language will be seen on local place names and new measures are to be made for radio and television programs. But above all, Italy's twelve linguistic minorities – the largest number of any EU state – have finally received legal recognition and protection from the state.

ALBANIAN

There is no legal status for the Albanian language. At the regional level, however, Albanian is accorded some degree of official recognition in the autonomy statutes of Calabria, Basilicata and Molise. The linguistic and historical heritage as well as the popular traditions of the Albanian communities existing in their territories shall be promoted. In certain communities the local authorities support cultural and linguistic activities promoted by the ethnic Albanian minority and have agreed to the erection of bilingual road signs.

CATALAN

The Regional Law of Sardinia of September 11, 1997 refers to the protection of the language and culture in Sardinia, and to the Catalan language spoken in Alghero.

CROATIAN

There is no legal status for the Croatian language.

FRENCH (FRANCO-PROVENÇAL)

French has been the official language of the Aosta Valley since 1561, with the exception of a short period of some twenty years (from about 1925 to 1945), when its usage was banned by the fascist regime. The special status of political and administrative autonomy, which the Region has been enjoying since 1948, accords equal recognition to the French and Italian languages. Francoprovençal dialects do not enjoy the same official status, but their usage is very widespread and they are often the object of public initiatives aimed at their safeguard and ultimate expansion. It is the hope of ethnic French speakers to gain a similar protection to the Germanophone dialects (Walser) which are spoken in three communities of the Lys valley (Gressoney-Saint-Jean, Gressoney-la Trinité, and Issime). A 1933 constitutional law including the status of autonomy for the region guarantees these dialects' protection.

FRIULIAN

Friulian is not officially recognized as a language but enjoys considerable unofficial support from the Friulian-speaking community.

The only recognition given to the language is set out in Article of the regional Special Statutes for the Autonomous Regions of Italy:

“In the Region, all citizens shall receive equal treatment, irrespective of the language group to which they belong, and therefore their ethnic and cultural characteristics shall be preserved.”

According to the *Regional Law 68/1981*, regulations cover the education system, studies and research, publishing, theatre, place names and folklore. They provide for the protection and use of the Friulian language that is in keeping with the size of the Friulian-speaking population and the cultural potential inherent in this language.

On February 22 of 2000, a regional law was published including in its fifth Article some amendments to the Regional Law 15/96 dealing with the protection and promotion of the Friulian language and culture. These new amendments call for several changes concerning the administrative competences involved in the promotion of Friulian, which could impact the distribution of the budgets assigned for this purpose. However, the real application of the law will have to wait due to the fact that Italy has yet to figure out how to correctly apply these laws.

According to language experts gathered at the “IV International Symposium on European Languages and Legislation”, the contradiction between the administrative bodies in charge of the implementation of the law is due to a lack of confidence in the normalization process. There is no willingness to make a compromise on the part of members of the government concerning the real promotion of minority languages.

GERMAN

The use of German was recognized in the “*Paris Agreement*” (September 5, 1946), which provided, amongst other things, for Italy to give the Province of South Tyrol an autonomous legislative and executive power.

The new *Autonomy Statute* (which came in to effect on January 20, 1972) contains 115 Articles, divided into 12 chapters. These chapters cover such matters as; the establishment of the Regions and the Provinces of Trento and Bozen, powers of the Region and Provinces, approval of laws, local public bodies, public property, finance, establishment of posts in state offices in the Province of Bozen, legal bodies, the role of the

Constitutional Court, and the use of the German and Ladin languages. With this statute the powers of the Region and the Provinces have been redefined, with the powers of the two Provinces substantially increased in comparison with the past. The provisions of the autonomy apply generally to both Provinces in the same manner.

South Tyrol has added some special provisions regarding the use of the mother tongue, schools, culture, bilingualism, and ethnic proportions in employment, etc. On the basis of the Paris Agreement, the South Tyrol Autonomy Statute should ensure the linguistic and cultural development of the German and Ladin linguistic groups within the framework of the Italian State. At the same time the autonomy is a territorial one, i.e. the benefits of these enlarged powers of self-government apply to members of all three linguistic groups in South Tyrol.

The agreement regarding the language parity in South Tyrol is often taken as a model by those countries, where language minorities are integrated. It is the guarantee for a peaceful co-existence of all three-language groups. Nevertheless, the way to this language parity was obstructed for a long period by disapproval and rejection from the Italian side.

The first Executive Measures for the special statute for the Region Trentino-Südtirol relating to the use of the German language were issued with *Presidential Decree n. 688/59*. The decree provided for the joint use of the German and Italian languages in the drawing up of acts and measures. Anyone who had an interest could request and receive a cost-free translation of acts in his own language.

For the judicial process, land registry offices, registry offices, notary acts and police proceedings relating to the courts and taxation, the first Executive Measures were issued with *Presidential Decree n. 103/60*. The use of the German language was effectively ensured in the same way with regard to translations into German or Italian upon request. The procedure to be followed was laid down in this same Executive Measure.

With the so-called *Ethnic Proportions Decree n. 752* of 26 July 1976, proof of an acceptable knowledge of both provincial languages in South Tyrol, German and Italian, was made obligatory for public service. A Special Commission through a bilingual examination ascertains this “acceptable knowledge of the German and Italian languages”. The examination, held in a new format since January 27, 1999 consists of a written and an oral portion, and according to degrees of difficulty, applies to four career levels.

In May of 1989 the parity of the German Language with the Italian in public administration, the courts and the police, etc. was promulgated by *Presidential Decree n. 574/1988*. The principle of the parity of the Italian and German languages is laid down in Articles 99 and 100 of the new Autonomy Statute:

Article 99

“In the Region the German language is equal with the Italian language, which is the official language of the State. In legislative acts and in all cases where this Statute provides for a bilingual text, the Italian text is authentic.”

Article 100

“German-speaking citizens of the Province of Bozen (Bolzano) have the right to use their language in relations with the judicial offices and with the organs and offices of the public administration which are situated in the Province or which possess regional power, as well as with licensees who provide public services in the Province. In sittings of the collegial organs of the Region, of the Province of Bozen (Bolzano) and of local bodies of that Province the Italian or the German language may be used. The offices, the organs and the licensees referred to in paragraph 1 shall use in correspondence and in oral dealings the language of the applicant and shall reply in the language in which proceedings by another organ or office have been started; in cases where an office initiates correspondence it must use the presumed mother tongue of the citizen to whom it is directed. Except for cases expressly provided for:

- An except for the regulation through executive measures of cases of joint use of the two languages in documents intended for the general public, in individual documents intended for the general public, in individual documents intended for public use and in documents intended for more than one office

The right to use the German or Italian language separately in other cases shall be recognized. The requirement to use only the Italian language in organizations of a military nature shall remain unchanged.”

The regulations on bilingualism contained in the above-mentioned Ethnic Proportions Decree have been extended in *Law n. 724/94*, to the recruitment of personnel in firms, societies and bodies that carry out public services of use to the public in the Autonomous Province of Bozen (Bolzano).

The use of the German and Ladin languages in firms licensed to provide public services was regulated by *the Legislative Decree 446/1996*. On the

basis of this regulation, in such licensed firms work must be organized in the way that the possibility of using both languages, German and Italian, is guaranteed.

GREEK

There is no official legal recognition for the language. The Calabrian Autonomy Statute accords recognition to the historical cultural heritage of the ethnic Albanian and Greek populations and makes provision for the promotion of language instruction in the places where they are respectively spoken. In 1993 the Calabrian regional authorities also set up the "Istituto Regionale Superiore di Studi Ellenofoni", which is based in Bova Marina.

LADIN

The Ladin communities in the province of Bolzano/Bozen (Val Badia and Val Gardena) enjoy more legal and administrative protection than those in the provinces of Trento and Belluno. Ladin has been officially recognized since 1948 in the Statute of Autonomy of the Trentino-Alto Adige (Trentino-Südtirol) Region.

The executive measures contain a special regulation providing for the use of the Ladin language, by native speakers, in oral and written communications with offices of the public administration and the courts. Through *Legislative Decree 345/1997* a written examination for the Ladin language was also provided.

Official policy, as regards the support of Ladin, varies considerably from one area to another. In Bolzano, Ladin is supported in schools and the public media through financial contributions also by the payment of an allowance for trilingual language education to public servants. Language expansion and standardization programs have never been exploited, however, at the political level. In Trentino, on the other hand, Ladin receives much less support than in Bolzano. Although there is a Ladin cultural institute and a recognized Ladin valley community, activities are very limited. Finally, in Belluno, Ladins are not recognized as a separate language community. The Law dealing with the financial support of cultural initiatives, which has been in existence since 1984, has not been properly implemented up to now.

OCCITAN

At the national level, there are no legal regulations for the protection of the Occitan language. The region of Piedmont, however, approved two laws (in 1979 and 1990) to promote and protect the development of

activities and cultural resources associated with Occitan. The laws also protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of Piedmont.

SARDINIAN

Although Sardinia is an autonomous region with a Special Statute, the native language does not enjoy any legal recognition. The main problem for an effective use of the Sardinian language is the lack of a standard dialect accepted by whole speaking community.

SLOVENE

The legal status of the language differs considerably from one province to the next. In Udine, Slovenes do not enjoy any clearly defined linguistic rights. In Gorizia, the Slovenes are entitled to their own schools. The Slovenes in Trieste, however, receive the best treatment. The Special Statute attached to the London Memorandum of 1954 covers their linguistic rights.

The borders between Italy and the former Yugoslavia were finally established under the *Osimo Treaty (1975)*. Sub-section of the Preamble to the nine Articles of the Treaty stipulates the greatest possible loyalty towards the minorities in the two countries. The Treaty was based on the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenants on Human Rights. The basic text in respect to minorities was the Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian, United States, United Kingdom and former Yugoslavian governments, signed in London in May 1954. Since the Treaty does not set out any territorial provisions, the geographical distribution of the minorities was the subject of vigorous debate.

Background notes

Italy failed to secure political unification until the 1860s, thus lacking the military and imperial power of Spain, Britain, and France. The fascist dictatorship of Mussolini after World War I, led to the disastrous alliance with Hitler's Germany and defeat in World War II. Italy was a founding member of the European Economic Community (EEC) and joined in the growing political and economic unification of Western Europe, including the introduction of the Euro in January of 1999. On-going problems include illegal immigration, the ravages of organized crime, high unemployment, and the low incomes and technical standards of Southern Italy compared with the North.

Independence was achieved on March 17, 1861 when the Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed.

Current international disputes: Italy and Slovenia have made progress in resolving bilateral issues. Croatia and Italy are making progress towards resolving a bilateral issue dating from World War II over property and ethnic minority rights.

SECTION B

Where does one observe language to be a problem in the country?

There are still unresolved problems regarding the recognition and protection of the Roma language. Up until now the Roma have been excluded from the framework legislation, despite the request of Roma speakers and their associations to be specifically considered. Pope John Paul II, in April of 2000, called for the integration of the Roma and Sinti communities into Italian society. The fact that draft proposals of specific legislation have been presented in Parliament in recent years may be some ground for hope.

The Slovene community in the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia has waited for 25 years for legislation to assure its linguistic rights, to protect its institutions and to extend the existing provisions to the whole area settled by Slovenes within the Region. Such legislation is essential to affirm the cultural and linguistic diversity of this border region. The law on the protection of the Slovene linguistic minority in the Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia has been approved in the Italian Chamber of Deputies. The Law must be submitted to the Senate for its final approval, which should happen. The text is addressed to a wider social presence of the Slovene language, as in bilingual street signs, use of original surnames, in official documents as well as in schooling. The Slovene-speaking population in this region is approximately 80,000 people. Conservative parties (National Alliance and Forza Italia) have opposed this measure since they consider that the Slovene minority has been sufficiently recognized by the recently passed Framework Law on the Protection of Historic Linguistic Minorities. This fact, according to them, places the Slovene language in an advantageous position with respect to the other Italian minorities. However, the law has been anticipated for fifty years and would add to other current enforced legislation, such as those concerning the German language in South Tyrol, or the French language in the Aosta Valley.

A controversy is raging over bilingual place-names in South Tyrol. South Tyrol is divided over the issue of bilingual German-Italian place-names

remaining as such or being replaced by German-only. The proposed legislation refers to granting municipalities freedom of choice. The majority opting probably for the German-only version and possible bilingual place names for so-called provincial or regional names. This presents the problem of who is to decide what is "provincial" and also creates the possibility of disputes over the official names, not only of towns, but also of rivers and mountain chains. Toni Ebner, Editor-in-Chief of the German-language daily "Dolomiten" recognizes the dangers inherent in the place-names controversy. "I can see that this long-existing controversy is one of the most important issues in South Tyrol and that it encourages both German and Italian nationalism," Ebner said. "I believe this is not the right time for a solution because the historical events are still not far enough in the past to decide for the best".

The use of language in everyday life e.g. education, broadcasting and other

Persons belonging to national/linguistic minorities may use their own language in contact with administrative and judicial authorities and in the judicial proceedings and public services within the regions where their language is officially recognized.

ALBANIAN

There are no public or legal services available in the language. Bilingual signs do exist sporadically.

The language is not officially present in the education system, but it is taught in a small number of schools (pre-primary through secondary education) as an extra-curricular subject. It is also taught as a subject at a number of Italian universities. The Albanian government gives study grants to Italian students.

Some private bilingual radio stations broadcast radio programs in Albanian. There are no television programs in the language. A few magazines exist in the language, but no daily or weekly newspapers.

CATALAN

There is no use of the language at pre-primary and primary education levels. One secondary school teaches the language as a subject outside of normal school hours. There are some courses for adults.

Some bilingual radio stations exist, as well as some bilingual newspapers and periodicals. A bimonthly, "l'Alguer" is published in Catalan.

FRENCH (FRANCO-PROVENÇAL)

- In Valle d'Aosta

According to the 1948 Statute of Autonomy, official documents can be drawn up in Italian or French by request with the exception of judicial documents, which must be in the Italian language. Recruitment for regional administrative bodies is conditional on a proficiency test in both languages. Place names are exclusively in French and Francoprovençal, with the exception of the main town of Aoste, which has "Aosta" as its Italian name. Francoprovençal dialects, while having no official status, are to a large extent used in public life at official events, meetings of town councils etc.

The 1948 Statute of Autonomy stipulates that all schools in the Region, during all stages of education from nursery to secondary levels, must spend the same number of hours on the teaching of both the French and Italian languages. Some subjects however may use French as the language of instruction. These new regulations have not yet been fully implemented. Francoprovençal, while not being taught at school, does become part of certain initiatives organized by the regional authorities responsible for education. These include school activities aimed at promoting the use of the language amongst schoolchildren, training courses for teachers and language learning courses for adults.

No local radio station or television channel transmits exclusively in Francoprovençal or French. The third public station, and some local radio and television stations with their own funding, produce some information and news programs in French and Francoprovençal. Two French-speaking television stations (France 2 and French-speaking Swiss TV) are broadcast regionally by Italian state television. There are various weekly and other periodical publications in French, which often include texts in Francoprovençal. In addition, texts in French and Francoprovençal appear regularly in local Italian language periodicals.

- In Piedmont

There is no real public presence for the language. Road signs and public notices are only sporadically bilingual, and certainly not official.

Since the end of the 1970s Francoprovençal has been used at nursery school level thanks to private initiatives. The language is taught and used as a medium of teaching in some primary schools on the initiative of private individuals as well. Teachers attend special preparatory courses organized by the universities and by local organizations and associations.

Francoprovençal is not used on radio or television. There are no newspapers or periodicals exclusively in Francoprovençal. There are, however, a number of bilingual periodical publications.

FRIULIAN

There is practically no legal or public presence for the language, apart from a few bilingual signs.

The Friulian language is used at some state nursery schools in the province of Udine as part of pilot projects for bilingual pre-school education. A program of partial immersion in Friulian and Italian started in 1987 and is still under way following the pattern of "one people - one language". A recent regional act (April 1993) assigns funds for the promotion of the Friulian language in the primary schools of the public sector. The language has been taught as a separate subject in primary schools since the 1950s. In some secondary schools, Friulian is taught as an optional subject during the first three years of the cycle. There is no training in the teaching of Friulian, but some cultural associations provide courses for teachers in collaboration with the University of Udine. Friulian language and literature are taught at the Universities of Udine and Trieste.

There are no television stations broadcasting entirely in Friulian, but the third public radio channel does produce some programs about the language and culture. There is one private radio station. Some periodicals in the Friulian language, as well as bilingual ones exist.

On May 19 of 2000, the mayor of Udine, the capital city of the northern Italian region of Friuli, won a battle against bureaucracy and celebrated the first marriage in the Friulian language. As the rules of enforcement of the new Law on Linguistic Minorities still had not been adopted, the mayor of Udine faced a delicate problem and had to find his own solution.

GERMAN

Under the Special Statute, German has equal status with Italian. Germans are entitled to use their language in all dealings with police officers, public bodies and with local or provincial responsibilities. Both languages can be used in the representative assemblies of the regional, provincial and local authorities. All administrative offices and bodies are required to use the language of the public in both oral and written communication. In the province of Bolzano/Bozen, government departments must use the German language in their dealings with Germans. German can also be used in court.

The Special Statute guarantees the right to education in the mother tongue for Germans in the province (from nursery through secondary levels). Italian is taught as a second language starting from the second year of the elementary level. The rule is that lessons in the mother tongue are taught by teachers who share this mother tongue. This principle also applies to the second language. Teachers who have German as a mother tongue can train in other German speaking countries; various university agreements and international standards allow these diplomas to be validated.

Both the public television service and the public radio service broadcast German programs. In addition, it is possible to receive TV programs from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. There exist a large number of newspapers and periodical publications in German. Occasionally, German language articles appear in Italian newspapers.

In the areas outside of South Tyrol where the German-speaking minority lives, no public presence exists apart from occasional bilingual road signs.

The languages present in these areas are not taught in public schools. It is possible to learn these languages in the framework of extra school hours or as an experiment, although this remains limited. The situation depends on the will, the commitment and the capabilities of the teachers and parents. Lessons offered to Walsers in the Aosta Valley are the only exception.

In the Aosta Valley some bilingual radio stations broadcast partially in German (Walser). These broadcasts are financed by the central and regional administration in deference to the new statutes. There are no radio or television programs in Cimbri. However, there are a few periodical publications dealing with the Cimbrian language and culture. Mbcheno/Fersentaler is not represented in the media at all. The language has no presence in the media in the other linguistic islands.

GREEK

There is no public presence for the language apart from occasional bilingual road signs.

In Puglia, Greek is not used in nursery schools, despite the fact that current regulations allow parents to request the use of the language at this educational level. At elementary level, the situation varies from one community to the next. In two towns the language has been taught since 1978 on an official experimental basis for 15 hours per week, from the first year onwards, throughout the elementary cycle. In Calabria, Greek is used sporadically in nursery schools, usually on the initiative of the

children's parents. At the elementary level, the language is taught as a subject three hours per week. At the secondary level the language is occasionally taught as a subject. Adult courses in Greek are organized for residents who do not know the language.

Some private local radio stations broadcast in Greek from time to time. There are no television broadcasts in the language. Two Greek-language newspapers are published in Calabria with the financial help of the local administration. In Puglia various Italian-language newspapers occasionally carry articles in the Greek language.

CROATIAN

There is no public presence for the language, except for some bilingual road signs.

Croatian is not used as a language of instruction in the schools, and it is not taught as a subject.

There are no radio programs, television services, newspapers, or periodicals in the language.

LADIN

Over the last few years there have been numerous initiatives to make the Ladin language more visible (public signs, especially road signs). Following a 1988 regulation, Ladin was given the status of an official language in the public administration of the Ladin valleys located in the provinces of Bolzano/Bozen and Trent. In the Ladin valleys of the province of Bolzano/Bozen some legal and administrative texts are published in three languages i.e. Italian, German and Ladin. In addition, knowledge of Ladin is required in order to become an employee of the local administration offices.

It is necessary to make a distinction between the situation in the province of Bolzano/Bozen where the language is officially recognized, and the situation in Trento and Belluno, where schools are for the most part monolingual (Italian).

Bolzano/Bozen: The Autonomy Statute (1972) stipulates that Ladin should be used in all nursery schools and taught in all primary schools in the Ladin valleys. A trilingual school system was set up in which pupils are gradually introduced to the use of both Italian and German as mediums of instruction, while Ladin is taught as a subject. At the secondary level, half of the subjects are taught through the Italian, and the other half through the German language. In addition, Ladin is taught two hours per week at this level.

Trento: The presence of Ladin in educational establishments is not as systematic and comprehensive as in Bolzano/Bozen. The Ladin language is used in the nursery schools. New regulations (1992/1996) ensure the use of Ladin as the language of instruction for a few hours a week in all primary and secondary schools, in addition to being taught as a subject. No university level institution outside of the valley uses Ladin as the language of instruction. It is possible, however, to study the Ladin language at some Italian universities, as well as in Innsbruck. There are also adult education courses available.

Since 1978, private bilingual and trilingual radio stations have been transmitting cultural programs and news for one to two hours per week. Some programs also broadcast through the regional network of the public channel. Since 1988 the regional station of the public channel in Bolzano/Bozen transmits Ladin television broadcasts for Ladin communities in Bolzano/Bozen and Trento. The Ladin communities in Belluno are not served by these broadcasts. However, it is intended to extend the broadcasts to this area as well. There are no daily newspapers in Ladin, but both Italian and German language papers of the region carry weekly articles in Ladin. There is one weekly paper in Ladin, which is distributed in all Ladin valleys.

OCCITAN

There is no real public presence for the language. Occitan is used only sporadically in local place names and road signs.

Private initiatives have introduced Occitan in some pre-primary and primary schools, but the teaching of the Occitan language is not carried out in an official coordinated fashion.

“Occitan-lengua” viva (Occitan-living language) is the name of one of the educational projects in Italy. Experimental educational projects in primary and secondary schools and those aimed at adults include material about Occitan culture such as poetry, music, local architecture and cuisine. These projects hope to introduce Occitan into everyday life and foster collaboration with the Occitans on the other side of the Alps.

There is no television or radio service in the language. There are a number of bilingual periodicals (Occitan/Italian).

SARDINIAN

Many initiatives have been taken to make Sardinian the official language of Sardinia, but it has yet to be used in administration or in court.

For the first time in 800 years, an official event has been carried out in one of the dialects of the Sardinian language (Campidanese). It was a deliberation of the Communal Council of Quarto Sant'Elena made in written version of Sardinian-Campidanese. It was the first official use of Sardinian in the public administration. (2000)

Public signs and place names are sometimes bilingual.

The Sardinian language is used in pre-primary schools in so far as it is necessary to communicate with children. At the primary and secondary levels, the language has recently been introduced as a separate subject, on an official experimental basis. Teachers can attend courses organized by universities and cultural associations. Since 1970, there has been free language tuition for adults. This opportunity is not taken advantage of regularly.

Some private local radio stations include Sardinian programs in their broadcasts. There are a few newspapers in Sardinian with an average circulation of 3,000 copies. Bilingual newspapers and periodicals are also available. There is no current information on television services.

SLOVENE

The Special Statute associated with the London Memorandum of 1954 establishes the rights of the Slovene minority in Trieste. Among these rights is, the right to use their language in official contact with administrative and legal bodies, and the right to receive a response in that language (either directly or through an interpreter). However, this is only put into practice in four communities of the province. In some communities of Gorizia the same rights are recognized as well, but not in Udine at all. Administrative and legal documents are available in the Slovene language in the same four communities in Trieste, but not always elsewhere in the province. Some towns in Gorizia also supply documents in the language. In the province of Udine some communities include the use of the Slovene language in their statutes. Public municipal signs are occasionally in Slovene. According to the penal procedure legislation, ethnic minority languages can be used in court. This rule is generally applied for Slovenes. In 1997 a special law of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region allowed minority language speakers to present applications and other documents to the regional authorities in Slovene, but the individual speaker is responsible for providing a translation.

The situation of Slovene schools differs widely from one province to another. In Udine there is only one private nursery school using Slovene as the language of instruction. In Gorizia and Trieste public Slovene

language nursery schools exist with state or municipal support. At the primary level, several state-sponsored Slovene language primary schools operate in Trieste and Gorizia. In Udine there is only one private Slovene primary school, which is not recognized by the state. Slovene is not taught as a subject in Italian language primary schools.

At the secondary level, the same dichotomy exists. In Trieste and Gorizia there are all types of state-sponsored Slovene language schools, whereas in Udine there is only one private school, which was officially recognized by the State in 1997 and is subsidized by the State and the region. The language is not taught as a subject at Italian language secondary schools. Teachers receive their training at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. Their qualification is recognized in Italy under the regulations of the Treaty of Osimo (1975).

The Slovene language is taught as a subject at the universities of Trieste, Udine and Padua. According to an agreement between Italy and Slovenia, university qualifications obtained by minority speakers in Slovenia are recognized by the Italian State. The language is not used as a teaching-medium at graduate level institutions in the area. A few adult education courses in Slovene do exist.

There is a daily short television program broadcast by the public television company, averaging less than half an hour. Broadcasting covers the provinces of Trieste and Gorizia only. Public radio service broadcasts about twelve hours per day in the language. There are also a number of private Slovene radio stations. There are a number of weekly as well as one daily newspaper published entirely in Slovene. A number of periodical publications in the language are also available.

Did the country ratify any international treaty dealing with the protection of minorities?

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages signed on June 27, 2000.

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities signed on February 1, 1995, ratified on November 3, 1997 and enacted on March 1, 1998.

SECTION C

Legislation dealing with the use of languages

Updated (January 2001)

MINORITY LAW

On April 11, the Italian Government finally approved regulations in order to implement the Law No 482 On Protection of Historic Linguistic Minorities. The legislation passed a year and half ago for the first time recognizes 12 autochthonous linguistic minorities in Italy.

SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN ITALIANS

Italian Senate has approved a law granting financial support to the Italian minority living in Slovenia and in Croatia, in region of Istria and Rijeka. About 35,000 Italians live on Istrian peninsula, mostly in Croatia. The law will provide about 15 million Euros for the next three years for economic and cultural development of the minority communities.

SLOVENE

On February 23, 2001 the Italian Senate approved the protection Act 38 for the Slovene minority in northeastern Italy (region Friuli Venezia Giulia). Slovenes waited for more than fifty years for legislation, which had been foreseen by the Italian Constitution in 1948 for the first time and later by the Osimo Treaty (1975) between Italy and the former Yugoslavia. Acceptance of the law represents a major boost for Italian-Slovene relations.

The law unifies the Slovene minority living in three provinces in the northeast of Italy and it also for the first time officially recognizes Slovene presence in the Udine province.

Updated (October 2001)

The "Gazzeta Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana" has officially published the regulation for implementation the Framework Act 482/99 on the Protection of Italian Historic Linguistic Minorities. This regulation previously presented by the former government of Giuliano Amato guarantees the use of the minority languages in education, allows members of municipal, provincial and regional councils to use them in the official bodies and also respects for original names in historical minority languages as well as place names in the concerned territories.

This regulation is fully effective since September 14, 2001, the day of its publication in the official gazette. Since the publication, the commission in charge of drafting the document will devote itself to the elaboration of the regulation of Act 38/2001, which is concerning the linguistic minority of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region. Both regulations will have to be implemented by the new Berlusconi government.

Updated (March 2002)

In Italy, the amendment about the Italian as an official language to the Constitution was initiated by rightwing party Alleanza nazionale. According to the initiative takers of this amendment the bill will help to fight “strong separatist tensions that are spreading beyond the historical minorities of the Italian territory, into larger areas of the national territory on the basis of the ethnic identity or dialects, sometimes not existing.”

The proposal is supported by the majority of the political parties including the center-leftwing opposition.

However, there is also a strong opposition. The petition against Italian as the official language in the Constitution has received 200 e-signatures in just two days, despite a very little publicity.

“Until now there has been no media coverage of the petition in Italy,” said Matteo Incerti, initiative taker to the petition on behalf of the European Free Alliance (EFA) in Italy. “Despite the common belief that people who defend regional languages are just from northern Italian regions, there are a lot of signatures from Sicily and Naples – around 20%. And also Italian speakers, who sign in the name of freedom,” explained Incerti.

Belgian MEP Nelly Maes, Chairwoman of the EFA, commented on her signature on the petition:

“Italian is the general language in Italy, but it is a fact that there are a more languages in Italy – not only dialects, but clearly defined languages. It would be against all common sense to change the Constitution to resemble the French Constitution. Look at what happens there – regional languages cannot get any support because of the article that states that French is the language of the Republic.” Maes gave the decision on the Corsican language as the most recent example, where the French Constitutional Council voted against a law that would have given certain legislative powers to Corsica, among them the power to decide over their education language. The French Interior Minister at the time of the law proposal (summer 2000), Jean-Pierre Chevènement – who is now one of the presidential candidates – resigned in protest against giving Corsica these powers.

“UNESCO said that there were almost 30 native languages in Italy. The Italian Parliament is ready to vote against UNESCO and freedom,” warned Matteo Incerti.

Updated (May 2002)

On May 3, 2002 the Italian Government finally nominated the remaining four members of so-called Parithetic Committee to supervise the application of the Law No.38/2001 dealing with the Slovene minority living in Italy. This law remains largely unapplied until now.

The Committee has twenty members, both of Slovene and Italian nationality, nominated by the Council of Ministers, on the advice of the Italian Minister for Relations with the Regional Governments Enrico La Loggia. Similar bodies were previously created for the German and French minorities living in Italy.

According to one of the members, Mr. Jevnikar, this body should have been nominated by September 23, 2001 so people have great expectations. However, the reality is different because the Committee does not have many real or autonomous competences.

The Slovene Parithetic Committee was already criticized because among its members there are no official representatives of the state or the regional administration, since the latter have only been nominated on ideological and political grounds. The previous Italian government intended the Committee to represent a “confrontation point” between the requests of the Slovene minority and the possibilities allowed by the present legislation. Then the government was changed so currently this body reflects a political balance and not an expert confrontation between Slovenes and Italians.

Some members see the working regulations of the body as “boycott mechanisms.” One of them is the rule that the meetings of the Committee are valid only if at least 11 members are present and among them at least 5 members of one (either Slovene or Italian) nationality.

“I see no real political will to apply the protection law and I am most of all worried for the political atmosphere in Trieste, which is not very favorable towards ethnic minorities. I believe it’s necessary that the Committee starts to work immediately,” Rudi Pavsic, President of one of the two Slovene umbrella organizations in Italy, and also a member of the Committee commented.

The Committee has set important goals to be achieved in the spirit of the Constitution, real equality and respect of the rights of national minorities. The main task of the next 18 months will be to write the list

of municipalities where the law should apply and where some bilingualism should be seen in public.

Source: Eurolang News, <http://www.eurolang.net/>

Updated (July 2002)

Existing legal minority protection in Italy has been a controversial issue during the past years, as current experiences show that a legal basis does not automatically mean an immediate application of the law. This is the case of the special protection law for the Slovene minority in Italy, approved in February 2001, because until now only one article has been implemented.

THE OFFICE FOR LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

The Office for Linguistic Minorities, which in the past raised quite a lot of anxiety among minorities because of its supposedly ill-intentioned checking of the border situation, shows how the attitude towards minorities has changed over the years. In 1969, when the office was established, it was called “the Central Office for the Problems of Border Areas and Ethnic Minorities,” and it acted more like a monitoring body of the State checking minorities, considered by the state as problematic and potentially revolutionary, or at least causing disturbance. Media has in the past raised many questions concerning the secret monitoring of minorities, which was seen as a sign of a repressive attitude towards minorities by the State.

According to the Director of the office, Giuseppe Mario Scalia, the situation has changed and currently the office acts more like a study center, carrying out various research and monitoring projects (i.e. on the existing legal protection for minorities, the attitude of the Church towards minorities etc.). It lists minorities’ associations in Italy, as well as promotes the spreading of basic information material on minorities in Italian schools.

Apart from its research function, it also lobbies for the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Italy signed the Charter in June 2000, but so far has not ratified this document.

For a country with 12 recognized autochthonous ethnic minorities, the capacity of the Office is far too small. The problem is that there is no central public body responsible for the overall legal picture of minorities in Italy. Minorities lack implementation of existing legal measures in various matters, such as the right to use their languages when dealing with public administration, media, education, etc.

The problem is that the minority situation is far too much linked with the political atmosphere in the country.

Source: <http://www.eurolang.net/>, Eurolang, Trieste, June 18, 2002 by Vida Valencic

Updated (December 2002)

LADIN

- *BULSAN AND TRENT*

Bulsan (Badia) and Trent were located in Southern Tyrol, and remained under Austrian rule until World War I. A period of forced "Italianization" and the Fascist regime with "Germanization" followed, but finally, after World War II, Southern Tyrol was granted a significant degree of autonomy and minority language protection.

The legal administrative self-rule of the region was established in *the Statute of Autonomy of South Tyrol-Trentino (1948)*, in which the Ladins were explicitly mentioned (Article 87). But just after 1972 the cultural rights and teaching rights of the Ladins were guaranteed in *the revised Autonomous Statute of the Region*.

Nowadays South Tyrol only refers to the province of Bulsan, with the two Ladin valleys Val Badia and Gherdëina. The province of Bulsan is mostly German speaking, although Italian dominates in the large towns. The bilingual status of the province of Bulsan is quite stable now. It is notable; however, that the protection of Ladin is merely a side effect of the high degree of protection granted to the German minority (a "majority" in fact within the province).

The Statute of 1972 was also intended to apply to Trent, but its application has been delayed. The localization of Fascia in the Italian speaking region and its change to the touristic area triggered the Italianization process in the valley. Ladin teaching has been implemented only since 1997.

BULSAN – EDUCATION

Ladin was taught to some extent after the Autonomous Statute of 1948 has been adopted. With the revised statute, the teaching of Ladin obtained a secure legal basis and recognition, not only as a school subject in all nursery, elementary and secondary schools in the Ladin area, but also as a teaching instrument. Subsequent decrees were adopted to make teaching in Ladin as a medium of instruction a legally sanctioned option.

In 2000, the regulations prescribed that each class at primary school level must have twelve hours in the Italian language, twelve hours in the German language and two hours in Ladin per week. The same rules exist for secondary schooling. Religion is taught in all three languages.

The use of the Ladin language is permitted in official situations and documents.

TRENT - EDUCATION

In contrast to Bulsan, in Trent bilingual education is a pedagogical rather than a political issue. In 1994, a Ladin branch of the provincial educational authority was created and in 1995, *the Provincial Act* introducing Ladin in grades 1 to 8 (shortly to be extended to grade 10) was accepted by the Italian State, together with a new Ladin curriculum.

- *BELUM*

The Ladin valleys of Fodom and Cortina de Anpezo are near Belum in the region of Venice, which became a part of the Italian Kingdom in 1866. The province has only recently been granted a legal means of protecting for the Ladins (1999).

BELUM - EDUCATION

The teaching is still on a voluntary basis.

Updated (December 2002)

MAIN OFFICIAL TEXTS REGULATING TEACHING OF LADIN

- *NATIONAL REGULATIONS*

Constitutional Law No. 5, dated February 26, 1948

Special statute for the Trentino-Alto Adige region

Decree by the President of the Republic No. 670, dated August 31, 1972

- *SPECIAL STATUTE FOR THE TRENTINO-ALTO ADIGE REGION*

Law No. 482, dated December 15, 1999 (Rules in the matter of the safeguarding of historical linguistic minorities; regulates sources in school and cultural affairs for the Ladin valleys in the Province of Bulsan/Bolzano)

1948 Ministerial Decree No. 5145/76, dated August 27, 1948 (Intends to guarantee, without delay, the execution of Article 87 of Constitutional

Law No. 5, dated February 26, 1948 regarding teaching of Ladin in primary schools where it is spoken, also considering the legitimate desire of the Ladin group to have a type of primary school where pupils, apart from their mother tongue, can also learn the Italian and German language)

1958 Provincial Law No. 7, dated October 29, 1958 (Cultural councils financed by the province for cultural activities)

Judgment of the Constitutional Court dated April 21, 1976

Provincial Law No. 27, dated July 31, 1976 (Foundation of the Ladin Cultural Institute)

1981 Decree by the President of the Republic No. 89, dated February 10

1983 Rules for the implementation of the special statute of the Trentino-Alto Adige region in school regulation affairs in the Province of Bulsan. Approval of the consolidated act of the decrees by the President of the Republic No. 116, dated January 20, 1973 and No. 761 dated December 4, 1981.

Provincial Law No. 48, dated December 6, 1983 (Programs, school timetables and examination tests for junior secondary schools in the Province of Bolzano/Bulsan)

Provincial Law No. 13, dated June 30, 1987 (Educational research, cultural and professional updating, pedagogical experience, creation of relevant institutes)

Decree by the President of the Republic No. 574, dated July 15, 1988 (Rules for the implementation of the special statute of the Trentino - Alto Adige Region in matters of the use of the German and Ladin languages in relations of the citizens in public administration and in judicial proceedings)

Provincial Law No. 64, dated December 30, 1988 (Educational programs for primary schools of the Ladin communities)

Decree by the President of the Provincial Council No. 1269, dated December 12, 1990 (Statute of the Provincial Pedagogical Institute of Research, Experimentation and Educational Updating for the Ladin linguistic group)

Provincial Law No. 29, dated July 10, 1992 (Regulations and supplements to the Provincial Law No. 48, dated December 6, 1983 and to the Provincial Law No. 13, dated August 17, 1979)

1996 Educational guidelines for Ladin schools

Provincial Law No. 24, dated December 12, 1996 (Provincial School Board)

Provincial Law No. 25, dated December 7, 1993 (Regulations for primary schools in the Alto Adige region)

Provincial Law No. 13, dated June 1, 1995 (Introduction of curricular teaching of Ladin in senior secondary and artistic secondary schools in Ladin communities)

Resolution of the Provincial Council No. 4611, dated September 15, 1997 (Approval of the statute of the Provincial Museum of Ladin Culture and History of the Alto Adige Region)

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, the Ladin Language in Education in Italy

http://www1.f.a.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_ladin_in_italy.htm

Updated (January 2003)

GERMAN

On September 10, 1919, the Tyrol south of the Brenner Pass was ceded to Italy in the Treaty of Saint-Germain. The peace treaty did not include any injunctions for the protection of the German minority. However, on December 1, 1919, King Victor Emanuel guaranteed preservation of local institutions and self-governance for the new provinces. Nonetheless, pre-fascist Italy granted no autonomous rights to the South Tyroleans.

On October 28, 1922, Benito Mussolini's fascists began their march on Rome. The fascists emblazoned the annihilation of the German minority on their banners from the very start. From November 1922 onwards, the fascist prefects, making it punishable by law, forbade the teaching of German in schools. All German teachers were relieved of their duties or were moved to the Italian provinces. Teachers who were caught teaching German were imprisoned and afterwards banished to remote areas of southern Italy. All German officials were fired, replaced by a policy of "Italians only."

In 1923, all place names were italianized and the name "Tyrol" was forbidden. All German economic associations (workers' and farmers' unions) and all German clubs and societies (alpine, gymnastic, etc.) were

dissolved and their property was confiscated. All public announcements, signposts, signs and shop names had to be in Italian. Everything German was banished from public life. In 1923, the Italian school system was reorganized and in 1925, Italian was decreed to be the only official language.

When the public schools were italianized, South Tyrolean Germans responded by calling for private schools and home education. This was the beginning of the “catacomb schools.” Starting from 1925, these schools underwent a systematic and thorough reorganization. According to the leader of the South Tyrol catacomb schools, every house, every cottage had to become a school, every room had to be a school room where children could take instruction in their mother tongue. The illegal catacomb schools prepared the way for the reconstruction of South Tyrol schools after the Second World War.

After the Berlin Agreement of June 23, 1939 between Hitler and Mussolini concerning the resettlement of the South Tyrol Germans, German education underwent an unintended revival. Official German-language courses for children whose parents opted to immigrate to Germany were at the center of this revival. During the German occupation (from 1943 to 1945) German-language courses developed into the Deutsche Schule Südtirol [South Tyrol German School].

On September 5, 1946, the Paris Agreement between Austria and Italy guaranteed the German-speaking inhabitants of a new province of Bozen/Bolzano full equality of rights in relation to Italian-speaking inhabitants. The German speaking citizens were granted not only elementary and intermediate school instruction in German but also equal use of German and Italian in public offices and official documents as well as in place names.

The first Autonomy Statute of 1948 held to the principle that Italian would remain the official language in the Trentino-South Tyrol region.

The new Autonomy Statute of January 20, 1972 stipulated that: “In the region, the German language is given parity with the Italian language which is the official language of the State” (Article 99). Thus, in South Tyrol, German was granted an official status equal to that of the official state language.

EDUCATION

After World War II, German primary education in South Tyrol had to be rebuilt from the ground. Through Decree No. 555 of 1947, it was the State that regulated organization of the elementary education for the German-speaking minority. However, it took almost three decades before

all teaching posts could be filled with trained teachers. The comprehensive intermediate schools (Einheitsmittelschule) were introduced in 1962 and applied universally throughout Italy.

With the 1972 Autonomy Statute, the authorities in Rome placed responsibility for the education of all three ethnic groups in South Tyrol to the hands of the Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano. The State was responsible for the employment rights and the teachers' payment. By this means, South Tyrolean schools lost, at least in part, their dependence on Italian school legislation and regulations. Additionally, provincial school boards were established in 1975.

Provincial Law No. 48/1983 reformed and established intermediate school curricula and specified the subjects. Several subjects like Geography or History were adapted to suit the situation in South Tyrol.

Provincial Law No. 64/1988 introduced a South Tyrol primary school curriculum that resulted in a new educational form based on reform-minded educational principles. The new primary school regulations (Provincial Law No. 25/ 1993) attempted to fulfill these educational principles by changing the way education was organized.

On January 1, 1996, to support dynamic South Tyrolean autonomy, the jurisdiction of state officials over the areas of employment rights and teachers' salaries was transferred to the Autonomous Province. An agreement with the Ministry of Education was no longer necessary with respect to the development of schools and teaching positions. Now provincial laws can introduce additional subjects, alter the subjects and the number of lessons taught, as well as the curricula and exams, in order to suit individual language groups.

MAIN LEGAL TEXTS REGULATING GERMAN TEACHING

First Autonomy Statute

Paris Agreement of September 5, 1946

Legislative Decree No. 555 of May 16, 1947, regarding mother tongue instructions in primary schools

Law No. 1859 of December 31, 1962, regarding intermediate schools

Second Autonomy Statute

Decree of the President of the Republic No. 670 of August 31, 1972

Curricula, course schedules and organization of tests for the intermediate schools in the Province of Bozen/Bolzano embodied in *the Provincial Law No. 48* of December 6, 1983

Curriculum for the primary schools of the Province of Bozen/Bolzano (with German as a language of instruction), *Provincial Law No. 64* of December 30, 1988

Directions for the position of an educator in the kindergartens of South Tyrol, *Decree of the Provincial Head of Government No. 641* of August 23, 1989

Reorganization of the leadership structure of the South Tyrolean provincial administration in the *Provincial Law No. 10* of April 23, 1992,

Rules for vocational training in *the Provincial Law No. 40* of November 12, 1992

Provincial law No. 25 of December 7, 1993, regarding the rules for South Tyrolean primary schools

Curricula for German and Italian instructions for the “Biennium” (a two-year program) in German high schools, *Provincial Law No. 5* of August 9, 1994

Legislative Decree No. 297 of April 16, 1994, (standard text for the school sector)

Legislative Decree No. 434 of July 24, 1996, regarding the procedures for implementing the Autonomy Statute (school rules in the province of Bozen/Bolzano)

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, the German Language in Education in South Tyrol (Italy)

http://www1.f.a.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_german_in_italy.htm

Updated (February 2003)

NEW CONTRACT OF SERVICE WITH “RAI” WELCOMED BY ITALIAN MINORITIES

In the last few weeks, concerns have been voiced about a draft version of the Contract of Service between the Italian state and the public broadcasting society RAI. The first draft referred only generally and ambiguously to minority languages and it contained no explanation on

how to use the recognized languages in broadcasting. Thus this draft was clearly opposed to what has been provided by the Law on the Protection of Historic Linguistic Minorities (Law 482/1999) and its implementing regulations.

To protest against the contract, a minority delegation met with the President of the Parliamentary Committee. Based on the meeting the Committee decided to accept contents of a minority representatives' proposal and amended the draft version of the contract with the following: "RAI has to introduce into the schedule of both the third TV channel and the satellite channel "RAINEWS 24" at least an hour of broadcasting in minority languages. These programs have to be produced by the regional RAI centers in the areas inhabited by linguistic minorities."

Finally, at the end of the month (January), a new triennial Contract of Service containing exact references to the protection of minority languages has been signed.

Article 12 of the Contract, based on Law 482 and its implementing regulations, states that RAI has to ensure that its broadcasting is respectful to the rights of linguistic minorities in the areas where they live. The public broadcaster also has to adopt and support initiatives for promotion of the minority languages in partnership with regional and local institutions.

In addition, the Contract of Service declares that RAI has to promote signing of the agreements with regional and local powers, which are to support funding of programs in the recognized minority languages and their inclusion in radio and regional TV schedules.

Minority associations and local administrations concerned with the protection of minority languages have welcomed signature of the contract. However, at present, they wait to be rightly involved in the committee promised by the Contract. This committee launches the regional RAI centers working with the different minority languages and estimates the degree of protection that has to be given to every single minority.

The members of this committee are nominated by RAI and the Ministry of Telecommunications within 90 days after the Contract itself has entered into force.

Source: Eurolang News, Turin, January 9, 22 and 27, 2003, by Marco Stolfo, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4027>, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4053>, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4060>

Background notes

Updated (December 2002)

LADIN

Ladin is a neo-Latin or Rhaeto-Romance language spoken in the Central and Eastern Alpine regions. It is divided into Central, Eastern and Western Ladin, which formed one language area in the past. Nowadays they are separated by the areas where Italian or German is spoken.

Eastern Ladin is referred to as Friulian and Western Ladin is spoken in Grischun in Switzerland. All these Ladin varieties have witnessed a continuous decline, both in speakers and in territory.

Central or Dolomite Ladin is spoken in five valleys in the Dolomites (Val Badia, Gherdëina, Fascia, Fodom and Cortina de Anpezo), which belong to different provinces and regions and have, for that reason, different language policies. Out of the total population of some 38,000 people in all five valleys, approximately 30,000 speak Ladin.

In Gherdëina and Badia (Bulsan) 18,434 speakers form some 90 percent of their population. In the Fascia Valley in Trentino the number of Ladin speakers is about 7,000. In the Fodom and Anpezo Valleys in the province of Belun some 5,000 persons still speak the language.

THE NAMES OF VALLEYS AND PROVINCES IN THE LADIN, GERMAN AND ITALIAN LANGUAGE

	VALLEY				PROVINCE		
Ladin	German	Italian		Ladin	German	Italian	
Val Badia	Gadertal	Badia		Bulsan	Süd-Tirol	Bolzano	
Gherdëina	Gröden	Gerdena		*	*	*	
Fascia	*	Fassa		Trent	*	Trentino	
Cortina de Anpezo	*	Cortina d'Ampezzo		*	*	*	

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, the Ladin Language in Education in Italy

http://www1.fa.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_ladin_in_italy.htm

Updated (January 2003)

GERMAN

According to the 1991 Census (another Census in 2001) there were approximately 460,000 inhabitants in South Tyrol. From those 67.9 percent considered themselves to be German speakers, 27.7 percent were Italian speakers and 4.4 percent Ladin [Rhaeto-Romanic] speakers. The remainder did not declare to belong to any of these linguistic groups.

The German-speaking population preponderated in all the cities and small towns of South Tyrol with the exception of the Ladin valleys where the majority was Ladin-speaking and the capital Bozen/Bolzano, Leifers/Laives, Branzoll/Bronzolo, Salurn/Salorno and Pfatten/Vadena, where the majority was Italian speaking.

EDUCATION

At the end of World War I, the borders between Austria and Italy were redrawn and since then citizens of the German community have been in the minority. The 1920s and 1930s were characterized by an immense suppression of the German language and culture.

Within the context of post-war reconstruction, South Tyrolese focused on rebuilding German schools. The most important thing for the population was to have schools where both teachers and students are able to use the same language.

The German schools in South Tyrol also teach the second official language (Italian, taught by Italian native speakers) as well as one or more foreign languages from secondary level onwards. Mother tongue education is considered to be essential for the linguistic and cultural survival of the German community and it is the cornerstone of the South Tyrol autonomy.

The principle of mother tongue teaching also applies to the Italian community. Students study German as a second language so both communities share the same opportunities and options. Experience shows that children from bilingual families mostly attend German schools.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, the German Language in Education in South Tyrol (Italy)

http://www1.f.a.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_german_in_italy.htm

Where does one observe language to be a problem in the country?

Updated (January 2001)

LADIN

Ladins in the Italian Dolomites (northern Italy) are one of the twelve historical ethnic minorities officially recognized by the recently approved minority law (428/99). The minority with about 30,000 people is spread through three provinces (Bozen-Bolzano, Trento and Belluno) and enjoys different level of protection. While Bolzano has a secure legal basis for teaching of the language, in Trento the situation is less secure and Belluno relies only on voluntary work of individual teachers.

The main problem for the Ladin minority, spread among various valleys in the Dolomites, is the lack of integration. Different competing versions of the language have led to the need for standardization. According to Manuela Miribung from the University of Innsbruck, a common standard was created, but so far it has not been used very much partly for political reasons.

Lack of coordination between Ladin communities exists in many fields, especially in the case of media. At the present, Ladins have only one weekly paper.

SOUTH TYROL

The political row over place names still continues in this province.

Bilingual place name signs in German and Italian were introduced in the area during fascism by the decree, which abolished German place-names and introduced new Italian versions, most of which had not existed before. Later the majority of the community, mostly German-speaking, wanted to restore the previous system with monolingual names, whereas the Italian speaking population opposed it.

Last August (2000), a new legislation granted municipalities freedom of choice and the majority was expected to opt for the German-only version and a possible bilingual denomination for provincial or supra-municipal names.

Updated (July 2001)

SLOVENE

Slovene minority in Northeast Italian territory (Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia) is having problems due to a lack of financial means. The law, approved in February concerning special care for minorities, mentions

some 5 million Euros of financial funds more for the Slovene minority than it is the current reality. The funds provided by the new law will not be available until next year. At present, Slovene cultural institutions are in a critical financial situation. Worst affected is the Slovene music school "Glasbena matica", which had to fire most of its employees in June.

Updated (November 2001)

SLOVENE

In November, during the meeting of the Central-European Initiative in Trieste was also raised the issue of lacking implementation of the protection law for Slovenes in Italy. Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi refused to meet representative body of the Slovene minority and his reaction to a question asked at the press conference was, "the protection law approved in the Parliament at Valentine's this year, will be applied before next Valentine's Day!"

Updated (January 2002)

SOUTH TYROL

A new dispute aroused over the autonomy of South Tyrol (Bozen-Bolzano), a part of Italy granted by special autonomy on the basis of bilateral Italian-Austrian agreements.

The whole dispute was a clash between the Italian State and a body like the Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano which enjoys very large autonomy, based on bilateral Italo-Austrian agreements.

The question concerned the registration of the so-called "declaration of linguistic belonging" which had to be registered at the Court of Justice of Bozen-Bolzano, according to the Special Statute of the Province. However, the present Italian central-right government suggested they should be - at least temporarily - registered at the Government Commissariate, which the South Tyrolean People's Party (SVP), gathering the vast majority of the German minority in Italy, did not accept. They preferred registration at single municipalities.

The problem is quite serious, especially after the recent remarks by the Italian vice-premier Gianfranco Fini regarding the South Tyrolean Statute of Autonomy. He said that the South Tyrolean autonomy could be changed without necessary agreement with Austria.

Mr Brugger, Secretary General of the SVP party and MP in Rome, says:

"The Italian Government speaks about federalism, but its attitude towards South Tyrol is very centralistic. The South Tyrol People's Party wants to protect the Statute of Autonomy above all and is prepared to hand over the issue to the Court of Justice and eventually contact international bodies. We do not ask anything more than respect for the existing norms. This means that the Italian Government cannot issue a decree regarding the Statute of Autonomy, without the agreement of the Commission of Six, a body which has as the principal aim the agreement between the State and the Province."

FRIULIAN

The Friulian language, one of the twelve linguistic minorities in Italy, was recognized for the first time in 1999 by minority law No 482. However, the language still remains excluded from public visibility most of the time. Regional public authorities refrain from using it.

Despite the general protection law for the twelve linguistic minorities, and the regional law for the promotion of Friulian language and culture, Friulian has hardly any space in public media. There is only one weekly paper "La Patrie dal Friul" written entirely in this language and the private radio station "Radio Onde Furlane" which broadcasts bilingually in Italian and Friulian.

In the field of education, the University of Udine offers Friulian language courses and organizes short courses and internships for journalists and interpreters.

"The Friulian language needs especially stronger cultural growth supported by all those who cover important roles at the regional level in politics, culture and education. All the good phrases needs to be put into practice by the people who delivers them. The regional political, commercial and cultural sector should understand that new professions which use Friulian, like journalists or interpreters, would mean many new job opportunities," says Silvana Schiavi-Fachin, a lecturer at the Faculty of Modern Languages at the University of Udine and an expert on multilingualism, as well as organizer and promoter of several international projects and conferences on multilingual education and the usage of lesser-used languages in public.

Updated (February 2002)

At present the Slovene minority in Italy struggles with very difficult and unstable situation. There is a crisis in the relationship between Slovenes living in Italy and the State. Slovenes feel the negative changes led by the central-right coalition in the government on regional and national level.

In spite of last year's approval of the protection law, which the minority waited for over 50 years, there were several problems. The Italian Home Secretary issued a decree which requires three ethnically mixed municipalities on the outskirts of Trieste to issue only monolingual identity cards (until now the ID-cards were all bilingual, Italian-Slovene). The decree broke both international Italian-Yugoslavian agreements and the newly approved protection law for the Slovenes in Italy.

Reactions to the decree were immediate: Slovene mayors of the above-mentioned municipalities met the prefect of Trieste, and the Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Slovenia called the Italian Ambassador Norberto Cappello. At the January meeting with representatives of the Slovene minority, Slovene mayors have announced that they will contact the regional Administrative Court of Justice, the Italian President and European bodies.

Finally, after a large dispute and legal step taken by the Slovene political party, the Slovene minority reached a significant success. The Regional Administrative Court of the region Friuli Venezia Giulia decided to temporarily freeze the recent Government decree, which would allow four Slovene ethnically-mixed municipalities to issue only monolingual Italian identity cards. The court was addressed by the Slovene political party Slovenska skupnost (Slovenian Union). The Government decree is now 'frozen' until May 22nd, when an in-depth discussion on the decree will take place at the Regional Administrative Court.

At an intensive two-day-long conference, organized by the two umbrella organizations SKGZ (Slovenska Kulturno-Gospodarska Zveza - Slovene cultural and economic association) and SSO (Svet Slovenskih Organizacij - Council of Slovene Organizations) the Slovene minority outlined the first general projects for its overall revitalization. This was the first step of a process of strategic planning which will last for about a year.

One of the suggested projects during the conference was the establishment of a parliament for the Slovene minority in Italy. This would consist of some 60 members, elected from the two umbrella organizations, plus Slovene political representatives within local authorities. The Slovene minority has already for some years worked on a draft for guaranteed representation in the national and regional parliaments.

The conference, working under the theme "Minority languages in the Alp-Adriatic area: from separation to collaboration", used also the occasion to see how neighboring minorities in the Alp-Adriatic area are organized: Slovenes in Austria, Italians in Slovenia, Friulians in Friuli and Ladins in the three provinces of South Tyrol, Trentino and Belluno. An expressed

idea was that since linguistic minorities cannot offer quantity, they could work on quality, representing a real “added value” for border areas. Among the projects and suggestions was also the establishment of a formal confederation of minorities in the Alp-Adriatic area, which could develop common projects and programs.

To what extent are minority groups in this country disadvantaged by their language?

Updated (January 2003)

LINGUISTIC MINORITIES AGREE TO WORK TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW 482

On December 15, 2002 it was the third anniversary of the promulgation of the Law on the Protection of Historic Linguistic Minorities (the so-called Law 482). On this occasion the representatives of different linguistic minorities in Italy discussed the implementation of the law at their meeting in the Occitan area of Piedmont in northwestern Italy.

The President of the Italian Committee of Minorities (CONFEMILI) Domenico Morelli gave a global overview of the past three years. He explained that the Law 482 provides for protection “on request.” Though all minority language communities handed in their requests for protection, the implementation of the law is slow and really partial. This is also caused by the fact that the central offices, and especially the Ministry for Regional Affairs does not have enough personnel.

“Law 482 initially created great expectations. Now it is a source of much disappointment,” commented Fabrizio Geninatti, representing the Regional Administration of Piedmont, where Occitan, Francoprovençal and German minorities live.

The school director Pierino Donada illustrated how they implement the Law 482 in Friuli-Venezia Giulia for Friulan, Slovene and German speaking minorities. “There is still so much to do, but we go ahead, supported by families who are in favor of their children learning their mother tongue,” he commented.

Jole Namor also came from the same region as he is a director of the Slovene paper “*Novi Matajur*.” “Assimilation is the greatest danger for us and the Law 482 is really important as it is the first recognition of the Slovene communities in the Province of Udine,” she said.

Various speeches underlined also how the law is not sufficiently applied to the media. Domenico Morelli and the representative of the Friulan Language Office of the Province of Udine, William Cisilino, referred

specifically to a draft version of a new contract of service between the Italian state and the public broadcasting society RAI, which was to be signed before the end of 2002. This draft version has only general and ambiguous references to the minority languages and does not take into consideration the Law 482.

MINORITY LANGUAGE TEACHING IN FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

The situation with the implementation of the Law on the Protection of Linguistic Minorities (Law 482) in the schools of the provinces of Udine, Pordenone and Gorizia was a subject for the research carried out by the trade union of teachers "CGIL Scuola" in the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

"At the beginning of the year 2002 more than 30,000 families, enrolling their children in nursery, primary or secondary schools, required for them education in their mother tongue (Friulan, Slovene or German)," explained Antonio Luongo, a regional leader of CGIL Scuola.

The survey showed that not all schools provide educational activities in the minority languages of the region. As for nursery schools, 20 percent of the children who requested to learn their mother tongue did not have a chance to do so. The numbers rose to 32 percent in primary and to 45 percent in secondary schools. In general, the great bulk of the institutes' activities in the Friulan, Slovene or German language are limited to only one hour per week.

At pre-school level, minority languages were used as a teaching medium even before the introduction of the Law 482. The true reason for this; however, was to help pupils learn Italian and not to support their multilingual knowledge and linguistic identity.

At primary and secondary school level, minority languages are less present but the situation seems to improve, as they are used as a teaching medium together with Italian. Nevertheless, this happens only in music, arts and crafts classes. Only in less than 5 percent of secondary schools it is possible to learn reading and writing in the minority languages.

Another problem is that a number of teachers want to work with minority languages, but they have to organize their training themselves. Their activities and professional training do not get any economic or formal recognition.

The survey indicated that the implementation of the Law 482 needs more funds and real cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the regional government. Protection of minority languages is an important

issue and it has to be effectuated in a coherent way, with the right resources and in the right time.

According to Mr. Pup from the Committee 482, which gathers Friulan, Slovene and German-speaking minorities' associations and independent media in Friuli with the aim to support the correct implementation of the Minority Law, funds are too limited and are made available too late. In the year 2002, they were available only in December, while the school year had started in September.

Source: Eurolang News, Turin, December 16 and 18, 2002, by Marco Stolfo, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4017> and <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4019>

What does it cost in terms of money, time and government resources to police the country's language restrictions/development?

Updated (March 2003)

TRAINING COURSES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS IN FRIULI

In the middle of February, Udine (North-eastern Italy) town council started the first series of training courses for civil servants, which introduced the official use of the Friulian language to the town hall and to other public services provided by the municipality.

According to the Mayor of Udine, this was the beginning of the implementation of Law 482 [the Law on the Protection of Historical Linguistic Minorities in Italy approved in 1999] in their administration.

The courses are part of a project covering also bilingual place-names, official documents, information signs and the use of Friulian in offices, public libraries and municipal schools. They are organized by the township of Udine and the Friulian Philological Society, the oldest organization working on and with Friulian. The program comprises 22 courses with a total of 400 hours with the aim to give 410 municipal civil servants basic knowledge of the Friulian language (lessons on spelling, grammar and syntax), to introduce the Friulian administrative lexicon and to provide specific work-related knowledge.

Local policemen attend classes on the history and toponymy of the town, nursery teachers learn rhymes, songs and games in Friulian and office workers practice how to give out information in Friulian and they improve their terminological knowledge.

Source: Eurolang News, Turin, February 26, 2003, by Marco Stolfo, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4116>

The use of language in everyday life e.g. education, broadcasting and other

Updated (October 2001)

The minority languages are beginning to be recognized by professional bodies in Italy. Since September it is possible to undertake the State exam to become a professional Italian journalist also in Friulian, Ladin, Catalan, Sardinian, Occitan and Greek. Before the implementation of Law 482/99, which recognizes twelve language minorities in Italy, it was possible to take this exam only in Slovene, German and French language.

Updated (November 2001)

The newly established The United Provisional Committee of the German Linguistic Islands in Italy ("Comitato Unitario Provvisorio delle Isole Linguistiche Germanofone in Italia") launched in its first assembly a request for starting radio and television programs for the eleven German-speaking linguistic communities in the Northern Italian Province of Trento. In their request, the committee refers to article 12 of minority law No 492, in which a media service should be provided for all linguistic minorities in the area. However, the response from authorities of this region was not very optimistic therefore the committee members will raise the issue in a few months again.

Updated (July 2002)

The United Committee of the German Linguistic Islands in Italy recently had their official inauguration in Luserna. The association represents varieties of German spoken in so-called "linguistic islands," spread across five areas in northern Italy.

According to the Coordinator of the Committee, Luigi N. Castellan, this cooperation is psychologically important because one does not feel so isolated and can reach common goals better.

Among the initiatives of the newly established Committee is launching of their own homepage, creating a database of every linguistic island and improving media and education supplies.

While the author of a standard document on the German linguistic islands, Bernhard Wurzer, 30 years ago wrote about an "inevitable catastrophe" that will lead to the death of these languages, today's

situation seems to be less tragic. It is true that the linguistic islands are isolated in the middle of a different linguistic and cultural environment and they do not have a strong linguistic-cultural country to back them, like South Tyrol has, but today the minority language speakers are more self-confident.

One of the problems of the linguistic islands is that the number of speakers is decreasing. "One reason for this is probably that this ancient language is perceived by the younger generation as socially not acceptable and inferior," explains Luis T. Prader, secretary of the Committee.

Another reason is that a lot of young people leave the area to go to university or to work, and they do not come back.

Most of the linguistic islands are situated on an isolated plateau, over 1,000 meters above sea level. The number of inhabitants in these villages rarely exceeds one thousand.

Source: <http://www.eurolang.net/>, Eurolang, Brussels, June 25, 2002 by Margret Oberhofer

Updated (July 2002)

Three mayors of ethnically mixed municipalities in the outskirts of Trieste have decided to undertake a firm protest action by not applying a State decree. The Italian Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Scajola, last December (2001) signed a decree allowing four ethnically mixed municipalities to issue also monolingual Italian identity cards. Until now, bilingual Italian-Slovene ID cards have been issued, based on various international agreements and the Constitution of Italy.

The Slovene party "Slovenska Skupnost - Unione slovena" raised the issue with the Regional Administrative Court, and until the decision, the decree was frozen. After the court agreed with the government, the prefect of Trieste asked the mayors of the municipalities to apply the decree and issue also Italian-only ID cards. But the point is that an internal law of the State cannot break international agreements and the obligations deriving from them, stated Andrej Berdon, a member of the group of lawyers who raised the issue with the Regional Administrative Court.

The tolerance of Italian-Slovene bilingualism was also tested in another case, involving two shop owners in the village of Aursina-Nabrezina in the outskirts of Trieste. Local "carabinieri" (policemen) accused the shop owners of not applying a decree, which was elaborated during the fascism rule of 1940. The offence was that the Italian text on the shop

signs was not written in bigger letters than the text in the foreign language.

Source: <http://www.eurolang.net/>, Eurolang, Trieste, July 4, 2002 by Vida Valencic

Updated (December 2002)

LADIN

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

- *BULSAN*

The regional statute mentions Ladin as the main language in pre-school education. According to the specialists, teaching in the mother tongue at this level is a condition for successful second and third language acquisition and furthermore it helps to safeguard endangered minority languages. Children with different linguistic backgrounds are educated in the same pre-schools (especially in Gherdëina). Ladin is used during group activities, while in an individual contact a teacher speaks child's mother tongue. In Bulsan all school staff in the Ladin Valleys belongs to the Ladin ethnic group.

- *TRENT*

In six pre-schools in Fascia, the use of the Ladin language as a medium of instruction is guaranteed alongside with the Italian language on the basis of parity.

- *BELUM*

In Belum province Ladin is sometimes used in kindergartens but on a voluntary basis.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

- *BULSAN*

Where possible, the first grade at primary school level takes into account the linguistic background of pupils, which is very diverse (a survey carried out in 1988). Assessment of the background is based on the recommendation of parents and the nursery schools teachers.

First class is divided into Ladin-German and Ladin-Italian section. Ladin is used as a medium of instruction for the acquisition of other languages. The children start to read and write in the second language (Italian, German).

In the second grade the pupils start to study in the third language, when the number of lessons is equal with those in the second language. From this grade onwards the teaching is done in Italian and German. Ladin is only a school subject (2 hours a week) and serves as a “provisional language,” to explain something what the pupils do not understand in Italian or German.

The choice of the teaching language is not made according to the subject, but has a daily or weekly pattern. In the past there was only one teacher per class, teaching all subjects, except for religion. Since 1991/92 this system has been changed so at present there are three teachers per two classes or four teachers per three classes. During specific hours two teachers are present in the same class.

- *TRENT*

In the Valley of Fascia Ladin is used as a vehicle language in one lesson per week, while other two hours are devoted to Ladin as a subject. Some teachers are appointed especially to give Ladin lessons.

- *BELUM*

In Fodom and Anpezo some extra-curricular activities are organized in Ladin.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

In Italy, secondary education is split into two levels: the lower level (*scuola media*) is compulsory and covers three grades for pupils from 11 to 14 years and the upper level (*lyceum*) is for pupils from 14 to 18 years.

Scuola Media

- *BULSAN*

In Gherdëina and Badia both German and Italian are used as languages of instruction for all subjects. Ladin is used as a language of instruction for two hours a week. Since 1997/98 English has been introduced as a subject in the curriculum (two hours a week). This means that all pupils at the lower level learn four languages. At the end of this level, pupils have to pass a state examination, with written tests in Ladin, Italian and German.

Ladin speaker are given priority when it comes to qualifying for a teaching post.

In the school year 1999/2000, 607 pupils studied in six secondary schools in the province of Bulsan in the Ladin Valleys.

Upper Secondary Level

At the upper secondary level (the lyceum) students can choose from a variety of different types of schools (all of them are not in the Ladin valleys), each leading to different certificates.

The number of pupils in Ladin schools has decreased significantly during the last years, due to an insufficient offer of these tiny schools in comparison with German and Italian schools in the province Bulsan, offering all possible subjects. German and Italian are the main media of instruction. Ladin is a school subject taught for one hour a week. The local school board can grant permission for a second hour of the Ladin language.

For those students who did not attend a lower secondary school with Ladin, this subject is offered on an optional basis.

In Fascia (Trent) and in Belum, Ladin is not offered at secondary level.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, the Ladin Language in Education in Italy

http://www1.f.a.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_ladin_in_italy.htm

Updated (January 2003)

GERMAN

EDUCATION

For the German-speaking population of South Tyrol, education at kindergarten, primary, secondary and vocational schools is given in German. Italian as the second language (currently taught from the first year of primary school), and one foreign language (English, from the second year of intermediate school) are taught in all schools.

Only higher-vocational training and the universities offer bi and trilingual educational curricula. The vocational school for health professions is bilingual. Some of the courses are taught in German, others in Italian. The Free University of Bozen-Bolzano offers some courses of study in three languages (German, Italian and English).

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

The Autonomy Statute states that instruction in kindergartens must be in the children' s native language and that teachers must be native speakers of that language. In addition to the public German-language kindergartens, there are three legally recognized private German-language kindergartens and one that is not legally recognized since it does not comply with state and provincial laws.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Since the reform in 2002, four to five hours of instruction in the second language (Italian) have been compulsory from the first year of primary school onwards (before it was from the second year). German as a subject is studied approximately five hours a week. All other subjects are taught in German by native speakers.

Students are guaranteed by the Autonomy Statute the right to be taught by native speakers in their own language so the schools have an obligation to provide German textbooks. Books from Austria, Germany and Switzerland offer a broad selection but, because of the differences in a curriculum, these texts do not correspond entirely to the needs of South Tyrol' s students.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Level I: Intermediate School

The second part of compulsory education from the age of 11 to 14 (in the new reform half a year earlier) takes place in intermediate schools. It is a comprehensive school that gives all children of the same age a general education, free of charge.

Comprehensive intermediate schools were introduced throughout Italy in 1962. The curricula prescribed by the State contained very few adaptations to the specific situation in South Tyrol. The state curricula were translated into German in 1983 in the course of the intermediate school curriculum reform. Moreover, the ethnic minorities in Italy, and therefore also the German community in South Tyrol, were able for the first time to make their own input in specific areas, particularly in the subjects of History and Geography (Provincial Law 48/1983).

In addition to the public intermediate schools there are five legally recognized private intermediate schools that are supported by church institutions and one intermediate school that is not legally recognized as it does not comply with state and provincial laws.

In the second year of intermediate school, students receive instruction in English for three hours a week in addition to their second-language instruction (Italian) of about five to six hours a week. The students' native language (German) is taught as a subject for five to six hours a week. All other subjects are taught in German.

Level II: Secondary School

After taking the final state exam for intermediate school, and to complete their compulsory education, students must study for one more year, either in upper secondary or vocational schools.

Essentially, the original structure of the secondary schools goes back to the Gentile Reform Law of 1923. Over the course of the 80s and 90s, secondary schools were transformed in terms of content and structure through a series of Schulversuchen (experiments or trial activities). The 2002 reform plan still included a five-year upper secondary school free of charge.

There are also public upper secondary schools for the German-speaking population and moreover, in South Tyrol, there are three legally recognized upper secondary schools that are supported by church institutions. There is also a provincial hotel school with a legally recognized course of study whose curriculum has been adapted to South Tyrolean circumstances.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The Free University of Bozen-Bolzano was founded in October 1997. The use of languages has been laid down in the Statute of the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, approved via the decision of the Foundation Council, No. 148 of May 10, 2001 and effective from September 18, 2001.

In view of the international structure of the university and the didactic requirements resulting from multilingualism, room has been made for foreign languages, particularly English, alongside the locally spoken languages.

The teaching staff at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano is primarily international. Lectures are given in German, Italian and English, except for the courses for kindergarten and primary school teachers. For German-speaking candidates for the position of a primary school teacher, German is not only the teaching language but it is also studied as a subject. Additional training in didactics is provided for those who will teach German as a second language in South Tyrol's Italian primary schools.

LADIN

Future Ladin teachers study Ladin as a subject (20 percent of the course) and attend half of the other lessons with Italian-speaking students and half with German-speaking students.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, the German Language in Education in South Tyrol (Italy)

http://www1.fu.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_german_in_italy.htm

What else can be found about languages and minorities?

Updated (July 2001)

SARDINIA

The Sardinian language is experiencing a revival. Nowadays, the majority of the island (85% out of 1 600 000 people) understands Sardinian. The number of monolingual Italians (10%) or Sardinians (8-9%) is on decline.

After 20 years of struggle a commission of nine experts, mainly university lecturers, issued a final paper with the set of principles for the standardization of the Sardinian language, the result of two years work. Also The Institute for Sardinian Language will be formed for the implementation and further development of the standardization norms.

On the other hand, the Catalan speakers of Sardinia need a revival.

Catalan speakers of Sardinia are concentrated in city Alghero where some 15,000-20,000 people can speak and use the Catalan language. The Catalan presence dates back to 1354, when Peter IV of Aragon conquered Alghero and made it stronghold of the Spanish military power in Sardinia. From then, the immigration of Catalans from Spain to Alghero was stimulated by the Aragonese Crown through concessions and benefits. The result of this policy was a rapid Catalanization of the town. The Catalan language and culture flourished until the 16th century when the Sabaud domination forbade the use of Catalan in official documents (1764). Today, Catalan spoken in Alghero is a version of Catalan spoken in Catalonia, using standardized writing forms but also including various influences of the local Sardinian dialects.

A high level of immigration from the north of Italy in the outskirts of the town, consequently bringing in a wider use of Italian, represents a problem for the survival of Catalan in Alghero, "At present, there is a need for the implementation of a regional law from 1997 and a national

law from 1999. Unfortunately, there is no major initiative for the valorization and normalization of Catalan,” states Sechi, a former mayor of Alghero.

Updated (January 2002)

OCCITAN

“Chambra D’Oc”, the association representing the Occitans from the northern Italian Alps, has made another important step towards their aim for Occitan being an official language at the Winter Olympic Games 2006 in Torino. They met in Torino with representatives from “TOROC”, the local authority which organizes the Olympic Games. As a result of the meeting, the region of Piedmont agreed to set up a working group which will elaborate a program to include the Occitan language in the Olympic Games.

The proposals from “Chambra D’Oc” range from playing the official Occitan hymn “Se chanta” at the inauguration ceremony to raising awareness among journalists and schools with appropriate information material and organizing artistic events with Occitan music, plays, dance and films.

The president of TOROC and former mayor of Torino, Valentino Castellani initially stressed that the Occitan request could not be accepted without consideration. According to the International Olympic Committee, regulations in English, French and the official national languages are considered to be official languages of the sportive event.

However, foreign representatives and international organizations strongly supported the idea. Xavier Bada, President of “Eurocongris 2000”, an Occitan-Catalan organization from Barcelona, said that the region of Piedmont should not miss the occasion to enhance the local cultures and languages. Denis Mallet, President of CIRDOC, representing Occitan organizations from Beziers in France, stressed that a project to valorize the Occitan language at the Winter Olympic Games 2006 will certainly be supported by other regions, such as Languedoc Roussillon and Catalonia. Finally, Bojan Brezigar, President of the European Bureau for Lesser-Used languages (EBLUL), promised full support to the initiative, and to keep in contact with other communities and regions in order to guarantee the success of the project. EBLUL will also provide information on funding possibilities for projects throughout the EU-programs.

Updated (July 2002)

The minorities' organizations in Italy consider the current census on historic linguistic minorities, promoted by the Italian Ministry of Interior to be something against the minorities and their protection.

It all started one month ago, when the prefectures of the areas where linguistic minorities are present sent a request to all the mayors, asking information about the local situation of minorities.

According to Carli Pup, the official spokesman of Committee 482, which represents the Friulan, Slovene and German-speaking minority associations in Friuli, in northeast Italy, they oppose this idea and are worried about it. The Committee was set up to defend and promote the implementation of the Italian Law on Minority Languages approved in 1999.

"It's not clear why the Ministry of Interior has chosen to promote this strange investigation. If its aim is to know the number of speakers of minority languages, this request is inadequate because it will be based only on the personal opinion of a mayor and not on the statistic research, explains Mr. Pup, and adds that "in case of Friuli and the Friulan language, there is also a Regional Decree of 1996, which recognizes and defines the territory where Friulan is spoken."

Diegu Corraïne, a Sardinian teacher and publisher, agrees with Carli Pup and explains that it is not a real census so it is useless, not objective, and it could be dangerous, because of its ambiguousness.

"There is a risk that this incoherent and arbitrary data could be used against the minorities in order to obstruct the implementation of the Law," adds Dino Matteodo, who is the vice-president of "Espaci Occitan" (the Association of Local Administrations in the Occitan Valleys of Piedmont).

The Ministry's request is not clear. The Committee 482 thinks there are different criteria to explain it. They refuse every kind of census, because the Italian Law on Minorities needs only the definition of the territory, and only the territory where it has to be implemented. These limits have to be made only by the Provinces.

The Prefect of Turin, Achille Catalani, has obviously a different opinion: "Minorities don't have to be worried about this data request. Its aim is to know the numerical consistence of the historic linguistic minorities, in order to define the distribution of funds for projects on the languages. It is not like before when this issue was considered only a police issue; we all agree it's a cultural and civil rights issue," argues Catalani, who works in a province where three minority languages, Occitan, Franco-Provençal and French, are spoken.

Source: <http://www.eurolang.net/>, Eurolang, Turin, June 27, July 15, 2002 by Marco Stolfo

APPENDIX A

MAP OF ITALY



APPENDIX B

ITALY - CONSTITUTION

(Adopted on December 22, 1947)

(Effective since January 1, 1948)

(Document Status January 1, 2000)

Article 3 (Equality)

(1) All citizens possess an equal social status and are equal before the law, without distinction as to sex, race, language, religion, political opinions, and personal or social conditions.

Article 6 (Linguistic Minorities)

The Republic shall safeguard linguistic minorities by means of special provisions.

Note: The complete text of the Constitution and further information on the constitutional background of Italy are provided by the International Constitutional Law Project at the University of Wuerzburg.

ACT NO. 482 OF 15 DECEMBER 1999 ON PROTECTION OF HISTORIC LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

(published in Gazzeta Ufficiale No. 297 on December 20, 1999)

Article 1

The official language in the Italian Republic is Italian.

The Italian Republic develops language and cultural heritage of the Italian language and also supports other cultures and languages, and encourages their usage by protecting it in this law.

Article 2

Following the Article 6 of the Italian Constitution and general principles adopted by European and International institutions, the Italian Republic protects the language and culture of the Albanian, Catalan, German, Greek, Slovenian and Croatian population as well as of the citizens who speak French, Franco-Provençal, Friuli, Romansh, Old Provençal and Sardinian.

Article 3

This Act and articles set therein are applied to districts and territories where it has been approved by the District Council based on a request of minimum 15 per cent of citizens enlisted in the electoral roll for these regions, or of one third of Council members.

Should none of the conditions set forth in the Article 3/1 be fulfilled and should there, in a territory, live a language minority, which is included in the list and which enforces its rights in accordance with the Article 2, the negotiations shall be commenced upon a request proclaimed in a special meeting organised by entitled entities and in accordance with appropriate Statutes and Regional Directives.

If language minorities specified in the Article 2 above are distributed in several regions or districts, they may establish co-ordinating bodies which may be recognised by participating local organisations.

Article 4

In municipalities specified in the Article 3, education in kindergartens shall be carried out in both Italian and minority languages. At basic schools and first-grade secondary schools, the minority language shall also be used for educational purposes.

In accordance with the Article 3/1 of this law and Article 21/8,9 of the Act no. 57 dated March 15, 1997, basic schools and first-grade secondary schools shall also, within the framework of a nation-wide general education plan and with regard to general teachers' objectives set forth in respective agreements, take into consideration parents' requirements regarding the education of a minority language and cultural heritage and shall work out time schedule, teachers' methodology and evaluation criteria in this respect.

In accordance with the Article 21/10 of the Act no. 59 dated March 15, 1997, the educational establishments, specified in the paragraph 2, may also, independently or jointly, provide education to adults. In self-government, research, and development, in accordance in the aforementioned Article 21/10, educational establishments may adopt initiatives for the education of cultural heritage and languages, which are set forth in the Articles 2 and 3 hereinbefore, and carry out activities to widen and enhance teachers' knowledge. Thus, educational establishments may conclude agreements in accordance with the Act no. 59, 1997, Article 21/12.

Initiatives, as specified in the paragraphs 2 and 3, shall be carried out by the same educational establishments employing their own available human resource and finance, in accordance with the Article 21/5 of the Act no. 59 dated March 15, 1997, and their available additional resources, having included into priorities, as set forth in the Article 21/5 of the Act no. 59, the ones specified in this Article. At the resource allocation, as set forth in the Article 21/5 of the Act no. 59 dated March 15, 1997, additional priorities defined in this Article shall be taken into consideration.

At the pupils' entry, parents inform the representatives of the educational establishment whether their children should be educated in a minority language.

Article 5

The Ministry of Education shall adopt decrees to determine general criteria to execute the Article 4 of this Act and may carry out nation-wide and/or local educational project to support languages and cultural heritage of recognised minorities, as set forth in the Articles 2 and 3 of this Act. Beginning from 1999, the Ministry of Education has an annual budget of 2 billion liras to put into practise the aforementioned projects.

The drafts of decrees mentioned in the paragraph 1 are submitted to the Parliament for its permanent commissions' approval. The commission

shall express their opinion upon the decrees within 60 days after their receipt.

Article 6

Following the Articles 6 and 8 of the Act no. 341 dated November 19, 1990, regional universities, within the scope of their self-government and budget, accept every initiative, which includes education of languages and cultural heritage of minorities listed in the Article 2 of this Act, aiming at facilitation of scientific research or cultural and educational activities.

Article 7

In municipalities specified in the Article 3 of this Act, members of Councils and other bodies may use protected languages at the execution of their duties.

The paragraph 1 refers also to Council members in municipalities in mountain provinces and regions where a protected language is used and where a minority makes up at least 15% of the population.

Should bodies, as specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, claim that they do not speak the minority language, an immediate translation into the Italian language shall be guaranteed.

Should legal documents with general public effectivity be published in two languages, the legally binding document is the one in the Italian language only.

Article 8

In municipalities, as specified in the Article 3 of this Act, the Local Council may, on its own expense, should there be no other funds for this purpose, publish official documents issued by the state, regions, local institutions and organisations in the protected minority language. This translation has no effect upon sole legal effectivity of the original documents in the Italian language.

Article 9

Except for the rights proclaimed in the Article 7, in municipalities, as specified in the Article 3 of this Act, a protected language may be used in oral communication in public administration with the exception of the military and police force.

To put into practise the paragraph 1 effectively, the public administration, also with help of other organisations and respective agreements, ensures availability of the staff capable of responding to citizens' requests in a protected language. For this purpose, from 1999 the National Fund for the Protection of Language Minorities at the Board of Ministers – Department of Regional Matters receives an annual budget of 9,800,000,000 liras. The budget is allocated on an annual basis in the decree of the Chair of the Board of Ministers, having consulted respective local administrations.

Court of conciliation may be held in a protected language. This article has no affect upon the Article 109 of the Criminal Law.

Article 10

1. In municipalities, as specified in the Article 3 of this Act, in addition to official toponyms, Local Councils may decide to accept toponymical names following the tradition and local usage.

Article 11

Citizens, who identify themselves with protected minorities, as set forth in the Articles 2 and 3, and who live in municipalities, as set forth in the Article 3 of this Act, and whose first names and surnames had been modified before this Act came into effectivity, have the right, based on appropriate documentation, to change to their original names. This change takes effect upon children without legal responsibility, and children with legal responsibility subject to their approval.

In cases specified in the paragraph 1, an application for change has to include an original name and surname and has to be submitted to the Mayor of an appropriate municipality. The Mayor shall ensure that the application is delivered to the Prefect adding a birth certificate. The Prefect shall issue a decree on the name and surname renewal, should all requirements be fulfilled. The Prefect may issue a single decree for all members of a single family. Should the application be refused, an appeal may be submitted within 30 days from the delivery to the Minister of Justice. The whole process is free of charge and has to be completed within 90 days after submitting an application for change.

Appropriate local institutions shall incorporate the change of the first name and surname in all respective registers, lists and records.

Article 12

Service agreements between the Ministry of Telecommunications and radio and television companies shall guarantee the protection of minority languages in specific areas.

Regions may also conclude additional agreements with radio and television companies about programmes broadcast in protected languages. Regions may also conclude similar additional agreements with local broadcasting companies.

The protection of language minorities within the mass communication system is carried out by the Office for Communication Guarantees, as set forth in the Act no 249 dated July 31, 1997, except for the action taken by the Parliament Committee and its overall role of a supervisory body over the radio and television services.

Article 13

Regions with an ordinary status shall adjust their own legal bidding documents to the principles set forth in this Act, except for the laws which provide better conditions for minority language groups than this Act.

Article 14

Depending on their budgets, regions and provinces with language minorities, as specified in the Article 2, as well as municipalities in these regions and provinces, may adopt, based on objective criteria, measures about language usage for publishing houses, press, private radio and television broadcasting companies and organisations operating in their territory.

Article 15

With the exception of the stipulations in the Articles 5/1 and 9/2, all expenditures incurred by local organisations in executing this Act shall be charged to the state budget to maximum annual limit of 8,700,000,000 liras, beginning in 1999.

The annual budget, as specified in the paragraph 1 above, is allocated to local organisations based on a Decree issued by the Chair of the Board of Ministers.

To obtain finance from the annual budget, as specified in the paragraph 1, local organisations have to work out and submit a report including objectives and use of allocated funds.

Article 16

On their own expense, regions and provinces may establish additional institutions, or departments of existing institutions, focusing on the protection of minority languages and cultural heritage.

Article 17

All related laws and decrees shall be amended to comply with this Act within six months after this Act has become effective.

Article 18

In regions with a special status, if they have adopted more advantageous conditions as set forth in this Act, these may abide in effectivity. Protecting standards in regions with a special status and in autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano shall remain unchanged.

In regions with a special status, which have not adopted any protection measures, this Act shall be applied until execution decrees are adopted.

Article 19

The Italian Republic supports the cultural and language development of the minorities specified in the Article 2 abroad by various means. These shall be specified in additional agreements, following the principle of reciprocity with other countries, if the aforementioned minorities maintained and developed their social, cultural and original language identity.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall support all international agreements aiming at creating good conditions for Italian minorities abroad and at the development of the Italian language and culture abroad. The Italian Republic fully supports border and inter-regional co-operation within the scope of EU programmes.

The Government shall submit an annual status report to the Parliament on the execution of this Article.

Article 20

From 1999, following appropriate adjustments to the 1998-2000 budget allocation, within the interim planning in the state "Special Fund" of the Ministry of Treasury, the expected amount of 20,500,000,000 liras shall be accumulated as follows: 18,500,000,000 liras from the Board of the Ministers and 2,000,000,000 liras from the Ministry of Education.

The Minister of Treasury shall announce necessary variants of the state budget in special decrees.

Z. 482/99 Act on Protection of the Historical Language Minorities (Abbreviated Articles 2 - 20 in accordance with the Act no. C0169, which has been approved by the Assembly on 17 June 1998)

Act no. 482 of 15 December 1999, G.U. no. 297 of 20 December 1999.
Numbers of acts in approval process:
C. 169-BIS (includes C. 1867, C. 2086, C. 2973, C. 300, C. 396, C. 918) / S. 3366 (includes S. 1207, S. 2082, S. 2332, S. 3037, S. 3426, S. 424)

LAW NO. 38, "NORMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE SLOVENE LINGUISTIC MINORITY OF THE FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA REGION"

February 23, 2001

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Article 1

Recognition of the Slovene minority

1. The Republic recognizes and protects the rights of the Italian citizens belonging to the Slovene minority present in the provinces of Trieste, Gorizia and Udine, according to Articles 2, 3 and 6 of the Constitution and Article 3 of the Constitutional Law of January 31, 1963, containing the approval of the special Statute of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, in accordance with the general principles of the regulation and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants, and those treaties signed by the Italian government.

2. Those Italian citizens belonging to the Slovene minority shall be applied the dispositions of the Law 482, of December 15, 1999, except for the provisions of the present Law.

Article 2

Adhesion to the principles of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

1. The measures concerning the protection of the Slovene minority envisaged in the present Law are based, apart from the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities, made in Strasbourg on February 1st, 1995 and ratified within Law 302, of August 28, 1997, on the following principles stated in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, made in Strasbourg on November 5, 1992:

- a) the recognition of regional or minority languages as an expression of the cultural heritage;
- b) the respect towards the territorial scope of each language;
- c) the need for specific actions of affirmation of regional or minority languages aiming at their safeguard;
- d) the promotion of transfrontier and interregional cooperation even in the field of European Union programmes.

Article 3

Institutional Parity Committee for the problems of the Slovene minority

1. Pursuant to a decree by the President of the Republic, and after advisement from the Council of Ministers, the institutional Parity Committee for the problems of the Slovene minority shall be set up six months after the enforcement of the present Law formed by twenty members, ten of which are Slovene-speaking Italian citizens.

Article 4

Territorial scope of application

1. The measures concerning the guardianship of the Slovene minority envisaged in the present Law shall be applied in accordance with the conditions and modalities indicated in the Law itself, in the territory where the minority has been historically present. This territory includes the municipalities, or part of them, indicated a predetermined table provided by the Committee within 18 months after its constitution and approved through a decree by the President of the Republic, on request of at least the 15% of the citizens inscribed in the electoral lists, or at proposal of one third of the councilors from the concerned municipality.

Article 5

Guardianship of the German-speaking population of Val Canale

1. Within the framework of the dispositions of the Law 482, of December 15, 1999, and the principles of the present Law, special ways of protection shall be guaranteed to the German-speaking population of Val Canale, taking into consideration the quadrilingual situation of the area, and without any new or major charges for the state budgets.

Article 6

Unique text

1. The government is entitled to emanate, within one hundred and twenty days after the enforcement of the present Law, after the Committee's advice, a legislative decree containing the unique text of the legislative dispositions in force concerning the Slovene minority of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, while gathering and coordinating the norms of the present Law.

Article 7

Slovene names, surnames and designations

1. People belonging to the Slovene minority have the right to give Slovene names to their children. They shall also have the right to have their names and surnames appropriately written or printed according to the Slovene spelling in all public Laws.

2. The right to establish designations, emblems and insignia in the Slovene language corresponds to either Slovene companies or other legal persons, not only to Slovene institutes, organizations, associations or foundations.

3. Citizens belonging to the Slovene minority shall be able to change their names written in Italian, as well as those imposed before the enforcement of Law 935, of October 31, 1966, into their corresponding name in Slovene Language or whatever name used in social relations, in Slovene language.

4. Every citizen whose name has been somehow modified or altered can get his/her current name changed into the Slovene spelling, in accordance with the procedures envisaged in Article 11 of Law 482, of December 15, 1999.

5. The royal decree-law of January 10, 1926, turned into Law 898, of May 24, 1926, is abolished.

Article 8

Use of the Slovene Language in public administration

1. In accordance with the official character of the Italian language, the Slovene minority present in the territory referred to in Article 1, is given the recognition to use the Slovene language in their relations with local administrative and judicial authorities, as well as with providers of services of public interest sited in the territory referred to in article 1, and municipal authorities referred to in article 4, according to the modalities envisaged in section 4 of the present article. It is also recognized the right to be replied in the Slovene Language:

- a) In verbal communication, either directly or by means of an interpreter;
- b) In correspondence, with at least one attached translation in Italian language.

2. The army and the police forces, when fulfilling their respective institutional tasks, shall be excluded of the applications of the provisions of the first section of the present Article, except in administrative procedures.

3. In the municipalities referred to in Article 4, all kind of laws or proceedings of public use written in forms, even personal documents such as identity cards or civil register documentation, may be either written in both Italian and Slovene language, at the request of interested citizens, or only in Italian language. The use of the Slovene language is also envisaged with regard to official notices and publications.

4. In order that the rights referred to in Articles 1, 2 and 3 may be applied and effective, the concerned administrations, including the State administration, in the territory comprised in the table referred to in article 4, shall adopt the necessary measures, adapting their own offices, its staff and internal organization, with respect to the current procedures of application of the provisions included in article 39 of Law 449, December 27, 1997, and subsequent modifications, and within the limits of the financial resources available in relation to the present Article.

Article 9

Use of the Slovene Language in elective bodies

1. All collegiate institutions and elective assemblies sited in the territory referred to in Article 4, have the right to use the Slovene language in their oral and written interventions, as well as in presentation of proposals, motions, questionings and interpellations, including eventual verbal activities. The statutes and regulations of the elective bodies establish the respective modalities of procedures.
2. Authorized administrations shall be empowered to provide contextual translations in Italian language of either oral or written interventions.
3. Members of elective bodies and assemblies can develop their eventually performed public functions in Slovene Language, at request from the interested party.
4. The use of the Slovene language alongside the Italian one is allowed in relations between public offices sited within the territory referred to in Article 4.

Article 10

Public signs and place-names

1. By means of a decree by the President of the regional council, on the basis of the proposal from the Committee and after consultation to the concerned institutions, the municipalities, fractions of them, places and institutions where the use of the Slovene language is expected alongside the use of the Italian one in signs of public offices, in official letters and, in general, in all public signs as well as in standards, are specified on the basis of the table included in Article 4.

Article 11

Public schools with Slovene as the teaching language

1. While not envisaged in the present Law, the dispositions from Laws 1012, of July 19, 1961, and 932, of December 22, 1973 shall continue to be applied. In Article 2, first and second paragraphs, of Law 932, of December 22, 1973, n.932, after the words "of Slovene mother language" are included the following words "or with full knowledge of the Slovene language."
2. According to the provisions established in Article 1.3 of Law n. 1012, have July 19, 1961, regarding the re-organization of schools with Slovene

as the teaching language, procedures shall follow the operative modalities established in Articles 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the decree of the President of the Republic n. 233, of June 18, 1998, and with respect to the competences envisaged in Articles 137, 138 and 139 of legislative decree n. 112, of March 31, 1998, after consultation with the regional school commission for the instruction of the Slovene language, shall be in accordance with Article 13.3 of the present law.

3. In the end of the wording of Article 4 of Law n. 1012, of July 19, 1961, it should be added the following words: "after consultation with the regional school commission for the instruction of the Slovene language."

4. The use of the Slovene language in relations with the school administration, in acts and communications, in official letters and in public symbols, is allowed in the regulation of schools having Slovene as the teaching language.

Article 12

Dispositions for the province of Udine

1. In the kindergartens sited in the municipalities of the province of Udine specified in the table included in Article 4, the educative programmes shall be also comprised of contents related to the local traditions and culture, to be also developed in Slovene, and without any new or major charges for the state budgets.

2. In schools of obligatory instruction sited in the municipalities referred to in the first paragraph, the teaching of the Slovene language, history, and of the local cultural and linguistic traditions shall be included in the obligatory curricular schedules to be determined by schools themselves in the exercise of the organizing and didactic autonomy established in Article 21.8 and 21.9 of Law n. 59, of March 15, 1997. By the time of the pre-inscription, parents shall communicate the school institution whether they intend to provide their child with the instruction of the minority language.

3. Secondary schools in the province of Trieste, Gorizia and Udine, attended by students from the municipalities referred to in paragraph 1, shall be able to institute optional courses of Slovene even when the number of students is lower than that envisaged by the school regulation.

4. The Minister of public education, after consultation with the Commission referred to in Article 13.3, shall establish, through a decree regarding the curricular activity referred to in the second paragraph, the general and specific objectives of the learning process and the standards

relative to the quality of the service, defining the requisites as regards the appointment of teachers.

5. Private kindergartens and elementary schools equipped with bilingual Slovene-Italian teaching, administered by the institute for the teaching of Slovene of San Pietro al Natisone in the province of Udine, are recognized as state schools.

6. The institution of state bilingual schools, or sections of them, with instruction in both Italian and Slovene languages, in the municipalities of the province of Udine specified in the table referred to in Article 4, is envisaged, after consultation with the Commission and in accordance with the operative modalities established in Article 11.2, and without any new or major charges for the state budgets.

Article 13

Organs for the school administration

1. In order to deal with affairs regarding the instruction in the Slovene language, a special office shall be instituted near the regional school office of Friuli-Venezia Giulia directed by a regional manager appointed by the Minister for public education among the board of directors those schools with education in Slovene. Such office shall proceed to manage the role of the schools' staff and the centers with Slovene as the teaching language.

2. The staff referred to in the first paragraph herein shall be required, to have a full knowledge of the Slovene language.

3. In order to fulfill the demands of the autonomy of the instruction in Slovene, the school regional Commission for the instruction in the Slovene language, headed by the regional manager referred to in paragraph, becomes established.

Article 14

Regional institute of educational research

1. Pursuant to Article 288 of the unique text of the legislative dispositions in force regarding instructional matters, relative to schools of every level and grade, approved by legislative decree n. 297, of April 16, 1994, a special section shall be established within the regional institute of educational research for Friuli-Venezia Giulia with competences regarding school with Slovene as the teaching language.

Article 15

Musical instruction

1. Pursuant to a decree from the Minister of universities and scientific and technological research, in accordance with the Ministry of the treasure, budgets and economical programmes, the autonomous section with Slovene as the teaching language of the music conservatory "Giuseppe Tartin 1" of Trieste, shall be established three months after the enforcement of the present Law. The related organs of the teaching, administrative, technical and auxiliary staff and their respective specific roles shall also be established by the same decree; [...]

2. The modalities of functioning and matters related to the autonomous section referred to in paragraph 1, as well as the modalities of recruitment of teaching, administrative, technical and auxiliary staff, shall be established through regulation by the Ministry of universities, scientific and technological research. [...]

3. Teachers from the autonomous section referred to in paragraph 1 shall be full members of the College of Teachers of the conservatory, articulated in two sections respectively devoted to the instruction in Italian and Slovene [...]

Article 16

Institutions and activities of the Slovene minority

1. The Friuli-Venezia Giulia region shall support the activities and cultural, artistic, sports, leisure, scientific, educational, informative and editorial initiatives promoted and developed by institutions and associations of the Slovene minority.

Article 17

Relations with the Republic of Slovenia

1. The government undertakes the necessary initiatives aimed to facilitate and favor the relationship between bordering population, the Slovene minority and the Republic of Slovenia, and guarantees the development of transfrontier and interregional cooperation, as well as in the field of European Union initiatives and programmes.

Article 18

Slovene stable theatre

1. In accordance with the related national legislation, the "Slovene stable theatre of Trieste-Slonensko stalno gledališce" is recognized as a public body of theatre production, as well as in relation with the effects concerning the state taxes.

Article 19

Restitution of real estate

1. The house of culture "Narodni dom" of Trieste - quarter of San Giovanni, formed by the building and annexes, is transferred to the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region in order to be freely used for the activities of cultural and scientific institutions of Slovene Language. The building sited in Via Filzi 9, Trieste, previously known as "Narodni dom", and the building sited in Corso Verdi, previously known as "Trgovski dom", Gorizia, shall be the headquarters for cultural and scientific institutions of both Slovene (from the Narodna in studijska knjižnica - Library of Studies of Trieste) and Italian Languages, in compatibility with the functions currently present in the same buildings, after agreement between the region and the University of Studies of Trieste regarding the building in Via Filzi, Trieste, and between the region and the Ministry of Finances regarding the building in Corso Verdi, Gorizia.

Article 20

Protection of the historical and artistic heritage

1. In accordance with the aims of the 9 Article of the Constitution, the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, the provinces and the municipalities included in the table of Article 4, shall also adopt measures of protection regarding the specific characteristics of the place inhabited by Slovene population, either in relation with historical and artistic monuments, or with respect to the traditional habits and other ways of expression of the Slovene's population culture comprising projects of an intercultural character.

2. In accordance with the aims of the first paragraph, the concerned bodies shall promote the appropriate ways of consultation with the organizations and other associations representative of the Slovene minority.

Article 22

Trade union organizations and activities

1. Trade union organizations and similar ones developing their activities mainly in Slovene, due to its importance and diffusion within the territory referred to in Article 4, are given the rights recognized in the law on associations and organizations adhered to the trade union confederations with major representation in the national scope.

Article 23

Integration into Law n. 482, of December 15, 1999, of matters on penalizing protection of the linguistic minorities

1. At the end of Article 18 of Law n.482, of December 15, 1999, there should be added what follows:

"Art. 18-bis. - The provisions of Article 3 of Law n. 654, of October 13, 1975, and subsequent modifications, and decree n. 122, of April 26, 1993, which became, with modifications, the Law n. 205, of June 25, 1993, also apply to the means of protection and repression of intolerance and violence phenomena regarding the people belonging to linguistic minorities."

Article 25

Modifications in the territorial scope of the law's application

1. The table referred to in Article 4 can be modified through a decree from the President of the Republic, following a proposal from the Committee, and without any new or major charges for the state budgets.

2. Following a proposal from the Committee, the measures of protection of the present law apply, whenever possible, outside the territory referred to in Article 4, in favor of those belonging to the Slovene minority, when dealing with activities addressed to the conservation and promotion of their cultural, historical and linguistic identity, without any new or major charges for the state budgets.

3. Citizens referred to in the 2nd paragraph are accordingly guaranteed the exercise of the rights described in Article 8, Limited to the rapports with supra-regional bodies already functioning the modalities envisaged in Article 8.4.

Article 26

Dispositions in electoral matters

1. The electoral laws concerning the election of the Senate of the Republic and the Chamber of Deputies provide norms aimed to favor the access of representatives belonging to the Slovene minority.

Article 28

Final dispositions

1. According to what the present law establishes, the measures of protection adopted through the special Statute attached to the Memorandum of the London agreements of October 5, 1954, referred to in the treaty between the Italian Republic and the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, with attachments, ratified alongside the agreement between both parties, with attachments to the final act and the exchange of notes, signed in Osimo (Ancona), November 10, 1975, pursuant to the Law n.73, of March 14, 1977, remain in force.

2. Any of the dispositions of the present law cannot be interpreted in order to guarantee an inferior level of protection for the Slovene minority than those enjoyed on the basis of preceding dispositions.

3. Any eventual disposition more favorable to those envisaged by the present law, deriving from national legislation concerning the protection of linguistic minorities, can be applied, after consultation with the Committee, in favor of the Slovene and the German-speaking minorities, without any new or major charges for the state budgets.

Article 29

Definition

1. With respect tot the present law, a section is understood as an autonomous center having specific individual features.

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