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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

ACFC/SR/V(2019)007

## **Fifth Report submitted by Denmark**

**Pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 2 of the Framework  
Convention for the Protection of National Minorities –  
received on 2 April 2019**



# **Denmark's fifth report under the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities**

**2019**

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## **Introduction**

Denmark ratified the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on 22 September 1997. The Framework Convention entered into force for Denmark on 1 February 1998. On 6 May 1999, Denmark submitted its first state report under the Framework Convention. As part of the monitoring mechanisms of the Framework Convention, Denmark now submits its fifth state report under the Framework Convention.

In the opinion of the Danish Government, the distinctive mark of a national minority is that it is a minority population group which above all has historical, long-term and lasting links to the country in question – in contrast to refugee and immigrant groups in general. Against this background, Denmark has identified the German minority in South Jutland as a national minority covered by the Framework Convention.

With this in mind and in connection with the ratification, Denmark declared that the Framework Convention will apply to the German minority in South Jutland. This declaration reflects the fact that the border between the Kingdom of Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany actually does not delimit the areas inhabited by the two peoples. In the regions north and south of the border (which has been fixed since the referendums in 1920) - i.e. South Jutland in Denmark and Schleswig in Germany - Danes and Germans live together in traditional residential areas. The members of the German minority in Denmark are nationals of Denmark, and the members of the Danish minority in Germany are nationals of Germany.

In that regard attention should also be directed to the Contact Committee concerning the German Minority, which was set up in 1965. Since its establishment this advisory committee, where representatives of the German minority together with the Danish Government and members of the political parties represented in Parliament negotiate home affairs of interest to the minority, has demonstrated its vital significance as a practical instrument in the solution of the minority's problems. Moreover, in the summer of 1983 a special secretariat to the German minority was set up in Copenhagen.

The fifth state report has been prepared on the basis of contributions received from the following ministries and other authorities comprised by the provisions of the Framework Convention:

- The Ministry of Employment
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
- The Ministry of Justice
- The Ministry of Immigration and Integration
- The Ministry of Health
- The Agency for Digitisation
- The Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing
- The Ministry of Education
- The Danish Tax Agency
- The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration

- Statistics Denmark
- The Region of Southern Denmark
- The municipality of Tønder
- The Municipality of Haderslev
- The Municipality of Aabenraa
- The Municipality of Sønderborg

In addition, the report has been sent for consultation with the Prime Minister's Office.

In accordance with current practice, the report has also been submitted for consultation to the Greenland and Faroe Representations, requesting comments on the questions raised by the Advisory Committee as provided for in Article 3. According to the consultation responses, the representation of Greenland and Faroe did not express a wish for the framework convention to apply to Greenlanders and Faroese resident in Denmark.

To the extent possible, the state report has been prepared in accordance with the outline for the fifth state report, and concentrates on the issues raised in *Resolution CM/ResCMN(2015)7 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Denmark*:

[https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805c305f](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805c305f)

and on the fourth opinion on Denmark adopted on 20. May 2014:

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016801cdeca>.

**I. Practical arrangement made at the national level for raising awareness of the results of the fourth monitoring cycle and of the Framework Convention. Please indicate information about the following:**

*a. Steps have been taken to publicise the results of the fourth monitoring cycle (Opinion, State comments, Resolution): publication, dissemination, translation of the relevant documents into the official language(s) and the minority languages where appropriate.*

In connection with the transfer of responsibility for Minorities from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Culture in November 2016, the Ministry of Culture has set up a separate webpage with information on the Framework Convention and the monitoring periods. The documents on the website are available in Danish and English: <https://kum.dk/kulturpolitik/internationalt-kultursamarbejde/organisationer/europaraadet/>.

The Danish language is spoken and understood by the vast majority of the members of the German minority. Upon request, the Ministry of Culture is able to send free copies of the Danish State Reports, the reports of the Advisory Committee and the resolutions of the Committee of Ministers.

*b. Any follow-up activities organised at national, regional and local levels, including activities jointly with the Council of Europe, such discussions, seminars, evaluations, impact assessments, studies etc., and the outcomes of these events.*

As shown under item c. there have been several meetings in the Contact Committee for the German minority.

The Ministry of Culture provides secretarial services for the Contact Committee for the German minority. Thus, the Ministry of Culture has an ongoing dialogue with the German minority's secretariat in Copenhagen, as well as regular meetings with the German minority's representatives in both Copenhagen and South Jutland.

The Danish Contact Committee for the German minority consists of the Danish Minister of Culture (chairman of the committee), members from each of the political parties represented in the Danish parliament and members of the German minority. Information about the Contact Committee is available in Danish and English on the ministry's homepage: <https://kum.dk/kulturpolitik/internationalt-kultursamarbejde/kontaktudvalget/om-kontaktudvalget/>.

*c. Information on the participation of minority organisations and other non-governmental organisations in the authorities' implementation and monitoring of the Framework Convention, and indicate the impact of their involvement in the preparation of the fifth report.*

### **General remarks and initiatives**

It should be noted that Denmark recognizes the German minority in Southern Jutland as a national minority comprised by the framework convention. Therefore it is the Danish Government's position that the obligations under international law, which Denmark has assumed under the framework convention, applies to the German minority in Southern Jutland.

The Danish Government supports the principle of committed and constructive dialogue between relevant authorities and representatives of civil society and ethnic and religious minorities. This dialogue is taking place at all levels, including in the four municipalities located in South Jutland, The Region of South Denmark as well as in the contact between the authorities and the representatives of the German minority.

### **The Region of Southern Denmark**

The border region between Southern Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein has a special history. Today, there is a peaceful coexistence in the Danish-German border, and the national minorities are a natural part of the Danish-German cooperation in the Region of Southern Denmark. The Region of Southern Denmark is a public authority with a political leadership, and information on the region's website is available in German. In addition, the Region of Southern Denmark participates in the celebration of the reunification of South Jutland with Denmark in 2020, and the Regional Council has allocated a total of 3, 8 million DKK for activities in connection with the celebration of the reunification.

**The Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger**

The Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN) was founded in November 1945, and is the German minority's main organization and represents the minority in all fundamental issues. The objective is to promote the German minority and to contribute to cultural diversity and to a harmonious development in the Danish-German border country. Also, the German minority acts as a bridge builder between German and Danish people and between Denmark and Germany. The German General Secretariat in Aabenraa handles the central administrative tasks and is responsible for the minority's overall budget. The German minority's secretariat in Copenhagen is the liaison body for government and parliament: <https://www.bdn.dk/>.

**The German School and Language Association**

Deutscher Schul- und Sprachverein (the German School and Language Association) was founded in August 1945, and is an umbrella organization for the German institutions. The minority's kindergartens and schools provide the children and students with both Danish and German language and culture. The association was founded in August 1945 and receives its income from both Denmark and Germany and also via self-financing. The majority of the funds from Denmark are not minority-related, but relate to the operation of schools and kindergartens. The German minority kindergartens and schools are important when it comes to communicating German culture and language: <http://www.dssv.dk/>.

**The Danish Contact Committee for the German minority**

The Danish Contact Committee for the German minority consists of the Danish Minister of Culture (chairman for the committee), members from each of the political parties represented in the Danish parliament and members of the German minority. The Danish Ministry of Culture in its capacity as secretariat for the Contact Committee is in a continuous dialogue with the German minority's secretariat in Copenhagen, and regular meetings are held with representatives of the German minority. This ensures a continuous discussion of matters that the German minority deem important, including issues concerning the Framework convention.

In September 2018 the Danish Contact Committee for the German minority held its 55<sup>th</sup> session. In general the relationship between the Danish authorities and the German minority is informal and based on mutual trust and dialog. All documents are available at the Ministry of Culture's website: <https://kum.dk/kulturpolitik/internationalt-kultursamarbejde/kontaktudvalget/om-kontaktudvalget/>.

*d. Any other measures taken to promote awareness of the Framework Convention among national minorities, public officials and the general public.*

With reference to paragraph a - c the Ministry of Culture believes there is a good knowledge of the Framework Convention.

**II. Measures taken to address core issues**

**a. Please provide information on how each of the specific recommendations for immediate action included in the second part of the Committee of Ministers' Resolution has been implemented. Indications on other policies and measures considered relevant in this context should also be provided.**

Initially, the Committee of Ministers concludes that several areas have experienced positive development, including the area of antidiscrimination and cooperation with the German minority and the basis of such cooperation. This is followed by a list of areas which give cause for concern. These areas have been included in the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers, which is described in the following:

- Introduce additional and targeted initiatives and policies to combat all manifestations of intolerance, racism and xenophobia, particularly by addressing systematically racist manifestations in the media and the political sphere;
- Ensure that persons belonging to the German minority continue to be able to communicate fully using the German language with all bodies of administration, including electronically;
- Intensify dialogue with representatives of different groups, in order to analyse the existing needs and find appropriate solutions allowing all interested to receive teaching in or of their language.

#### **General remarks and initiatives**

As stated earlier, the Danish Government supports the principle of committed and constructive dialogue between relevant authorities and representatives of civil society and ethnic and religious minorities. This dialogue is taking place at all levels, including in the four municipalities located in South Jutland, The Region of South Denmark as well as in the Danish integration policy.

#### **The Municipalities of South Jutland and Region of Southern Denmark**

The right to use the national minority's language has several aspects. It applies to the four municipalities in South Jutland, and the municipalities endeavor to ensure that citizens who apply in German both in writing and orally can be served in German. The four municipalities are making an effort in order to secure that the German minority are able to use their language, in contact with public authorities, as the framework convention requires. Also, the Region of Southern Denmark is responsible for assuring and coordinating development in Southern Denmark and all information on the webpage is available in German:

<https://www.regionsyddanmark.dk/wm239840>.

#### **The Board of Equal Treatment**

The Board of Equal Treatment was established 1 January 2009. The 2019 budget of the Board of Equal Treatment is 250.000 Euro. The Board of Equal Treatment continues to raise awareness about antidiscrimination in general. The secretariat of the Board regularly holds dialogue sessions with stakeholders, particularly organizations that have special insight into equality issues. The secretariat makes educational presentations as well for organisations and trade unions. Moreover, it

should be noted that with effect from 1 January 2016 the Danish Institute for Human Rights was granted the right to bring complaints to the Board. This means that the Danish Institute for Human Rights has the opportunity to file complaints to the Board of Equal Treatment of principle matters of importance to the public.

### **The Danish Institute for Human Rights**

The Danish Institute for Human Rights receives a yearly grant from the Government in support of the implementation of its mandated national tasks. The Institute's financial situation is assessed as part of the yearly revision of the Finance Act. As recognized in the fourth opinion, the grant for the Institute's national activities was increased substantially in 2012 with a view to ensuring the proper implementation of the expanded mandate. In 2018 the grant for the national activities amounted to 38, 9 million DKK.

### **Der Nordschleswiger**

The German minority's daily newspaper Der Nordschleswiger will be supported on the Finance Act for the next four years with a view to developing and establishing platforms for electronic audio and visual communication specifically targeted the German minority. The Nordschleswiger receives 1, 7 million DKK in 2018 and 2019 rising to 2, 3 million DKK annually in 2020 and 2021. This means that the German minority newspaper will receive an additional eight million DKK during the next four years on top of what it receives in media state aid (an estimated 3,2 million DKK in 2019) The grant is stated in the Finance Act for 2018 as part of strengthening of Danish cultural heritage.

### **The renovation of the German Museum in Sønderborg**

The rebuilding and modernization of the museum of the German minority is being subsidized from both Denmark and Germany. It is an example of how Germany and Denmark, both regionally and nationally, stand together to secure the cultural heritage of the national minorities in the border region, even though the museum's exhibitions focuses on a past which is painful for both Germany and for the German minority in Denmark. The Danish Ministry of Culture contributes with a grant of 5 million DKK. Schleswig-Holstein contributes with 300.000 Euro and Berlin contributes with 1 million Euro. The project can be seen as an example of how Germany and Denmark, both regionally and nationally, are united when it comes securing the cultural heritage of the national minorities in the border region: <http://www.deutsches-museum.dk/>.

### **The celebration of the 100th anniversary of Denmark's Reunion with Southern Jutland**

In 2020, 100 years have passed since Southern Jutland was reunited with Denmark. The 100th anniversary will be celebrated with events and activities throughout the country. The aim of the 2020 Reunion is to heighten the public's awareness of the reunion's political and cultural significance to the Danish society, to the national self-understanding and to the present-day friendship with Germany. The ambition is to increase the public's knowledge of the historic events, when Southern Jutland once again became part of Denmark, and to focus on the European perspective of the Danish-German border region. In addition, the neighbourhood relationship to Germany is celebrated in 2020, and the year has been named as the Danish-German

year of friendship: Further information about the Reunion etc. is available in Danish, English and German: <https://genforeningen2020.dk/>.

The Danish Government has set aside a total of 10 million DKK on the Finance Act 2018 to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reunification of South Jutland in 2020. The grant is given to finance public education, through projects aimed to ensure that high schools, museums and libraries put the reunion anniversary on the agenda. The funds are also to be used for the preparation of teaching material. A government steering committee consisting of the Ministry of Culture, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education is responsible for the distribution of the funds.

In addition, a Presidium of Southern Denmark has been established, which is responsible for planning and carrying out a large number of events in the Danish-German border country. The Presidium of Southern Jutland and the state steering group make up the official base of the anniversary, and together they will establish the overall strategic framework of the commemoration. The Presidium includes representatives of the seven participating municipalities in Southern Jutland, the Region of Southern Denmark, the Danish Government and other stakeholders, including representatives of the minorities north and south of the border, respectively: <https://genforeningen2020.dk/markeringen-i-2020/praesidiet/>

### **III. Further measures taken to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention**

Please provide information on the article-by-article basis on measures taken to enhance the implementation of the Framework Convention. Indications on other policies, measures and needs assessments considered relevant in the context should be provided. Particular attention should be paid to:

- a. Measures taken to implement the recommendations included in second part of the Committee of Ministers' Resolution.**
- b. To the extent not already covered under points II and III-a above, measures and policies adopted to implement all the detailed recommendations, the various findings and conclusions contained in the Advisory Committee's fourth opinion.**

In order to facilitate the reading of the report, the answers to the section follows, to the extent possible, the structure outlines in the report of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee's recommendations are indicated Italics and are followed by the Danish government's comments.

#### **Article 3 of the Framework Convention Personal Scope of application of the Framework Convention**

##### *Recommendation*

*22. The Advisory Committee strongly recommends that the authorities intensify their dialogue with the individuals and groups that express interest or might benefit from the protection provided for by the Framework Convention and to consider*

*applying provisions of the Framework Convention to interested groups irrespective of a formal recognition as a national minority.*

It should be noted that Denmark recognizes the German minority in Southern Jutland as a national minority comprised by the framework convention, and it is the Danish Government's position that the obligations, which Denmark has assumed under the framework convention, applies to the German minority in Southern Jutland.

References to The Realm and people from Greenland or the Faroe Islands, who reside in Denmark, as well as persons of ethnic Danish origin, who reside in Greenland or in the Faroe Islands, are made in previously submitted state reports and comments to the Advisory Committee. Further information about the Realm, including Greenland's and the Faroe Islands' autonomy / home rule system, can be found in Denmark's "common core document":

[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=HRI%2FCORE%2FDNK%2f2018&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=HRI%2FCORE%2FDNK%2f2018&Lang=en)

While it is not part of Denmark's obligations under the framework convention, the government has initiated initiatives that focus on raising awareness about Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark among the peoples of the realm of the Kingdom. The Government also supports initiatives aimed at the inclusion of Greenlanders in Denmark, including support for newly arrived Greenlandic students to obtain Danish education and support for the *Greenlandic Houses*, which provide a wide range of advice to Greenlanders in Denmark.

When ratifying the Framework Convention, Denmark did not identify Roma or Jews in Denmark as a national minority within the meaning of the Convention. Thus, in the opinion of the Danish Government, the Roma and Jews do not constitute a national minority in Denmark. For further information reference are made to articles 6 and 14.

Finally, Denmark takes note of the Advisory Committee's comments, and the Danish government will always be prepared for dialogue with persons or groups who are interested in the provisions of the Framework Convention.

#### **Article 4 of the Framework Convention Anti-discrimination legislation and its implementation**

##### *Recommendation*

*30. The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to increase visibility, accessibility and public awareness about the work of the Board of Equal Treatment, in particular targeting groups at risk of discrimination and to provide resources needed by this body to carry out its mission effectively.*

The Board of Equal Treatment was established 1 January 2009. The annual budget of the Board of Equal Treatment is at the moment 250.000 Euro. The Board covers all fields of discrimination in the Danish antidiscrimination legislation today. It is free of charge to file complaints, and the secretariat for the Board assists

individuals in lodging complaints. The Board of Equal Treatment continues to raise awareness about anti-discrimination in general. The secretariat of the Board regularly holds dialogue sessions with stakeholders, particularly organizations that have special insight into equality issues.

The secretariat produces educational presentations as well for organisations and trade unions. To inform the public of the work of the Board all decisions are published on its webpage anonymously, and the secretariat publishes newsletters and press releases on selected individual cases. Both the media and lawyers with interest in the field follow the work of the Board closely and often quote the decisions reached. The Board receives a high number of queries by phone or e-mail from individuals, university students, trade unions and others who have an interest in the field of anti-discrimination.

Moreover, it should be noted that from 1 January 2016 the Danish Institute for Human Rights was granted the right to file complaints to the Board of Equal Treatment of principle matters of importance to the public.

### **Data Collection**

#### *Recommendation*

*33. The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to find means of obtaining reliable data on the situation of all groups irrespective of their formal recognition as national minorities. Such data collection should be carried out in close consultation with the persons concerned, while fully respecting international standards on the protection of personal data.*

It is not possible for Statistics Denmark to provide new statistical data on National Minorities. The source of Statistics Denmark's demographic information is the Central Population Register, which includes information on the persons place of birth and citizenship, while information on ethnicity, race or religion, in accordance to Act on Processing of Personal Data, cannot be registered. None of the existing data can be used for identifying National Minorities.

### **The Danish Institute for Human Rights**

#### *Recommendation*

*38. The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to review the implementation of the Danish Institute for Human Rights – Denmark's National Human Rights Institution Act - with a view to ensuring that the resources put at its disposal correspond to its expanded mandate and enable it to carry out its tasks effectively, independently and in co-operation with representatives of the minorities concerned.*

The Danish Institute for Human Rights receives a yearly grant from the Government in support of the implementation of its mandated national tasks. The Institute's financial situation is assessed as part of the yearly revision of the Finance Act. As recognized in the fourth opinion, the grant for the Institute's national activities was increased substantially in 2012 with a view to ensuring the

proper implementation of the expanded mandate. In 2018 the grant for the national activities amounted to 38, 9 million DKK.

In addition, the Institute receives a government grant in support of its international activities in developing countries as well as project-related funding for international activities. The Institute currently has around 119 employees and a total activity budget of around 152 million DKK. Thus, the Government of Denmark does not find it necessary to undertake a formal review of the implementation of the mentioned act.

### **Article 5 of the Framework Convention Preservation of culture of persons belonging to national minorities**

#### *Recommendation*

*43. The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to take an active role in facilitating the expansion of the official list of cultural heritage sites with a view to promote cultural diversity in the Danish society. The authorities should also ensure continuity and sustainability of measures designed to support minority cultures.*

The Region of Southern Denmark has in recent years worked purposefully to support the region's unique natural and cultural heritage. The Region of Southern Denmark has three sites on the World Heritage List: the Jelling Monuments, Christiansfeld and the Wadden Sea. The three world heritage sites have a positive impact on tourism, settlement and business, and the Region of Southern Denmark has supported the world heritage sites politically and financially in various ways. The region continues to support various projects that originate from the specific natural and cultural conditions that characterize the UNESCO designations in the region.

The Region of Southern Denmark also contributes to the Danish German cooperation in the Region of Sønderjylland-Schleswig, which includes working with the cultural area where minorities on both sides of the border are an important target group - including a special effort to promote neighbouring languages. In addition, the Region of Southern Denmark participates through the regional councillor's participation in the bureau for the celebration of the Reunification 2020, also having allocated a total of 3, 8 million DKK for activities in connection with the celebration of the reunification.

#### **The UNESCO nomination of the Danish-German border country**

In 2019 the Minister of Culture has nominated the Danish-German border country to become a UNESCO intangible cultural heritage, on the basis of a joint application from the Danish minority in South Schleswig and the German minority in Southern Jutland. In March 2019 both the German Ministers of Culture and the Federal Government for Culture and Media decided to support a joint Danish-German nomination for UNESCO's international register of good security practices in 2020. The Danish minority in Germany and the German minority in Denmark are now collaborating on refining the joint application for submission to UNESCO in 2020.

### **The Municipalities of Southern Jutland**

The Municipality of Aabenraa has a museum –Frøslev Camp Museum –illustrating the Camp during World War II. Nowadays, representing the German and Danish history during WWII, it is the biggest tourist attraction in the municipality. In order to attract even more tourists and citizens, the museum is about to be structured in a new way, following a vision and action plan. With this change, all information will also be translated into German and English ensuring that both German and international tourists and also the German minority have access to understanding the history and the background of the museum.

Moreover, the Municipality of Aabenraa together with other municipalities from Southern Jutland and Northern Germany are celebrating 100 years of reunion in 2020, and there are four perspectives on the event; the Danish, the German, the Danish minority and the German minority perspective. For the marking, the Municipality of Aabenraa is working on special events and has a pool, which the citizens can use to apply for money for small cultural projects. The information about the reunion and the applications forms are planned to be translated so that the German minority and other German speaking citizens can participate actively in that event.

Representatives from the German minority are part of the presidium of the reunion 2020 and are participating actively in the organization of the activities in the different municipalities. Furthermore, the German minority also has an active role in planning activities on the German side of the border. This underlines that both the Danish and the German national and minority culture are working together with the marking of the reunion 2020.

The Hill of Knivsbjerg is the highest point in Nordschleswig and has been the educational and meeting point for the Germans and later the German minority. It is a place, which is nowadays regularly being used for events and is an integrated part of Aabenraa community. The Hill of Knivsbjerg is both a physical and abstract marker for a broad spectrum of cultural, educational and sports associations thus being vital for the ongoing support of the identity of the German speaking minority in the region: [http://www.kulturarv.dk/1001fortaellinger/da\\_DK/knivsbjerg](http://www.kulturarv.dk/1001fortaellinger/da_DK/knivsbjerg).

The German minority in the Municipality of Haderslev has a great number of associations offering activities within sport, leisure and culture. The German minority also has a day-care centre, a school, a library and a congregation with its own preacher. The Municipality of Haderslev cooperates with the German minority, its associations and institutions on many levels. The digital archive “*Historie Haderslev*” ensures that the history of the German minority in Haderslev Municipality is preserved: <https://historiehaderslev.dk/>

The municipality of Sønderborg regularly updates the Outdoor Map “*Outdoor-Karte für die Kommune Sønderborg*” in German, English and Danish. The map is available online as well as in print version, e.g. on the Municipality’s homepage, at the Tourist Office and other central locations. The map, among other things, makes references to cultural heritage sites. The minority museum “*Deutsches Museum Nordschleswig*” is located in Sønderborg and is included in the municipal budget.

Minority institutions, such as kindergartens and schools, have access to municipal facilities under the same conditions as non-minority institutions.

**Article 6 of the Framework Convention**  
**Efforts to combat hostility or violence on ethnic grounds**

*Recommendation*

*52. The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to ensure that there is a sufficient and effective legal basis for addressing cases of hate speech as well as for tackling the racist motives of crimes.*

In 2016, the Director of Public Prosecution issued new guidelines concerning the handling of cases of violation of Section 266 b of the Criminal Code (replacing instruction No. 2/2011 as described in page 16 in the fourth Danish report). In order to ensure transparency and a uniform practice by the police and prosecution as to the application of Section 266 b in cases concerning hate speech, the instruction contains detailed guidelines. These are supplemented by relevant case law as to when an act as a general rule should be considered a violation of Section 266 b. The instruction also contains new paragraphs discussing the freedom of expression relative to such cases as well as guidelines on the investigation and the sentences claimed in such cases have been inserted in the instruction.

In 2016, the Danish National Police initiated a dialogue regarding hate crimes with a number of relevant stakeholders in the field in order to establish a closer and ongoing collaboration with the stakeholders and to obtain input to future police efforts concerning hate crimes. The purpose of the dialogue is also to collaborate on how to encourage more victims to report hate crimes to the police, as well as shedding light on any difficulties or barriers with regard to the reporting process.

*Recommendation*

*53. The authorities should continue and further develop the programmes and policies for promoting integration, diversity and tolerance in Danish society and monitor them on a regular basis.*

The aim of the Danish integration effort is to support refugees and immigrants in being fully able to exploit their talents and resources in order to become participating and economically independent citizens on an equal footing with other residents in Denmark. Employment and self-sufficiency is the principal target of the integration effort. Denmark has taken a number of measures to promote labour market integration. In close cooperation with companies, labour unions, local communities and social partners, efforts focusing on the inclusion of immigrants into the labour market have been strengthened. From 2015 to 2018 the proportion of refugees and family reunified to refugees who are employed after the first three years of their stay in Denmark has increased from 21 % to 45 %.

The integration programs and policies are developed continuously in order to target particular challenges. Specifically in 2018 the government has allocated 95 million DKK, which aims at ensuring a targeted and coordinated effort to improve the integration of immigrant women into the labour market. The initiative aims at

tackling the challenges which prevent this group from entering the labour market. The initiative is implemented from 2019-2022.

The Integration Barometer, which was launched in 2012, focuses on the goals of the integration effort and follows the annual progress made to meet the goals, both at national and municipal levels. The Barometer aims to make all players in the integration field work towards the same goals and make timely interventions if developments are not satisfactory. The Barometer focuses on immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin because earlier analyses found that this target group faces the largest challenges in terms of integration.

The Integration Barometer consists of a national barometer and 98 local barometers showing developments in the individual municipalities. The National Integration Barometer measures developments in nine aspects of the integration efforts: Work, education, Danish language skills, responsible citizenship, equal treatment, self-determination, public benefits, vulnerable neighbourhoods and crime. Each field is measured by one or more indicators. The development is measured mainly on the basis of data originating from Statistics Denmark and data collected through an annual questionnaire study.

The local integration barometers measure developments in the individual municipalities within the following fields: Work, education, Danish language skills, public benefits, vulnerable neighbourhoods and crime. The purpose is to provide an overview of local developments towards national goals where statistics broken down at municipal level are available. This overview may be useful as the local integration effort includes many focus areas and accordingly involves many players.

The collaboration consists of different administrative divisions, offices and entities at the town hall or from different institutions outside the local administration. Local integration barometers also provide local authorities with a basis for monitoring the development in other municipalities. This makes it possible for local authorities to share experiences with each other about developments and efficient integration efforts.

The National Integration Barometer further shows that the number of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin who state that they have experienced discrimination during the last year due to their ethnic origin has increased from 45 % in 2012 to 48 % in 2018. This development is not statistically significant. The proportion of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin who experience that persons with an immigrant background are recognized for their efforts in society has increased from 48 % in 2012 to 52 % in 2018.

The Board of Equal Treatment continues to deal with complaints related to discrimination including on the grounds of race and ethnic origin. The Board may award compensation. In 2017 the Board received 294 complaints of which the majority was related to gender and age. 44 cases were related to race or ethnic origin.

*Recommendation*

*54. Further efforts should be undertaken to raise the awareness of all law enforcement agencies on the question of hate crime.*

In the spring of 2015, the overall responsibility for the prevention of and fight against hate crimes was transferred from the Danish Security and Intelligence Service to the Danish National Police. The Danish National Police has a strong focus on ensuring that hate crimes are being handled and registered correctly in the police districts and that the police officers in that context receive sufficient training. For that reason, training on how to identify, register, investigate and handle hate crimes are integrated parts of the law enforcement training at the Danish National Police College.

In addition, further training is offered by the Danish National Police after the law enforcement training has ended. Furthermore, twice a year the Danish National Police performs education and training for police officers where the subject exclusively concerns hate crimes.

In 2015, the Danish National Police decided to strengthen the registration and handling of hate crimes in the police districts and to obtain an overview of hate crimes carried out in Denmark by launching a monitoring program. The monitoring program is considered a valuable contribution in the attempt to follow the development of hate crimes closely and to target the effort against hate crimes in Denmark.

As part of the implementation of the monitoring program, the Danish National Police has issued guidelines to all the Danish police districts on how to detect hate crimes in specific cases and how to register hate crimes correctly to ensure that all relevant crimes are investigated as a hate crime. In 2018, the Danish National Police initiated a dialog with the Danish police districts in order to ensure that all hate crimes are registered correctly in the IT/administrative system (POLSAS) that is used by the Danish Police.

In 2017, the Danish National Police decided to change the practice for monitoring hate crimes. The reason for this was that the National Police became aware of several relevant hate crime cases in POLSAS that could not be located with the current search practice. The National Police has therefore expanded the monitoring practice, which has enabled the National Police to find more relevant hate crime cases in 2017. This has given a more accurate overview of the extent of hate crimes in Denmark. The Danish National Police composes an annual report on the monitoring program regarding the number and nature of registered hate crimes in Denmark. The third report was published in September 2018 and covers incidents in 2017.

According to the report, 446 incidents characterized as hate crimes were registered in 2017. At the time of preparation of the report there had been pressed 95 charges against 102 people. Furthermore, half of the registered hate crimes in 2017 were committed with a racist motivation concerning the victim's nationality, ethnicity, race or skin colour etc. This tendency has also been present in the reports from

2016 and 2015. Due to the change of practice for monitoring hate crimes in 2017, the reports covering 2016 and 2015 are not directly comparable to the latest report.

In 2016, the Danish National Police initiated a dialogue regarding hate crimes with a number of relevant stakeholders in the field in order to establish a closer and ongoing collaboration in order to obtain input regarding future police efforts concerning hate crimes. The purpose of the dialogue is also to collaborate on how to encourage more victims to report hate crimes to the police, as well as shedding light on any difficulties or barriers with regard to the reporting process.

The Danish National Police has a strong focus on increasing the inclination to report hate crimes amongst victims of hate crimes. The Danish National Police is therefore in collaboration with relevant civil society organisations planning to launch a video on social media with information concerning the importance of reporting hate crimes to the police. The Danish National Police is aware that especially victims of foreign origin need basic information about Danish legislation and how to report and precede for instance when a case concerning hate crime occurs.

Therefore, the Danish National Police has taken steps to visit mosques, and asylum centres among others to clarify and inform how to contact the local police. The Danish National Police acknowledges the importance of creating a stable and trustworthy relationship between police officers and victims of hate crimes. The Danish National Police makes an effort to meet vulnerable groups in the Danish society and to inform about the Danish police and the measures and legislation the Danish police work under.

### **Preventing ethnic discrimination and promoting tolerance**

#### *Recommendation*

*58. The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to introduce targeted and effective policies and measures to combat unemployment among persons with an ethnic background other than Danish and to pursue efforts to recruit such persons into state institutions.*

The Danish government has taken a number of steps to integrate people with an ethnic background other than Danish into the labour market. In March 2016, the Government made a tripartite agreement with the social partners about integration into the labour market of newly arrived refugees and immigrants brought here by family reunification. With the agreement, the government has set the target that every second refugee and person brought to Denmark by family reunification should be working after three years of residence in Denmark. At the second quarter of 2015, 21 % of the target group was working. At the third quarter of 2018, the number had increased to 45 %.

The tripartite agreement also constitutes a reorganization of the efforts for newly arrived refugees and people brought here by family reunification, so that the municipalities are required to offer newly arrived refugees and people brought here by family reunification, with up to five years stay in Denmark, an early and

company-oriented effort. Experience shows that company-oriented efforts have better employment effects, than other labour activation efforts.

The tripartite agreement also establishes a new tool to promote labour market integration. The integration basic education, the “Integrationsgrunduddannelse” (IGU), consists of both a school and an internship period. The IGU provides working and skill upgrading opportunities for refugees and people brought here by family reunification, whose qualifications at the outset do not yet meet the requirements of the Danish labour market.

In December 2018, over 1,800 IGU courses were registered. In May 2018, approximately 12,300 people were in the target group for an IGU. The Danish ministries have set a goal about the number of IGU employees in their respective state institutions. The 1st of July 2018, 93 persons were employed in IGU programs in the Danish ministries. The Government and the social partners have decided to prolong the IGU program until 2022.

Finally, the government has strengthened the incentive to work, by introducing three elements; the integration allowance scheme, the cash benefit ceiling and the 225-hour rule, while still maintaining a reasonable level of welfare support. The three elements’ target groups are people in the cash benefit system, where non-western immigrants are overrepresented. The effects of the cash benefit ceiling and the 225-hour rule are currently being evaluated.

### **Discrimination against Roma**

#### *Recommendation*

*60. The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to pursue and develop without delay measures to combat discrimination against the Roma and introduce targeted policies promoting their full and effective equality in all areas.*

According to section 266 b (1) of the Danish Criminal Code, any person who publicly or with intent to disseminate to a wide group of people, issues a statement or otherwise communicates a message that threatens, humiliates or degrades persons of a particular group because of their race, colour, national or ethnic origin, religious belief or sexual orientation is sentenced to a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

Further, section 81(vi) of the Criminal Code states that, when determining a sentence, it must normally be considered an aggravating circumstance that the act was based on the ethnic origin, religious belief or sexual orientation or similar criteria. The section is applicable when determining the sentence for all criminal offences. Thus, if an assault is based upon the victim being Roma, it would be considered an aggravating circumstance when determining the sentence for the offence.

### **Media reporting and political discourse**

#### *Recommendation*

*66. The Advisory Committee strongly urges the authorities to combat effectively all manifestations of intolerance, racism, and xenophobia. In particular, the Advisory Committee urges the authorities to take further legislative measures and policies to combat racist manifestations in the media, including in the political arena, in the spirit of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation N° R(97)20 on Hate Speech.*

Combating hate crimes is of great importance for Denmark, and there have been several steps to ensure that such cases are effectively investigated and prosecuted. The Danish National Police has a strong focus on ensuring that hate crimes are being handled and registered correctly in the police districts and that the police officers in that context receive sufficient training. For that reason, training of law enforcement on how to identify, register, investigate and handle hate crimes are integrated parts of the law enforcement training at the Danish National Police College. In addition, further training is offered by the Danish National Police after the law enforcement training has ended.

Furthermore, the Danish Security and Intelligence Service has launched a digital mapping project in 2018 that amongst other things, will give authorities a more comprehensive, exact and updated picture of the role that social media plays in relation to radicalization and hate crimes in Denmark. The knowledge gathered in this project will e.g. be used for adapting and strengthening the prevention efforts carried out by ministries, agencies, municipalities, the police, civil society participants and others.

Finally, the guidelines from the Director of Public Prosecution specify that the police during an investigation have to consider whether a racist statement or manifestation has been issued in the media or through the internet. It also contains examples of cases in which Danish politicians have been sentenced for violations of Section 266 b of the Criminal code.

### **Article 8 of the Framework Convention The right to manifest one's religion or belief**

#### *Recommendation*

*70. The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to adopt a religiously sensitive approach to the question of ritual slaughter of animals and consider, in consultation with those concerned, solutions which take religious freedom into account. It also encourages the authorities to continue, together with the groups concerned, to search for pragmatic solutions to the issue of circumcision of boys, taking the health of children fully into account, while ensuring that the outcome does not unduly interfere with the practice of religious traditions at issue.*

The debate regarding circumcision of boys is ongoing and currently subject to political debate in Denmark. The Danish government recognizes that the debate regarding circumcision of boys is a complex one, with many important issues that needs consideration amongst other the right of the child, health related implications, consequences for religious minorities in Denmark, safety, ethical and legal considerations. Based on a balanced approach to the above-mentioned considerations, the Danish Government rejects a prohibition. The government is

however looking into how patient safety in this area can be strengthened. This is done in dialogue with the religious minorities affected and relevant clinical experts.

Circumcision of boys is not criminalized under Danish law. However, Section 244-246 of the Danish Criminal Code, which contain rules concerning offences against a person such as acts of violence, assault, and mistreatment, may be applicable in relation to circumcision, if the person carrying out the circumcision is not a doctor or other authorized personnel. The provisions may also apply if the circumcision is carried out without the informed consent of the boy – or, if the boy is less than 15 years of age, his parents.

Ritual slaughter of animals is possible provided the animal is sedated prior to slaughter. A ban against slaughter without prior sedation was introduced in Denmark in 2014 after at least ten years without any Danish slaughterhouses applying for permission to perform ritual slaughter of animals without prior sedation. Although a number of other countries have a similar ban of slaughter without prior sedation, import to Denmark of meat from animals slaughtered according to religious rituals without prior sedation is possible. Thus, there is access to meat fulfilling the demands of people wanting this product.

### **Article 9 of the Framework Convention Minority language media**

#### *Recommendation*

*73. The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue supporting sustainable development of the German language printed media as well as radio and television broadcasting programmes for and about the German national minority.*

The German newspaper Der Nordschleswiger annually receives a subsidy from the Danish media subsidy scheme. The subsidy is given to production of content independent of platform (printed/digital). Any new written media aimed at the German minority can receive subsidy on the same conditions as the newspaper Der Nordschleswiger. The subsidy to the written media granted via the Danish media subsidy scheme alters from year to year depending on the total of the newspaper's editorial costs. The total subsidy for the Nordschleswiger has varied from 2, 9 million DKK in 2015 as the lowest and is in 2019 expected to increase to 3, 2 million DKK as the highest.

In addition Der Nordschleswiger is also granted 1, 7 million DKK annually in 2018 and 2019 and 2, 3 million DKK annually in 2020 and 2021. The grant is given to the development of media digitalization ensuring that the persons belonging to the German minority have access to digital media in their own language. Der Nordschleswiger also receives public subsidy from the German "Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger".

In 2017 the Danish media subsidy scheme was changed to ensure that news media for and about the German minority in southern Jutland would be able to receive

subsidy from the Danish subsidy scheme regardless of the extent of other public subsidy (e.g. German public funding).

Der Nordschleswiger also receives a subsidy from the Ministry of Culture's part of "udlodningsmidlerne" for cultural purposes. The subsidy is given with regard to producing and buying airtime to broadcasting news programmes in German in the local radio in southern Denmark. The aim is to make the German minority able to produce and broadcast news in German in Southern Jutland. The subsidy is around 246.000 DKK in 2018.

### **Public Service**

The Danish national public service broadcasters DR and TV 2 and the eight regional television public service broadcasters – including TV SYD – all have public service obligations relating to social coverage of Denmark. Details of the public service remit of DR and the regional TV 2 television public service broadcasters – including TV SYD – are regulated in public service contracts with the Minister for Culture, whereas the details of the public service remit of TV 2 is regulated in a license for TV 2 to perform public service program activities. DR and the regional TV 2 television public service broadcasters are financed almost exclusively by public funding, while TV 2 is financed by advertising revenue and subscription payment.

DR is by virtue of its public service contract obliged to provide a broad social coverage of Denmark, thereby reflecting the diversity of culture, philosophy of life and living conditions in different regions of the country. As of 2019, DR is furthermore obliged to place emphasis on the coverage of the minorities in the Danish/German border area. TV 2 is by virtue of its license to perform public service broadcasting like DR, committed to providing a broad social coverage of Denmark, thereby reflecting the diversity of culture, philosophy of life and living conditions in different regions of the country. Pursuant to public service contracts the regional TV 2 stations – including TV SYD – are required to emphasizing on regional affiliation by programming. The programming must thus reflect the diversity of culture, philosophy of life and living conditions that are in the region. TV SYD shall furthermore place emphasis on the conditions in the Danish/German border area.

## **Article 10 of the Framework Convention Use of minority language in local administration**

### *Recommendation*

*77. The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to ensure, when implementing the digitalization strategy that persons belonging to the German minority continue to be able to communicate fully in German, including electronically, with all bodies of administration concerned.*

Since 2015, the Danish tax authorities have provided a German website with relevant and up-to-date pages on personal tax matters, VAT and other tax-related topics. New content is added to the site regularly, including a landing page for workers coming to Denmark. The site is constantly being developed, and there are

plans to add a tax glossary and a contact form, enabling the German minority and other German speakers to communicate directly by email through the website or by logging on to the self-service system. Relevant phone numbers will also be available from the contact form. Today, one central phone number is available under the contact menu. In addition, certain forms and folders/guides are available in German. In-house German-speaking staff and translators ensure that language barriers do not hinder effective communication between the tax authorities and German speakers.

The Danish public sector is decentralised. This means that a large part of the communication between the citizens and the public sector is the responsibility of the municipalities. Under the auspices of The Digital Strategy 2016 - 2020, central government, regions, and municipalities are working on developing common requirements for public sector digital solutions based on a user-centric approach. It is recommended to involve the users when initiating new processes and when further developing existing ones, so that the users' needs are taken into account in both the construction and the design of the digital solutions.

All relevant pages on website of the Municipality of Haderslev are translated into German. In future, it will be to the same extent that we will communicate in German on the website and digital platforms. The digitalization strategy of Sønderborg Municipality is related to the public sector strategies, and the requirement that citizens should be able to communicate with the public sector by non-digital means regarding applications, notifications etc. It is important that the German minority can communicate with the municipality in German. The municipal homepage exists in a German language version, and it is possible to communicate orally and in writing in German with the Municipality.

Digitalization plays an important and active role in the Municipality of Aabenraa. The city council has approved a plan for growth and a strategy, in which several goals have to be carried out in both Danish, German and English as for example local plans, other prospects or brochures to attract citizens and companies. In the future, these documents can, besides the already existing documents, either be found on the municipality's homepage or in print versions.

Moreover, The Municipality of Aabenraa has approved a strategy for digital healthcare and welfare technology. Along with the strategy, the municipality uses a special technology, a communication platform, in nursing homes. With this platform, it is possible to use video communication, messages, pictures, calendars etc. Depending on who is using the technology, it is possible to change the language to German, so that German speaking employees and citizens also are able to work with it.

The communication strategy of the Municipality of Aabenraa is summed up:

*“In the Municipality of Aabenraa we are part of the Danish-German Border Region. We meet the German language and German Culture every day in a variety of settings. We therefore communicate naturally in German, when we meet citizens,*

*companies, associations and other parties, that prefer this. Or we contact a German-speaking colleague for assistance.”*

In Sønderborg municipality’s digitalisation strategy is related to public sector strategies, and the requirement that citizens should be able to communicate with the public sector by non-digital means regarding applications, notifications etc. It is important to the municipality that the German minority can communicate with the municipality in German. The municipal homepage exists in a German language version, and it will always be possible to identify German-speaking staff who can communicate orally and in writing with citizens who may wish to do so.

### **Article 11 of the Framework Convention Display of traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications**

#### *Recommendation*

*81. The Advisory Committee invites the central authorities to seek solutions, which would allow the display of traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications and signs in places of particular interest to the German national minority in South Jutland.*

Since 2016 it is possible to display traditional local city names in Danish as well as in English or in a neighbouring country's official language. The foreign language is stated beneath the Danish name. Regarding road and street names, detailed rules are laid down for this. Road and street names, addresses and additional city names are determined to take into account that anyone, in the easiest way possible, including the use of topographic maps and navigation systems, is able to navigate and find the path or address.

Thus, road and street names must correspond to what is stated on the Danish topographical maps. The names are in Danish. Road users must be able to see a connection between maps and the actual street names. In this way, correct displays of the traffic signs are ensured, so that road users are able to orientate themselves. The rules are laid down in the Executive Consolidation Act on Road Names and Addresses, which has been published by the Danish Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency. The Board is under the Danish Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate.

With regard to other topographical indications and signs of places of particular interest to the German national minority in South Jutland, rules for commercial signage allow large commercial tourist information signs for sights or attractions. These tourist information signs are located along highways. In cases where such requests are submitted, there will be the possibility of using foreign names. However, it must be the name of the company registered under the CVR register. A foreign name in English or German can be used beneath the Danish name. The option was introduced in 2016 in the aforementioned road marking consolidation Act and guidelines.

In the Municipalities of Tønder and Aabenraa there are signs in German indicating German cultural and educational institutions, such as libraries, museums and primary and secondary schools, is in place. In 2016 it became possible to apply for street signs in German and the German minority applied for two signs; Frøslevlejren and Knivsbjerg, which both got approved. In the Municipality of Sønderborg information boards etc. are usually in Danish, English and German, thus providing information in all languages. Note also that information leaflets etc. at the Tourist Office are available in several languages including German. In general, orientation, guidance and information relating to places of particular interest to the German national minority are available in German.

In Sønderborg municipality, the signs appear only in Danish, as nearly all members of the German minority are able to read and speak Danish. However, information tables etc. at municipally administered places of interest are usually in Danish, English and German thus providing further information in all languages. Note also that information leaflets etc. at the Tourist Office are available in several languages including German. In general, orientation, guidance and information relating to places of particular interest to the German national minority, are available in German.

### **Article 12 of the Framework Convention Promotion of knowledge of the culture, history and language of national minorities**

#### *Recommendation*

84. *The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to continue to monitor the visibility of the German culture and language within the Danish education system.*

#### *Recommendation*

85. *The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to promote knowledge and awareness of minorities in the educational system.*

In February 2016 the Danish Government announced a strategy to strengthen the framework conditions for Danish cooperation with Germany. In this strategy the Danish Government wants to strengthen the students' competences within the German language. In November 2017 the Government announced a strategy for strengthening foreign languages in the Danish educational system. Following these two strategies, a National Centre for Foreign Language was established in 2018. Moreover the Ministry of Education is in the process of negotiating an exchange agreement for students in upper secondary school with the German authorities to enhance language sufficiency.

### **Article 14 of the Framework Convention Minority language teaching**

#### *Recommendation*

*89. The Advisory Committee calls upon the authorities to intensify their dialogue with representatives of different groups to whom legislation on teaching in or of mother tongues applies, in order to analyse the existing needs and find appropriate solutions allowing all interested to receive instruction in or of their minority language.*

The Danish legislation states that children with citizenship in another EU-country should be offered teaching in their mother tongue, if they are living together with their parents in Denmark. The criteria for receiving teaching in mother tongue language is that at least 12 pupils are registered in a language, and that there is access to qualified teaching staff.

### **Article 15**

#### **Consultative bodies and participation in public affairs**

##### *Recommendation*

*94. The Advisory Committee again encourages the authorities to pursue their dialogue-based approach in order to maintain the effective participation of representatives of the German minority in decision-making as well as consider establishing effective consultative mechanisms with groups seeking protection under the Framework Convention.*

Generally speaking, The Danish government is always prepared for dialogue with persons or groups who are interested in the provisions of the Framework Convention. There is generally a close, open and informal dialogue between the Danish authorities and the German minority, which is characterized by mutual trust.

The Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (the German minority's main organization) represents the minority in all fundamental issues. The objective is to promote the German minority and to contribute to cultural diversity and to contribute to a harmonious development in the Danish-German border country. At the same time, the German minority acts as a bridge builder between German and Danish and between Germany and Denmark.

The German General Secretariat in Aabenraa handles the central administrative tasks and is responsible for the minority's overall budget. The German minority's secretariat in Copenhagen is the liaison body for government and parliament. The Ministry of Culture in its work as secretariat for the Contact Committee for the German minority is in continuous dialogue with the German minority's secretariat in Copenhagen, as well as regular meetings with the German minority's representatives and in this connection issues that the German minority considers necessary, including in relation to the framework convention.

### **Articles 17 and 18 of the Framework Convention**

#### **Bilateral agreements and promotion of transfrontier co-operation**

##### *Recommendation*

*98. The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to ensure the effective participation of the German minority when designing and implementing cross-border projects.*

In 2016, the Danish Government formulated a strategy towards Germany with the main focus on strengthening the framework conditions for Denmark's economic cooperation with Germany. The Danish Government seeks to create an easier access for Danish companies in Germany and increase the knowledge about Germany and of the German language. Better knowledge in German and of Germany could strengthen Danish trade with Germany. The strategy therefore also includes new initiatives aimed at the Danish education sector as well as exchange programs etc.: <http://www.stm.dk/multimedia/Tysklandsstrategi.pdf>.

### **The Germany effort 2018-2020**

The focus for the Germany effort 2018–2020 will be on further enhancing the already strong cultural exchange programs between Denmark and Germany. The idea is that both nations will play a part in this and in doing so they will also provide a boost to the European cultural scene. The overall themes for the International Cultural Panel's work in Germany are to reinforce the historic artistic and cultural links between the two countries, not only in a Danish-German context but also on the wider European stage, and to expand artistic platforms and establish a stronger presence for Danish art and culture in Germany. These themes are designed to ensure that Danish arts and culture has the best possible launch pad for its continued development in Germany.

The Germany 2018–2020 program consists of a wide range of projects on four main themes. Details of the individual projects will be published as they become available. Each theme is designed to focus broadly on the many different partners involved in the program in Denmark and Germany. In 2018, the main focus was on using partnerships and projects to forge strong links between cultural heritage organizations in the two countries.

For 2018–2020, the focus will be on projects that establish strong new artistic platforms in the German *Länder* and complement the good relationships that the Danish art scene has traditionally enjoyed with our neighbours, particularly in North Germany: <https://english.slks.dk/work-areas/international-focus/current-projects/germany-effort-2018-2020/events-and-projects/danish-art-in-the-german-laender/>

Other priorities for 2018–2020 will be projects that promote Denmark as a destination for cultural tourists from Germany, as well as cultural export projects including for art and culture: <https://english.slks.dk/work-areas/international-focus/current-projects/germany-effort-2018-2020/events-and-projects/cultural-exports-and-cultural-tourism/>.

The year of cultural friendship 2020 runs parallel with the celebrations of the 100-year anniversary of the Danish reunification of the Southern region of Denmark. However, the year of cultural friendship has a broader international scope of cultural exchange, because in a Danish perspective the year of cultural friendship is

the culmination on the three-year cultural: <https://english.slks.dk/work-areas/international-focus/current-projects/germany-effort-2018-2020/events-and-projects/year-of-cultural-friendship-2020/>.

### **The Cultural Agreement for South Jutland and Schleswig**

The Cultural Agreement for South Jutland-Schleswig runs for 4 years from 1 January 2017 - 31 December 2020, and was signed at the first Danish-German cultural policy summit on 3 February 2017. The aim for the cultural agreement is to bring together the cultural forces across the Danish-German border, across the municipalities of Haderslev, Sønderborg, Aabenraa, Tønder, the Region of North Friesland and Schleswig-Flensburg, the City of Flensburg, Region of Southern Denmark, the Ministry of Culture in Denmark and the Ministry of Justice, Culture and Europe. The ambition is to strengthen the common cultural space and the common identity across the Danish-German border.

The Cultural agreement for The Cultural Region of Southern Jutland-Schleswig is a cooperation platform that in addition to the near regional perspective also has a European dimension. The agreement is based on tolerance, mutual understanding and the open society. The Cultural Agreement contributes to a free cultural space and will involve a wide range of citizens in the Danish-German border country: <https://english.slks.dk/work-areas/international-focus/current-projects/germany-effort-2018-2020/>.