



# REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION MADE BY THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN ITS DECISION OF 11 DECEMBER 2019 REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES BY THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN

## ANNEX

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### 1. *Background*

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At the end of July 2020, the Government of Spain submitted to the Council of Europe the Report on the Recommendations made by said Council's Committee of Ministers and adopted in its Decision of 11 December 2019 regarding the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The report was subsequently translated into English and the translated version was finally submitted in August 2020.

Following the clarification provided by the Council of Europe regarding the actions Spain must provide account of in this interim report so as to comply with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the August 2020 report was extended to encompass comments on the recommendations set forth in Chapter II of the Report on the Recommendations made by the Committee of Ministers.

Both texts, the Report and this Annex, provide a response to the **recommendations for immediate action** set forth in the Report of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in response to the Fifth Compliance Report submitted by Spain, covering the 2014-2016 period.

#### 2. *Additional information*

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This Annex provides information that was not included in the version submitted in July 2020. In order to obtain supplementary information, the administrations of the pertinent Autonomous Communities, as well as all of the ministries, irrespective of their territorial structure, were once again asked to collaborate. All the information gathered was organized and systematized to prepare the July report and this Annex. Those regional administrations that did not submit any data in the spring of 2020 were asked once again to provide the information requested, should they deem it appropriate to do so.



Specifically, drawing on the data collected at November 2020, this Annex broadens the response to encompass those aspects from the complete list set forth in Chapter II of the July report that were not commented on therein.

## II. COMMENTS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. *Improve the use of the co-official languages in State administration in the Autonomous Communities*

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#### 1.1. Use of co-official languages in Government Delegations in Spain's Autonomous Communities

The Government Delegations comprise the territorial services of the General State Administration in each Autonomous Community. In September 2020 the Government Delegations of Galicia, the Basque Country, Navarre, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and Valencia completed a form in which they were asked about the use of the co-official languages in their territorial spheres. The following results are based on the data they each provided.

The key issues assessed were:

1. **Translation of documents and forms available to the public.** In this case, only those forms and documents made available by the Government Delegation were taken into consideration.
2. **Guarantee of citizens' rights to address the Delegation in any of the territory's co-official languages**, and to obtain a response in the language of their choice. Both oral and written communications were considered.
3. **Resources available to the Delegation** to guarantee citizens' language rights, assessed according to the Delegation's own perspective.

The assessment reflected in the tables below considers the percentage of implementation and the level of expansion of the co-official languages, with a breakdown by Autonomous Community.

While it was noted that there is room for improvement by the institutions as regards certain specific aspects, in no case has there been a direct failure to respect citizens' language rights, and thus the activity can be considered, at least, sufficient. It was also observed that in a good number of cases, above all as regards the translation of documents available to the public, the efforts made are considered satisfactory in all of the Autonomous Communities. Adopting an overall view, it can be agreed that the use of co-official languages is widely spread in the Government delegations and the linguistic rights are mostly fulfilled.



<b>BASQUE COUNTRY</b>	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					

<b>NAVARRRE</b>	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					

<b>VALENCIA</b>	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					



<b>GALICIA</b>	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to citizens					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					

<b>CATALONIA</b>	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					

<b>BALEARIC ISLANDS</b>	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					



<b>GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS</b>	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					

Moreover, it is important to bear in mind that two of the languages are only co-official in part of the territory of the Autonomous Community, or one of the Autonomous Communities, in which they are spoken, pursuant to the respective Statutes of Autonomy thereof: one of these is Basque, which is co-official in only a part of the Foral Community of Navarre, and the other is Aranese or Occitan, which is only co-official in part of the territory of Catalonia (the Aran Valley) More specifically, the Government Sub-delegation in Lleida reports that it makes use of Aranese on social networks and in certain institutional communications.

## **1.2 Translation of web pages and of documentation accessible to the public**

As regards the translation into co-official languages of documentation made available to the public, the Government Delegations and Sub-Delegations provide translations of all kinds of documents through different services and departments. The most frequently translated documents are administrative forms, electoral documents, informative pamphlets and civil protection documents.

Consequently, most of the peripheral units and services located in Autonomous Communities with more than one official language affirm that the documentation accessible to the public can generally be found in both languages. Most forms, pamphlets and other documents are available in the co-official language This also extends to signage, which is generally bilingual.

An assessment was made of the web pages most used by the public in these territories—including those providing information as well as those for carrying out bureaucratic procedures—considering frequency of use, number of users, number of visits and importance of the procedures carried out. This analysis confirmed that information was available in the co-official languages. A review of the following websites and web pages is included by way of example:



- **Tax Agency** (<https://www.agenciatributaria.es/>): the website has been translated into Catalan, Galician and Valencian (the Tax Agency does not apply in the Basque Country or Navarre ). Said translation was only found at the initial menu level and in certain cases, in dynamic content.
- **National Social Security Institute** (<http://www.seg-social.es/>): the website has been translated into Catalan, Galician, Basque and Valencian. It does not reach all navigation levels in all cases.
- **Public State Employment Service** (<https://www.sepe.es/>): the information on this website is available in Catalan, Galician and Basque.
- **General Mutual Insurance Scheme for State Civil Servants** (<https://www.muface.es/>): this website has been translated into Catalan, Galician, Basque and Valencian.
- **General Mutual Insurance Scheme for the Judiciary** (<https://www.mugeju.es/>): this website has been translated into Catalan, Galician, Basque and Valencian.

## **2. Make education available in Valencian at all levels of education in Comunitat Valenciana**

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Since the 1980s, the Valencian education system has promoted the use of Valencian in education through language immersion methodologies, among other approaches. The legislation on this matter approved since Spain submitted its Fifth Report includes **Act 4/2018 of 21 February, of the regional administration of Valencia, which regulates and promotes multilingualism in the Valencian education system**. Of particular note, among the provisions contained therein, are:

- **Article 4**, which asserts that the Multilingual and Inter-Cultural Education Programme (PEPLI) has the following aims: "To ensure that students within the education system achieve a level of multilingual competence that entails ... oral and written proficiency in the two official languages, and attaining a functional command of one or more foreign languages..."
- **Article 6.3**, which stipulates that: "The minimum time allocated to curricular content in each of the official languages, during compulsory education as a whole, must amount to 25% of actual teaching hours. Each official language must be taught, as a subject, in that same language and, at the same time, each official language must also be used to teach at least one other core or similar, non-language subject on the curriculum."

Act 4/2018 is the prevailing law regulating language programmes in non-university education and provides that all schools must apply the Multilingual and Inter-Cultural Education Programme (PEPLI). This programme has already been implemented in the Early Years and Primary stages of education, while the previous language programmes listed below continue to be applied in Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO), Non-Compulsory Secondary Education (*Bachillerato*) and Adult Education (FPA):

- Education programme in Valencian/Catalan (PEV); and



- Programme for the gradual incorporation of Valencian/Catalan (PIP), until the implementation of the PEPLI as of the academic year 2021-2022.

The characteristics of this programme, specifically as regards the number of teaching hours imparted in each language on the curriculum, are determined by national rather than regional legislation. Thus, additional provision 38 of Organic Law 8/2013 of 9 December, on improving the quality of education (LOMCE) stipulates that:

*...the education administrations must guarantee the right of students to receive their education in the two official languages, and must plan the courses offered pursuant to the following criteria:*

*[...] b) The education administrations may design and implement systems guaranteeing that non-language subjects are taught in Castilian and the co-official language in each cycle and school year of compulsory education, with a view to ensuring that students master both official languages, and without prejudice to the possibility of including foreign languages.*

*The education administrations must determine the reasonable proportion of Castilian and of the co-official language in these systems, and may do so in a heterogeneous manner in their territory, depending on the concurrent circumstances.*

The proportion of hours set forth in Act 4/2018 was determined in response to the ruling of Section 4 of the Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Court, on appeal 2549/2014: "the minimum usage of Castilian as a teaching language in the school year and classroom of the appellant's child shall be set at 25% of actual teaching hours; said official language must be taught, as a subject, in that same language and, at the same time, it must also be used to teach at least one other core or similar, non-language subject on the curriculum."

The Valencian education administration has placed particular emphasis on an enrichment model for all students within the Valencian education system, with common multilingual aims and a pedagogical management framework (School Language Project) at schools, where the concepts of inclusion, equity and non-segregation on socio-linguistic grounds are not merely a statement of good intentions, but rather a path to collective excellence. Therefore, monolingual and bilingual approaches must be abandoned in favour of defining an educational scenario that is appropriate to the current multilingual social reality.

The projected statistics on Primary school pupils included in the Multilingual and Inter-Cultural Education Programme (PEPLI) in the academic year 2019-2020, who receive more than 45% of their schooling in Valencian, as compared with the same number of students had they been kept in the Multilingual Programme for Teaching in Valencian (PPEV) (with the majority of subjects taught in Valencian), show a significant increase in favour of the PEPLI, given that the percentage of schools that exceed this 45% percentage of schooling received in Valencian, and which can be considered, therefore, to apply the optimal programme, has risen from 30% to almost 55%.

These projections suggest that, with the PEPLI, the use of Valencian as a teaching language will become more common. The gains in terms of quality must never be attributed to its



exclusive use as a teaching language in certain schools, but to the application of methodological approaches that guarantee that students become truly multilingual.

There is currently unanimous consensus regarding the most appropriate methodological and didactic approaches for teaching English in the Valencian education system. Everyone recognizes the Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) approach and has long been familiar with the Integrated Language Approach (ILA) and Integrated Approach to Language and Content (IALC), all of which reflect the evolution of the tenets of language immersion.

Deferring the introduction of Castilian is a didactic practice adopted by some schools in earlier programmes and is chosen on the basis of students' socio-linguistic characteristics. To achieve the goals of the multilingual programme—with students who largely do not speak Valencian—the presence of Valencian must be strengthened at least at the lower levels, with particular emphasis on oral language and early reading and writing skills in this language.

For this reason, the current Valencian education system allows early language immersion methodologies to be applied in Early Years education at the discretion of each education community. In the academic year 2020-2021, there will be a total of 220 schools belonging to the regional administration of Valencia (21.5% of the total) with Early Years pupils included in a Valencian-language immersion scheme, within the multilingual and inter-cultural education programme applied.

### ***3. Include the name of Catalan and Aragonese in the Statute of Autonomy of Aragon***

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The internal legal framework concerning languages in the Autonomous Community of Aragon is set forth in article 7 of its Statute of Autonomy, and in article 71.4 regarding matters exclusively under the authority of this Autonomous Community. Moreover, Act 3/2013 of 9 May regulates the use, protection and promotion of the languages and linguistic modalities native to Aragon, while **Act 3/1999 of 10 March refers to Aragonese cultural heritage**.

As indicated in the Fifth Report submitted by Spain, the Aragonese Act 3/1999 of 10 March, on Aragonese Cultural Heritage was amended by Act 2/2016 of 28 January, on Fiscal and Administrative Measures of the Autonomous Community of Aragon, providing that:

The Aragonese and Catalan of Aragon, including their dialectal varieties, are the languages and native linguistic modalities referred to in article 7 of the Statute of Autonomy of Aragon of 2007 and Act 3/2013 of 9 May, on the use, protection and promotion of the languages and linguistic modalities native to Aragon.

It is considered therefore that the languages belonging to Aragonese linguistic heritage are set forth in the regulations of the Autonomous Community and need not be recognized in the Statute of Autonomy, and therefore Aragonese is a language subject to protection as an element of cultural heritage, without there being any political or social will to make it a co-official language making it subject to the strengthened protection offered by the constitutional framework and national and international regulations.





#### ***4. Recognise Valencian as an expression of cultural wealth in the Region of Murcia. Take urgent measures to protect and promote Valencian in the Region of Murcia.***

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The Statute of Autonomy of the Region of Murcia does not recognize any co-official or minority languages; rather, Castilian is the only official language in that territory. Its regional organizational structure does not include a department or structure for managing this issue, nor are there any plans to this effect.

However, the El Carche area of the Region of Murcia has small communities of Valencian speakers, primarily as a result of migration from Alicante in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

According to the information provided in the Fifth Report submitted by Spain, the Autonomous Community of Valencia has been promoting in the El Carche region of Murcia actions aimed at promoting the Valencian language in this territory through public subsidies.

This region maintains close collaboration with the Academy of the Valencian Language, through which the Universidad Popular de Yecla regularly organizes Valencian courses. In 2016, a major promotion initiative was carried out by the regional administration of Valencia and the town councils of Jumilla, Yecla and Abanilla aimed at promoting this language among their inhabitants, including: grants for signage in Valencian, Valencian courses, campaigns and voluntary language initiatives, language services for recent arrivals, cultural activities, municipal campaigns to raise awareness and promotion, and the creation and functioning of offices or services for the promotion of Valencian.

No updated information has been obtained on the actions which, as the case may be, have been adopted in recent years by the regional administrations. What is publicly known is that a number of initiatives were carried out in 2019 in line with the same promotion actions undertaken in the preceding years: Valencian courses, cultural events such as concerts, among others.

#### ***5. Develop a structured policy for the protection of the language on the territory where it is spoken (Eo-Navia region). Include the name of Galician-Asturian in the Statute of Autonomy of Asturias. Include the name of Asturian in the Statute of Autonomy of Asturias.***

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The Autonomous Community of the Principality of Asturias has a regulatory apparatus aimed at guaranteeing language protection, promotion and normalization actions in different aspects of Asturian social and cultural life.

Article 4 of the Statute of Autonomy of the Principality of Asturias approved by Organic Law 7/1981 of 30 December, provides that:



1. *Bable shall be protected. Its use, dissemination in the media and teaching shall be promoted, with full respect for all local variants, and its learning shall be voluntary.*
2. *Legislation of the Principality shall regulate the protection, use and promotion of Bable.*

This set of legal provisions enables progress to be made towards the social normalization of Asturian and Galician-Asturian. In addition to the Statute of Autonomy, Act 1/1998 of 23 March, on the Use and Promotion of Bable/Asturian, establishes a legal framework of protection both for Asturian and Galician-Asturian, providing for their use in the public administration, education, the media, print and audio-visual production, place-names and advisory bodies.

There exists, therefore, an active and exhaustive language policy in the framework of this Autonomous Community, despite the fact that neither Bable nor Galician-Asturian are recognized for the moment as co-official languages and that, therefore, they only enjoy a partial degree of protection pursuant to the provisions of the European Charter.

#### **6. *Take immediate action to protect Galician in Castile and León. Take resolute action to protect and promote Leonese in Castile and León, particularly in education.***

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Article 5 of the Statute of Autonomy of Castile and León, approved by Organic Law 14/2007 of 30 November reforming the Statute of Castile and León, reads:

*Article 5. Castilian and the rest of the linguistic heritage of the Autonomous Community.*

1. *Castilian forms part of the most valuable historical and cultural heritage of the Autonomous Community, and is used throughout the national territory and in many other States. The regional administration of Castile and León shall promote the correct use of Castilian in the educational, administrative and cultural spheres. Furthermore, it shall promote its teaching in the international sphere, especially in collaboration with the universities of the Autonomous Community, for which it may adopt the measures it deems appropriate.*
2. *Leonese shall enjoy specific protection by the institutions due to its particular value within the linguistic heritage of the Autonomous Community. Its protection, use and promotion shall be regulated.*
3. *The Galician language shall be respected and protected in the places in which it is habitually used.*

Actions are being undertaken in Castile and León to protect and promote minority languages, which largely consist in cultural initiatives in the provinces of Leon and Zamora, relating to Leonese and Portuguese respectively.

This Annex includes more detailed information than that submitted in this regard in July 2020, with a special focus on Leonese.

The **Public Library of León** has undertaken the following actions:

- The acquisition, conservation and dissemination of all publications, in any format, produced in Astur-Leonese, conserving a copy in the local section and placing another



copy in the lending section so that it is available to the users interested in learning this language. Thus, the library has at least two copies of each work published in Leonese.

- The publication in Leonese of *Relatos y poemas de La Caleyá*, a collection of the short stories and poems that have won awards from Asociación La Caleyá in the competitions held between 2011 and 2015. Eight hundred copies of this edition, the official presentation of which was held in the library itself, have been distributed free of charge.

The **events promoting Leonese** held in the past three years include concerts, conferences and the screening of films, such as:

- Concert by the traditional group Tarna, which has a repertoire based on traditional Leonese music.
- Recital of songs and texts in Astur-Leonese, with Rodrigo Martínez, Diego Gutiérrez and Alberto Flecha.
- Conference “Bruxas y meigas andan xuntas: oríxenes mitolóxicos de la bruxería en Llión” [Witches and sorceresses walk together: mythological origins of witchcraft in León], by Nicolás Bartolomé Pérez
- Screening of the film “Territoriu de bandolerus” [Bandit Country], by Néstor del Barco and José Ignacio Cobos.
- Round table on the promotion and conservation of Leonese, with the participation of the professors Enrique Soto, Ricardo Chao and José Ramón Morala, as well as the journalist Emilio Gancedo.
- Bibliographical exhibition of works published in Astur-Leonese and points of interest to promote lending.

Moreover, the Public Library of León collaborates with institutions and associations that, among other goals, seek to preserve and promote Leonese, such as the Professorship in Leonese Studies (CELe) and La Caleyá (Council of speakers and friends of Astur-Leonese).

The **Public Library of Zamora**, for its part, is the headquarters for and collaborates actively in organizing the Traditional Culture Seminars held annually by the Furmientu collective in February. Furmientu aims to preserve the linguistic heritage of the province of Zamora. For several years a highly diverse range of cultural and educational activities have been organized, such as talks, conferences, traditional culture seminars, the publication of a quarterly gazette, a traditional vocabulary contest, etc. Furmientu strives to raise the status and profile of the linguistic heritage of Zamora by inspiring Zamorans to take an interest in their culture and roots, but, above all, through a fundamental aspect of this legacy: their language.

The 15<sup>th</sup> edition, held from 10 to 17 February 2017, featured the following activities:

- "Aire, fuego y deseo" [Air, fire and desire], Leonese speakers. Juan Carlos García Hoyuelos, with the Leonese folk duo Tarna accompanying the speaker
- The names of the beam press in the Toro wine region. Juan Carlos González Ferrero
- Language and daily life in the province of Zamora in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. José Ramón Morala Rodríguez



The speakers at these events are people with accredited professional experience and deeply involved in the defence and promotion of minority languages: Juan Carlos García Hoyuelos (Basauri, Vizcaya). A poet and staunch defender of minority languages (especially Leonese, Aragonese and Ladino), he has published a number of literary works. The last of these is the collection of poems "Aire, fuego y deseo" [Air, Fire and Desire], the product of five years of intense work, which has been translated with the collaboration of over a hundred authors (his work has been translated into all the languages of the Peninsula). The poems it contains have also been interpreted by numerous musicians on the recording that accompanies the book. Juan Carlos González Ferrero (Toro, Zamora) was another speaker at the event. He holds a Doctorate in Hispanic Philology from the University of Salamanca. Lecturer of Language and Literature, tireless researcher and author of numerous works on the linguistic heritage of the province of Zamora. He recently finished his latest work, *La cultura de la vid y el vino en Toro* [Winegrowing culture in Toro], the product of several years of ethnographic-linguistic study, which will soon be published. The linguistic part has already been published under the title *Léxico vitivinícola tradicional de la D.O. Toro* [Lexicon of Traditional winegrowing culture in the Toro Designation of Origin region].

Another participant was José Ramón Morala (Palanquinos, León). José Ramón holds a Doctorate in Spanish Philology from the University of Oviedo. Professor of Spanish at the Department of Hispanic and Classical Philology of the University of León. Correspondent member of the Royal Spanish Academy and honorary member of the Academy of the Asturian Language. He has published or participated in the publication of innumerable linguistic works on medieval Leonese, toponymy, etc. For several years he has focused on publishing a body of unpublished notarial texts (*el Corlexin*), primarily including inventories of goods from the Spanish Golden Age, originating from the entire Hispanic world.

The 16<sup>th</sup> edition (2018) featured two activities held on 7 and 8 February:

- *Esbardu, vocabulariu lleonés ilustráu* [Bearcub, illustrated Leonese vocabulary book], by Ricardo Chao (historian and lecturer) and Ricardo Escobar (illustrator)
- Re-edition of "El habla de la Tierra de Aliste" [The language of the Aliste region] fifty years after its first publication. Importance of a key work for the study of Leonese. With a round table featuring: Juan Carlos González Ferrero (lecturer and researcher) and "Furmientu" members Alfredo Hernández Rodríguez and Pedro Gómez

## **7. Take immediate action to protect Amazigh in Melilla**

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In the City of Melilla, the two most widely spoken languages are Castilian and Amazigh, of Berber origin, and although the former is the only official language recognized in Organic Law 2/1995 of 13 March on the Statute of Autonomy, article 5.2. of this Organic Law provides that:

*The institutions of the city of Melilla, within the framework of their authority, shall exercise their powers with the following basic objectives (...) h) Promoting and fostering the values of understanding, respect and appreciation of the cultural and linguistic plurality of the people of Melilla.*



The Fifth Report submitted by Spain, which covers the period 2014-2016, indicated the goal of carrying out population censuses by ethnic group in order to construct an accurate map of Amazigh speakers by neighbourhood and district. It also revealed the need to promote teaching and training in this language: although practically half of the population speaks the Amazigh language, it is also true that a very high percentage does not know the grammar of or can write in their own language, and therefore the benefits of launching a course with university accreditation aimed at this sector of the population were very clear.

According to the information compiled by the Languages Office, the Institute of the Cultures of Melilla has offered online courses free of charge with the assistance of Spain's National Distance University (UNED). Didactic activities have also been organized by Casa Árabe in Madrid.

Lastly, the International Professorship for Amazigh Culture, under the aegis of the Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies (Granada), undertakes promotional activities in this sphere, such as exhibitions, courses, debate forums, screenings of films and documentaries, etc. Events held in the framework of the International Year of Indigenous Languages (2019), included:

- Programme of Amazigh writing workshops, exhibitions, theatre and collaboration in international congresses such as that held in June on "Nazari and Merini women in the Medieval Islamic Mediterranean (13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century)".
- The Euro-Amazigh Forum, attended by experts and representatives from academia, science and associations. In 2019 the topic of the Euro-Amazigh Forum was "The Amazigh diaspora: Berbers in Europe".

### III. FINAL CONCLUSIONS

Spain is invested in meeting the commitments adopted in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This task entails the joint and coordinated action of different territorial bodies, in particular of the State and of the regional administrations of the Autonomous Communities, given this country's high degree of decentralization.

The Languages Council, scheduled to meet in the spring of 2020, was forced to postpone its meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic, undertakes monitoring and reporting activities through the Languages Office, which recently updated the Diagnostic Report on the percentage of compliance with the use of co-official languages in the General State Administration (2019). Eventually the Languages Council took place on December 29<sup>th</sup>, the Sixth Meeting in its history and the first one implemented by telematics means, due to the pandemic situation. It had the participation of Ministries and other public institutions with relevance in this field. All Autonomous Communities with co-official languages were invited to take part on it.

The date of reference for the update of the content of this report is October 2020, and it reviews the situation of the co-official languages within the General State Administration. As a general conclusion of this update, it can be noted that in this area there is still a certain degree of heterogeneity between the different services and bodies under the aegis of the State. A remarkable progress has been made in the sphere of the Delegations and services located in



Autonomous Communities with co-official languages, and it can be concluded that the right of citizens to use the co-official languages is largely guaranteed. Further progress, however, is required in relation to central services of the ministries and bodies under their aegis.

Finally, the Spanish authorities are aware of the need to improve the degree of general awareness and sensitivity of the bodies of the General State Administration regarding co-official languages, as a lack of knowledge has been detected recurrently regarding the legal scheme thereof, as well as of the differences between official languages and minority languages. One possible line of action would be to improve communication in this regard. Part of this lack of knowledge derives from an absence of regulatory systematization regarding co-official languages at the State level, an aspect also referred to in the Diagnostic Report and on which no progress has been reported during this period. Systematization would enable the identification of the units responsible and the activities to be undertaken to protect the rights of users and promote the co-official languages.

Madrid, December 2020