

Changes in media culture of minorities in Slovakia between 2004 and 2017 on the basis of questionnaire research

(A comparative analysis)

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HELDÁKOVÁ, Lucia. Changes in media culture of minorities in Slovakia between 2004 and 2017 on the basis of questionnaire research (A comparative analysis). Človek a spoločnosť [Individual and Society], 2018, roč. 21, č. 4, s. 32-44.

Abstract:

The development and associated life conditions of members of national minorities in Slovakia is influenced by several factors. This article's hypothesis is that one of the significant factors determining the quality of life of national minorities is the degree to which minorities follow media output focussed on them. This article interprets the scale of minorities' engagement with selected media categories (in print, radio and television) using questionnaire collection data in the APVV project. Additionally, the aim of this contribution is to monitor the development of the culture of national minorities in the media sphere through comparing the current research results with the research of the previous project from 2004. Due to the national heterogeneity of Slovakia, an important step by Slovak governmental organizations has been the monitoring and subsequent support and further development of nationality cultural activities. Besides a number of organizations, associations, theatres, museums, associations, civic groups and national minorities groups which organize many cultural activities, the minority culture is also supported by regular radio and television broadcasts on Slovak Radio and Television stations (RTVS) – which was established as a public, national, information, cultural and educational institution. Using the assumption that following the national minorities' media output plays a major influence on the quality of life of national minorities in Slovakia, we analysed this area in research with the question "To what extent do your minority members follow minority representation in the press and in broadcasting through Slovak Radio and Slovak Television?". The analysis of the results of the questionnaire from the current APVV project (Tendencies of development of ethnic relations in Slovakia (comparative research of ethnic issues in the years 2004 – 2020) – TESS2) confirmed the statistical significance of the minority factor both in relation to the minority press as well as in relation to the minority broadcasting of RTVS on both the radio and television. In 2017, for all the analysed minorities, except Ruthenians, the most followed medium was STV broadcasting. This marked a change especially for Roma and Ukrainian minorities away from favouring radio broadcasting in 2004 towards television broadcasting in 2017. The Ruthenian minority, as in 2004, most frequently followed radio broadcasting. On the basis of the calculated average, we may summarize the research findings that following minority press and TV broadcasting by minority members is rising gradually, while radio broadcasting is declining. However, the conditionality of the observed phenomenon is not fully apparent and may differ for individual national minorities. For example, the decline in the following of radio and television broadcasts by the Ukrainian minority, found amongst our respondents, may be influenced by their population development; a decrease in the number of the Ukrainian population in the territory of the Slovak Republic and a gradual acclimatization of the Ruthenian minority, which has been gradually separating from the Ukrainian minority since 1989 and is becoming more institutionalized in the Slovak Republic. This relates directly to the increase in the cultural activities within the Ruthenian minority. This also is reflected in our Ruthenian minority respondents who have significantly increased their following in print and television broadcasts. We also assume that the gradual increase of the Roma minority population is related to the increase in the Roma TV broadcasting ratings;

although within this minority between the years 2004-2017 there has been a decrease in following print and radio broadcasting. We assume that this fact is related to the average literacy of the Roma ethnic group and the way of life of the vast majority of this population. In regards to the Hungarian and Czech minorities in Slovakia, which could be characterized within a longer and more recognized (as compared to other national minorities) historical tradition and consequently with a better institutional basis, it can be stated that the rate of their media following has been relatively constant with small fluctuations. In summary, the relationship between the rates of following of the minority press and broadcasting by the relevant minority is interrelated with the life and development of the national minority itself; and, correspondingly, this directly affects the rate of minority broadcasting.

Keywords:

Media. Nationality minorities. Questionnaire research. Culture.

Introduction

Between 2003 – 2005, the Institute of Social Sciences CSPS SAS carried out sociological-sociopsychological research called *Nation, nationality and ethnic group in the transformation process of the Slovak society*; consisting of an empirical analysis of data obtained by questionnaire method on a research sample of 1,280 respondents. The research has provided a comprehensive analysis of five broad thematic blocks from the perspective of eight research subjects; the majority population and the seven minority ethnic communities: Czech, Hungarian, German, Roma, Ruthenian, Ukrainian and Jewish. This project was followed by the project of the Institute of Social Sciences CSPS SAS APVV *Tendencies of development of ethnic relations in Slovakia (a comparative research of ethnic issues in the years 2004-2020) – (TESS2)*. The aim of this article is to compare data from the APVV project with the data from the first project – from the second thematic section entitled “Ethnic Identity (ethnicity) consciousness of ethnicity, language, education and culture issues.”

The cultural rights of national minorities is secured by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic adopted on 1st September 1992 by the National Council of the Slovak Republic in the second chapter, fourth section, entitled Rights of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (Articles 33 and 34). Since then, minorities have officially gained all human and civil rights in Slovakia, including the right to propagate their own specific culture.¹ The problem of minority culture issues focuses on research of the phenomenon of the bi-cultural environment (one of several components of ethnic identity) and the mass media. Bi-culturalism is characteristic of a minority member who grows up and lives in direct contact with the majority culture; resulting in double cultural valency. In this context, we distinguish between the “Super-culture” (the Slovak and Hungarian cultures) and the local subcultures (the co-existence of a

¹ Constitution of the Slovak Republic claims: „Art. 33: *Membership in any national minority, or ethnic group, must not be to anyone's detriment; Art. 34: (1) The comprehensive development of citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic is guaranteed, particularly the right to develop their own culture together with other members of the minority or ethnic group, the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue, the right to associate in national minority associations, and the right to establish and maintain educational and cultural institutions. Details shall be laid down by law. (2) In addition to the right to master the state language, citizens belonging to national minorities, or ethnic groups, also have, under conditions defined by law, a guaranteed a) right to education in their own language, b) right to use their language in official communications, c) right to participate in the decisions on affairs concerning national minorities and ethnic groups. (3) The exercise of the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups that are guaranteed in this Constitution may not lead to jeopardizing of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Slovak Republic, and to discrimination against its other inhabitants.*“ Available on the Internet:

<https://www.legislationline.org/download/action/download/id/1633/file/69fc5e0f45478ca59b551a3f8e92.htm>/pre view [cit. 18.09.2018].

certain group of people with a heterogeneous nationality; the immediately created cultural identity of individuals without primary consideration for nationality culture).²

The development and associated life conditions of members of national minorities in Slovakia are influenced by several factors. The hypothesis we try to interpret is that one of the significant factors in the quality of life of national minorities is the operation and following of minority representation in the media by the minorities themselves. This article analyses the following of selected media categories (print, radio and television) by minorities (who participated on data heuristics) using questionnaire collection data from the aforementioned APVV project. Concurrently, the aim of the contribution is to monitor the development of the culture of national minorities in the media sphere through comparing the current research results with the research of the previous project from 2004.

Characteristics of research samples and research

In both research findings, the majority population and seven minority ethnic communities living in Slovakia were the subjects of research. For the 2004 survey this consisted of the Czechs, Hungarians, Germans, Roma, Ruthenians, Ukrainians and Jews (eight subsets in total). The research for the current APVV project includes one change made in the respondents' composition; instead of the Jewish minority previously surveyed, this questionnaire focused on the Polish minority. The other national groups of respondents remained unchanged, and so did the number of surveyed subsets. Both surveys' respondents were made up of representatives of the majority and minority higher social strata, where higher education was preferred. For both surveys, a quota selection was applied to the respondents' ages (25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-55 years, 55+ years) and as equal proportion of men to women as possible was chosen in each age group category. The research sample of the project in 2004 consisted of 1,280 respondents, of which 663 were women and 617 men, while the 2017 sample consisted of 1,325 respondents, made up of 682 women and 643 men. For both projects, the most numerous minority groups in the given period were chosen, subject to research options, in order to ensure a sufficient sample from each sub-sample under examination.

In 2004, the number of respondents represented in the majority and seven minorities was fixed at 160 for each group. In 2017, the numbers were: Slovaks 162, Hungarians 165, Roma 160, Ukrainians 160, Polish 174, Ruthenians 160, Germans 179 and Czechs 165. For more detailed information on age categories within the subsets under review, see Table no. 1

² HOMIŠINOVÁ, Mária – VÝROST, Jozef (Eds.). *Národ, národnosti a etnické skupiny v procese transformácie Slovenskej spoločnosti* : Empirická analýza dát zo sociologicko-sociálnopsychologického výskumu v rámci riešenia Štátneho programu výskumu a vývoja 2003/2005. Košice : Spoločenskovedný ústav SAV, 2005. p. 40.

Table 1: Age categories within the subsets

| Ethnic groups | Age categories | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 25-34 | | 35-44 | | 45-54 | | 55 + | |
| | 2004 | 2017 | 2004 | 2017 | 2004 | 2017 | 2004 | 2017 |
| Slovaks | 41 (3.20%) | 62 (4.68%) | 38 (2.97%) | 27 (2.03%) | 46 (3.59%) | 29 (2.18%) | 35 (2.73%) | 44 (3.32%) |
| Hungarians | 45 (3.51%) | 45 (3.40%) | 36 (2.81%) | 33 (2.49%) | 43 (3.36%) | 35 (2.64%) | 36 (2.81%) | 52 (3.92%) |
| Roma | 71 (5.55%) | 88 (6.64%) | 50 (3.90%) | 23 (1.74%) | 25 (1.95%) | 26 (1.96%) | 14 (1.09%) | 23 (1.74%) |
| Ruthenians | 25 (1.95%) | 59 (4.45%) | 41 (3.20%) | 28 (2.11%) | 44 (3.44%) | 28 (2.11%) | 50 (3.90%) | 45 (3.40%) |
| Ukrainians | 32 (2.50%) | 30 (2.26%) | 44 (3.44%) | 33 (2.49%) | 44 (3.44%) | 51 (3.85%) | 40 (3.13%) | 46 (3.47%) |
| Czechs | 20 (1.56%) | 41 (3.09%) | 19 (1.48%) | 24 (1.81%) | 30 (2.34%) | 46 (3.47%) | 91 (7.11%) | 54 (4.08%) |
| Germans | 19 (4.48%) | 33 (2.49%) | 31 (2.42%) | 14 (1.06%) | 38 (2.97%) | 42 (3.17%) | 72 (5.63%) | 90 (6.79%) |
| Jews (in 2004) Polish (in 2017) | 69 (5.39%) | 32 (2.42%) | 11 (0.86%) | 25 (1.89%) | 36 (2.81%) | 43 (3.25%) | 44 (3.44%) | 74 (5.58%) |

Legislative and institutional media coverage of cultural activities of national minorities in the Slovak Republic

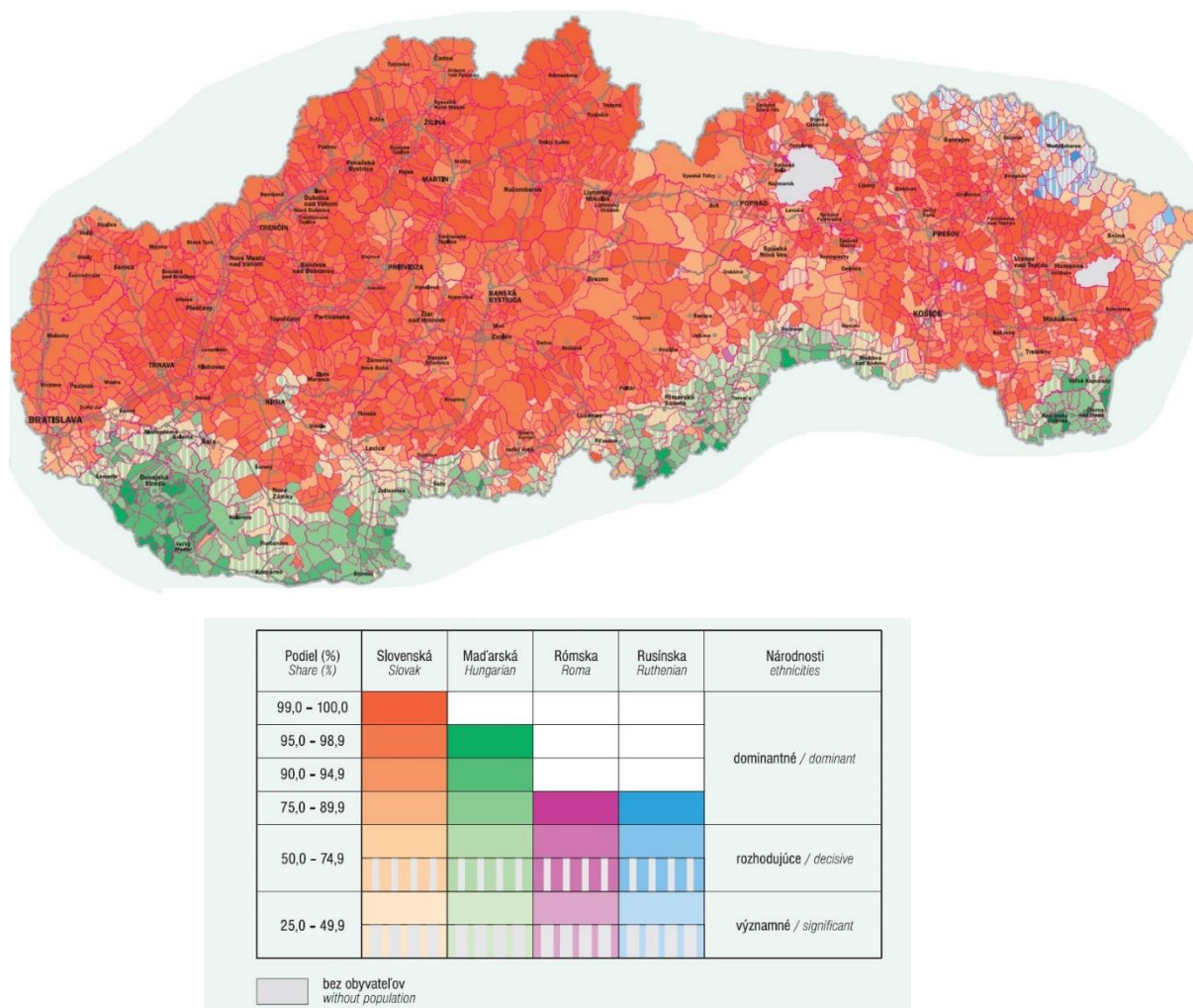


Figure 1: Representation of national minorities in the structure of the population in 2001

Due to the national heterogeneity of Slovakia (see Figure no. 1)³, an important step by Slovak governmental organizations is monitoring and subsequently supporting and maintaining the further development of national minority cultural activities. Besides a number of organizations, associations, theatres, museums, associations, civic groups and groups of national minorities which organize many cultural activities, the minority culture is also supported by regular radio and television broadcasts by Slovak Radio and Television (RTVS)⁴ - which was established as a public, national, information, cultural and educational institution.

³ Representation of nationalities in the structure of the population in 2001.

Source: MLÁDEK, Jozef. IV. Štruktúry obyvateľstva. In Collective of authors. *Atlas obyvateľstva Slovenska*. Bratislava : Univerzita Komenského, Prírodovedecká fakulta, 2006, p. 102.

⁴ "... broadcasting of at least four radio program services, one is devoted for broadcasting of contextually and regionally balanced programs in the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups living in the territory of the Slovak Republic ... broadcasting of contextually and regionally balanced programs in the languages of national minorities and ethnic groups living in the territory of the Slovak Republic in a time scale corresponding to the national and ethnic composition of the population of the Slovak Republic; to ensure the production and

RTVS provides the broadcasting of contextually and regionally balanced programs in the language of national and ethnic minorities according to the corresponding nationality and ethnic composition of the population of the Slovak Republic. It fulfils its public function in relation to national minorities by informing about their lives in their native language. It has been broadcasting to national minorities for more than 30 years. News and brief reports were published in the Hungarian language at the beginning, and after 1989 coverage in Ukrainian, German, Ruthenian and other languages was introduced.⁵ The RTVS Nationality Broadcasting Center broadcasts regularly languages of national minorities and works closely with cultural institutions. For example, Radio Patria, which has (according to the Status and Rights Report of National Minorities for 2015) the most influential media content for national minorities, also cooperates with the Central Committee of Hungarian Teachers and others. Minority TV broadcasting is realized in 10 languages and it is continuously improving and modernizing. The Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission⁶ aims to "*enforce the public interest in the exercise of the right to information, freedom of expression, and the rights of access to cultural values and education. For the purposes of performance of the state administration in the areas of broadcasting, retransmission, and the provision of on-demand audio-visual media services.*"⁷

Regarding periodical and non-periodical publications of national minorities, their publication has been legislatively regulated by the laws on the use of languages of national minorities and on the amendment of some laws⁸. Registration is run by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak

broadcasting of programs for national minorities and ethnic groups, the Radio and Television of Slovakia sets up separate organizational units of the Slovak Radio and Slovak Television ... " According to § 5 par. Article 1, p. b), g) of Act no. 532/2010 Coll. on Radio and television of Slovakia and on the amendment and supplementation of some laws.

The language settings of individual nationality broadcasting are regulated by the Act of the Nationality Council of the Slovak Republic Act No. 270/1995 Coll. On the State Language of the Slovak Republic, as amended, stipulating that television and radio broadcasting on the territory of the Slovak Republic shall be implemented in the state language, except for the broadcasting in the language of national minorities with subtitles in the state language or with immediately preceding or subsequent broadcasting in the state language. According to the law Radio broadcasting may take place in the language of the national minority in the Slovak Radio at regional or local broadcasting for national minorities (including live broadcasting) where the use of the Slovak language is not required. Private broadcasters may broadcast in their nationality language without the need to provide the Slovak version. Concerning occasional prints for cultural purposes, programs of cinema, theatres, catalogues of galleries, libraries, museums, etc., must be issued in the state language or in the language of national minorities, but in this case the basic information must be translated into the state language. Under Section 5 of Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the state language of the Slovak Republic, as amended.

⁵ In 1992 (January 20), Hungarian magazines were fully established and the Ruthenian-Ukrainian magazine was broadcasted for the first time, a month later the Romani magazine (now called Romale). German broadcasting has also been added since 1993, and also Czech in 1998. The effort of the Ruthenian minority for autonomy in the language area was also reflected in broadcasting and thus the Ruthenian-Ukrainian magazine was divided into two separate magazines. The Polish magazine began its broadcasting in 1999, and since 2001 the Jewish, Bulgarian, Croatian and Mix magazines are also broadcasted. Source: Národnostné vysielanie Slovenskej televízie. Bratislava, 25.6.2008.
Available on the Internet: <http://archiv.vlada.gov.sk/ludskeprava/data/files/3971.pdf> [cit 01.10.2018].

⁶ The status and operation of the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission are governed by Act no. 308/2000 Coll. on broadcasting and retransmission and on amendment of Act no. 195/2000 Coll. on Telecommunications as amended.

⁷ According to § 4 par. Article 1 of Act no. 308/2000 Coll. on broadcasting and retransmission and on amendment of Act no. 195/2000 Coll. on telecommunications.

⁸ According to § 1 par. Article 2 of Act no. 184/1999 Coll. on the use of languages of national minorities in the wording of Act no. 204/2011 Coll., amending Act no. 184/1999 Coll. use of languages of national minorities as

Republic and a list of periodicals is available online on the website of the Ministry.⁹ Publishing of books is supported annually by the grant program Culture of National Minorities (currently called KNM) within the competence of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic, whose sponsor is the Government Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. The aim of the KNM is *"to ensure the preservation, expression, protection and development of the identity and cultural values of national minorities, inter-ethnic and intercultural dialogue and understanding between the national majority and ethnic minorities and ethnic groups."*¹⁰ The terms and other requirements of grants are described in Act No. 524/2010 Coll. on granting subsidies within the competence of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, as amended.

According to § 2 par. Article 2 b) of Act no. 61/2000 Coll., educational activity is a part of the general culture and the educational level of the people and is, among other things, about building the relation to their own state, to the cultural identity of the nation, national minorities and ethnic groups. Following similar lines, the activities of the National Educational Center (now the NOC) focuses on the cultural activities of national minorities and was founded under the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. The NOC, according to Act no. 189/2015 Coll. about cultural and educational activity, is *"... a cultural and educational institution with a wide range of competences operating within the area of all Slovakia. The National Educational Center is an expert and methodical workplace for cultural and educational activities, a coordinating and executive workplace for theoretical, analytical, information, documentation and consulting activities in the field of cultural and educational activities, a coordination and executive workplace for research and state statistical surveys in the field of culture. A professional workplace that maintains the National Heritage Register as a central register of data and information on cultural heritage and institution for further education of employees in the field of cultural and educational activities."*¹¹

amended by Act No. 318/2009 Coll., which amends some laws, minority languages are: Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Russian and Ukrainian.

⁹ List of periodic print, sorted by title, territorial scope, language, periodicity, content, share of the broadcast can be found on the page <http://www.culture.gov.sk/pertlac/modul/tlac>.

¹⁰ *Report on the status and rights of members of national minorities 2015*. Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities, the Government Office of the Slovak Republic, 2016, p. 50.

¹¹ The main activities of the National Education Centre are:

- *-promoting the development of cultural identity and intercultural dialogue at the national level,*
- *-mapping the cultural potential of the regions of the Slovak Republic and promoting cooperation and partnerships on the territory of the Slovak Republic and abroad,*
- *-spreading of information on the current state and the development of regional and local culture,*
- *-protection and development of intangible cultural heritage,*
- *-promoting the development of interest-based artistic and non-professional artistic creation,*
- *-non-formal education in the field of culture and prevention of negative social phenomena,*
- *-implementing research with an emphasis on sociological research on culture, the arts and the media,*
- *-coordinating the tasks of the state statistical survey in the field of culture,*
- *-ensuring work for the National Register of Cultural Heritage and make digitized cultural heritage available,*
- *-ensuring that the tasks of the European Contact Point are fulfilled,*
- *-ensuring the operation of a multicultural center."*

According to Act no. 189/2015 on cultural and educational activities.

To support the culture of national minorities, the Fund for the Promotion of the Culture of National Minorities was established in 2017¹² for the purpose of cultural self-government. It facilitates the management of cultural activities of nationality groups, as the cultural activity of minorities is supported by local self-government and higher administrative units (support of projects within grant schemes).

A comparative analysis of the extent to which the minority groups follow national minority media

Using the assumption that following the national media plays a major influence on the quality of life of national minorities in Slovakia, we analysed this area in with the question “*To what extent do your minority members follow minority representation in the press and in broadcasting through Slovak Radio and Slovak Television?*”. We used a scale from 1 – 7, whereby 1 represented *not at all* and 7 represented *very often*. Analysis of the results of the questionnaire from the current APVV project¹³ confirmed the statistical significance of the minority factor both in relation to the national minority press as well as in relation to the national minority broadcasting of RTVS on both radio and television.

The national minorities press was followed at the highest end of the scale by Czechs (4.98), then Germans (4.96), Ruthenians (4.86), and Hungarians (4.84) in 2017. In the 2004 questionnaire Hungarians (5.02), Jews (4.73) and Czechs (4.50) had the highest representation. Germans began to read the national minorities press more during 2004-2017 and a significant increase in the number of national minorities’ readers was recorded in the Ruthenian minority – from 3.94 to 4.86. The Roma minority had the least engagement (3.18). The overview of national minorities’ readers of the press by minority category is presented in Table no. 2.

Table 1: Following the national minorities press by minorities in 2004 and 2017

| 2004 | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|------------|---------|------|------------|------------|--------|
| | Slovaks | Czechs | Hungarians | Germans | Roma | Ruthenians | Ukrainians | Jewish |
| 1 | - | 4.50 | 5.02 | 3.70 | 3.94 | 3.94 | 4.10 | 4.73 |
| 2017 | | | | | | | | |
| | Slovaks | Czechs | Hungarians | Germans | Roma | Ruthenians | Ukrainians | Polish |
| 1 | - | 4.98 | 4.84 | 4.96 | 3.18 | 4.86 | 4.75 | 4.65 |

Caption: 1 – national minorities press

¹² “*The Fund is an independent public institution whose mission is to promote and stimulate the culture of national minorities in the field of cultural and scientific activities of national minorities, in particular by creating support mechanisms for the creation and dissemination of cultural and scientific values. By implementing its mission, the fund contributes to the realization of the cultural policy of the Slovak Republic and the European Union in the field of support for the development of national minorities.*

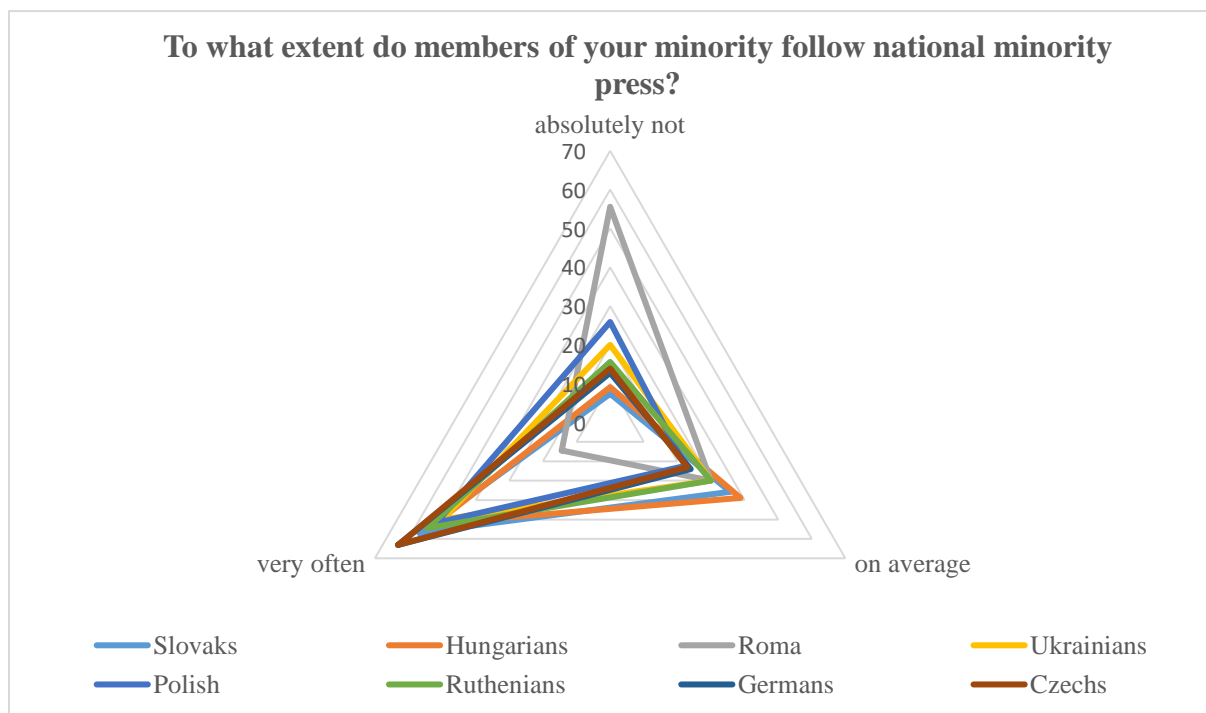
The Fund is set up to:

- (a) *create conditions for the preservation, expression, protection and development of the identity and cultural values of national minorities;*
- (b) *promote education and training for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities; as well as*
- (c) *create conditions for the development of intercultural dialogue and understanding between citizens of Slovak nationality and citizens belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups. ”*

Source: Štatút Fondu na podporu kultúry národnostných menšín, Bratislava 7. December 2017. p. 2. Available on the Internet: http://www.kultminor.sk/attachments/article/405/Statut_FPKNM.pdf [cit. 26.09.2018].

¹³ APVV Tendencies of development of ethnic relations in Slovakia (a comparative research of ethnic issues in the years 2004 – 2020) – TESS2.

For an illustrative interpretation of the latest research findings through data analysis from the questionnaire collection 2017, we present a graph showing the rate of national minorities' press followed by the relevant national minority. (see Graph no. 1).



Graph 1: The rate of national minorities' press followed by the relevant national minority

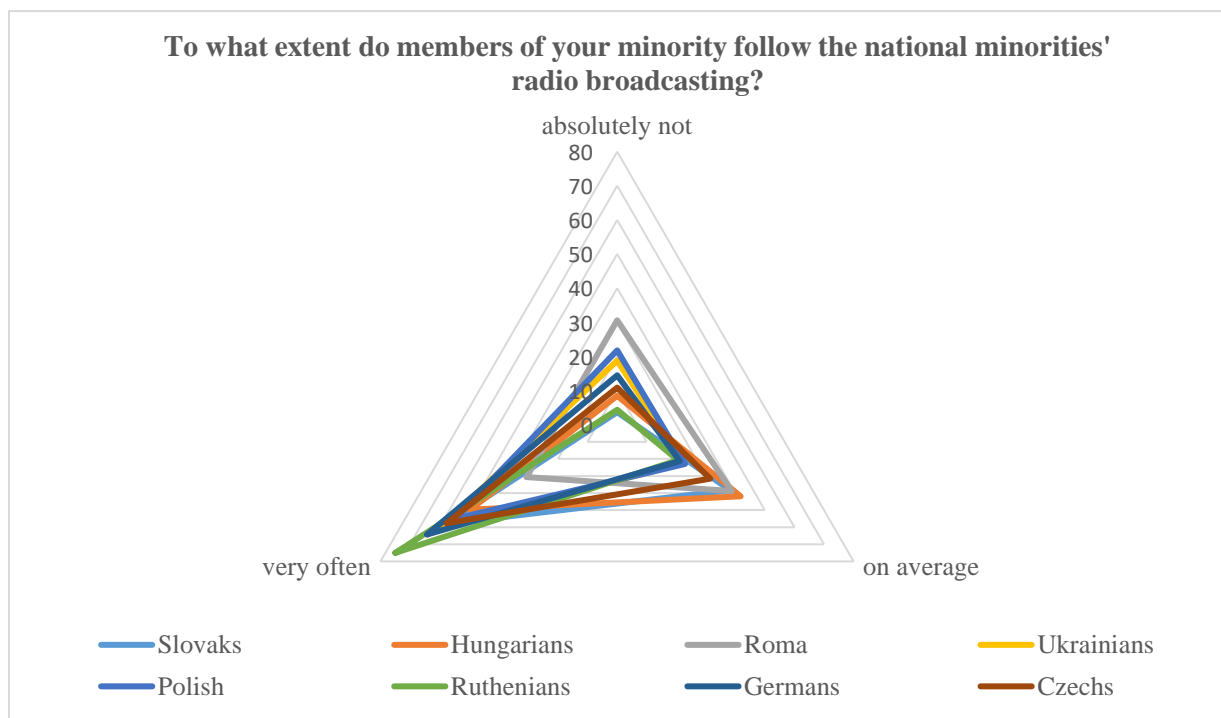
In the case of national minority radio broadcasting, apart from the Ruthenian minority, there are differences when comparing the questionnaire survey in 2004 and 2017. In 2004 radio broadcasting was followed at the highest rate by Ukrainians (6.29), then Ruthenians (5.77), Roma (5.77), and Hungarians (4.81), with Germans (3.73) evaluated as following radio broadcasting at a below average rate. In 2017, Ruthenian (5.55), German (5.12), Czech (4.99) and Ukrainian minorities (4.92) were reported to follow national minorities broadcasting at the highest rate. The Ukrainian and Roma minorities recorded a decline in following radio broadcasting, while radio broadcasting started to be followed at an increasing rate by members of the German and Czech population. The overview of the national minorities' radio broadcasting survey depending on the national minority of the respondents is presented in Table no. 3.

Table 2: Following the national minorities radio broadcasting by minorities in 2004 and 2017

| 2004 | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--------|------------|---------|------|------------|------------|--------|
| | Slovaks | Czechs | Hungarians | Germans | Roma | Ruthenians | Ukrainians | Jewish |
| 2 | - | 4.29 | 4.81 | 3.73 | 5.77 | 5.77 | 6.29 | 4.28 |
| 2017 | | | | | | | | |
| | Slovaks | Czechs | Hungarians | Germans | Roma | Ruthenians | Ukrainians | Polish |
| 2 | - | 4.99 | 4.77 | 5.12 | 4.10 | 5.55 | 4.92 | 4.84 |

Caption: 2 – national minorities radio broadcasting (RTVS)

For an illustrative interpretation of the latest research findings through data analysis from the questionnaire collection 2017, we present a graph showing the rate of national minorities' radio broadcasting followed by the relevant national minority (see Graph no. 2).



Graph 2: The extent of national minorities' radio broadcasting followed by the relevant national minority

In general, we may assume that the following of Slovak television minority broadcasting by all respondents, irrespective of their nationality, can be described as above average. More specifically, the result obtained from the Czech minority (5.62) shows a higher frequency of respondents watching their national broadcasting on Slovak Television (STV) than the other respondents. The Czech minority is followed by Ruthenian (5.38) and German (5.36) minority according to the frequency. Compared to the results of the 2004 research, the results of the following of Slovak television minority broadcasting are different. In 2004, the highest frequency of STV following was among the Hungarian (5.43) and Ukrainian minority (5.37).

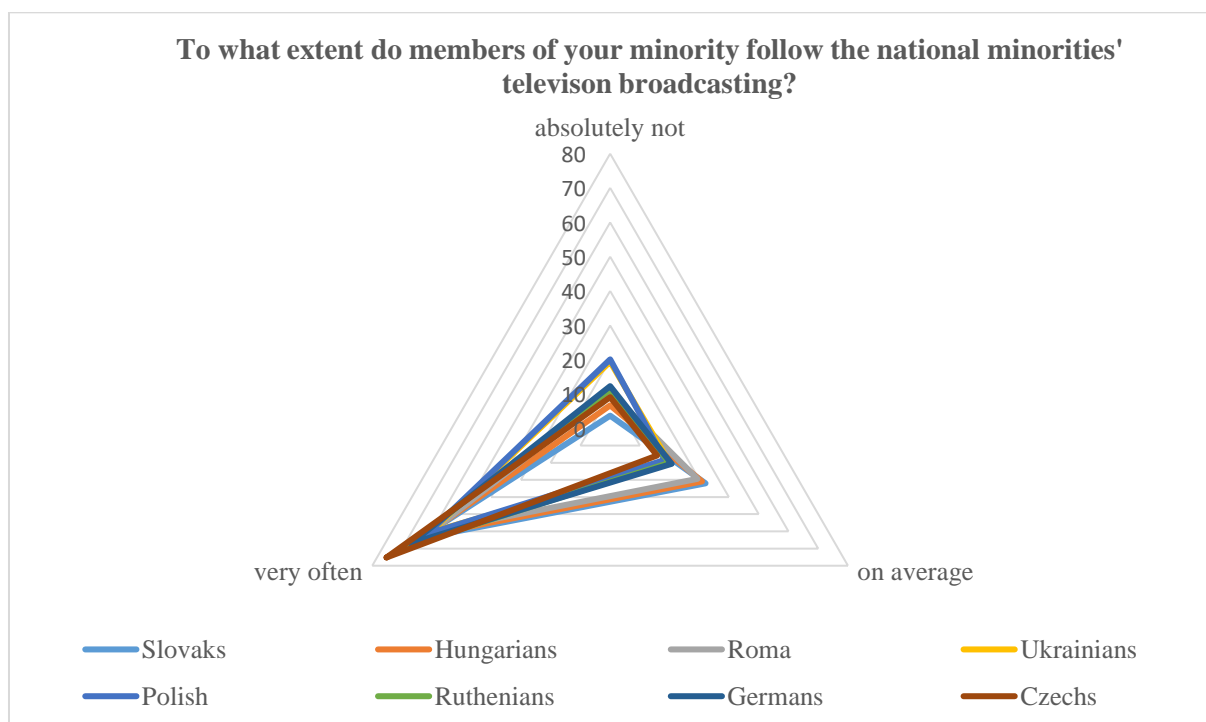
Generally, in 2017, for all analysed minorities, except Ruthenians, the key medium (most watched) was the broadcasting of STV. The Ruthenian minority showed in 2017 the highest frequency of following of radio broadcasting, as it was in 2004. The frequency of media following changed in two studied national minorities, the Roma and Ukrainian, who in 2004 recorded the highest frequency for national minorities radio broadcasting, but in 2017 were the least frequent minorities in regards to following minorities' television broadcasting. The overview of the nationality television broadcasting of RTVS, depending on the national minority of the respondents, is presented in Table no. 4.

Table 3: Following the national minorities' television broadcasting by minorities in 2004 and 2017

| 2004 | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|------------|---------|------|------------|------------|--------|
| | Slovaks | Czechs | Hungarians | Germans | Roma | Ruthenians | Ukrainians | Jewish |
| 3 | - | 4.84 | 5.43 | 4.55 | 4.62 | 4.63 | 5.37 | 4.59 |
| 2017 | | | | | | | | |
| | Slovaks | Czechs | Hungarians | Germans | Roma | Ruthenians | Ukrainians | Polish |
| 3 | - | 5.62 | 5.12 | 5.36 | 5.18 | 5.38 | 5.04 | 5.11 |

Caption: 3 – national minorities' television broadcasting (RTVS)

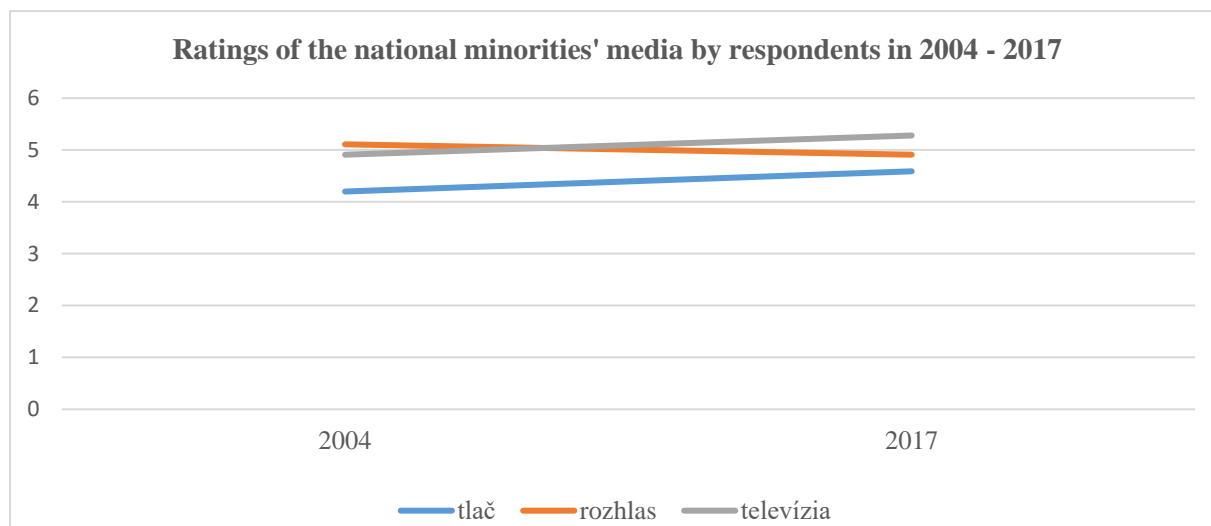
For an illustrative interpretation of the latest research findings through data analysis from the questionnaire collection 2017, we present a graph showing the rate of national minorities' TV broadcasting followed by the relevant national minority (see Graph no. 3).



Graph 3: The extent of national television broadcasting followed by the relevant national minority

Conclusion

On the basis of the calculated average, we may summarize that the research findings for following national minorities' press and TV broadcasting by minority members is rising gradually, but radio broadcasting has recorded a decline (see Graph no. 4).



Graph 4: Ratings of the national minorities' media by respondents in 2004 – 2017

However, the conditionality of the observed phenomenon is not fully apparent and may differ for individual national minorities. For example, the decline in the following of radio and television broadcasts by the Ukrainian minority, found in our respondents, may be influenced by their population development; a decrease in the number of the Ukrainian population in the territory of the Slovak Republic and a gradual acclimatization of the Ruthenian minority which has been gradually separating from the Ukrainian minority since 1989, and is becoming more institutionalized in the Slovak Republic. This relates directly to the increase in the cultural activities within the Ruthenian minority.

This corresponds also to the significant increase in the following of national minorities' in print and television broadcasts gained from respondents belonging to the Ruthenian minority. We also assume that the gradual increase of the Roma minority population is related to the increase of the Roma TV broadcasting ratings, although within this minority between 2004 and 2017, despite the increasing number of the population, we can observe a decrease in the following of their national minorities' print and radio broadcasting output. We expect that this fact is related to the average literacy of the Roma ethnic group and the way of life for the vast majority of this population.

In connection to the socio-historical development of the Hungarian and Czech minority in Slovakia, which could be characterized by a longer (as compared to other national minorities) historical tradition and thus they have a better minority institutional basis, it can be stated that the rate of their following of national minorities' media has been constant with only small differences.

In conclusion, the relationship between the rates of following of the minority press and broadcasting by the relevant minority is interrelated with the life and development of the national minority itself; and, correspondingly, this directly affects the rate of minority broadcasting.

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Laws

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Acknowledgement:

This work was supported by Slovak Research and Development Agency, grant No. APVV-15-0475 Tendencies of Development of Ethnic Relations in Slovakia (TESS2).