

Interventions made on behalf of the National Council of the Hungarian Ethnic Minority (Subotica, Serbia)

Emil Lulić (Panel 2)

The first step leading to the modernisation of the reform of the curriculum for the teaching of Serbian to national minority students was a wide-spread forum organized by the OSCE Mission to Serbia in December 2014, where a delegation of the Ministry of Education met with representatives of the National Minority Councils and teachers of the subject Serbian as a State Language in primary and secondary schools. Here we identified all the problems we faced at that moment and made plans to solve them!

The Ministry, in close cooperation with the National Minority Councils then drafted the knowledge standards of this subject, in line with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. This document foresaw that students from a homogenous minority community learn the language at level A (Basic User), student from heterogenous community learn at level B (Independent User), while students from minorities close to the south Slavic languages learn at level C (Proficient User). The inclusion of the lowest, A level into the curriculum, as well as the introduction of a graded curriculum has made all the difference.

These knowledge standards were adopted in November of 2016.

With the help of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the National Minority Councils the Ministry of Education adopted the study programmes and exit requirements for both levels A and B, while level C follows the programmes of Serbian as a native language. The programme focuses of 4 competences, reading, listening, speaking and writing. The programmes were presented to teachers through hands-on seminars, some organised by the Hungarian NMC.

The programmes were published in the Official Gazette in July of 2018 and are implemented from the 2018–2019 school year in the 1st years of primary and secondary schools and the 5th year of primary schools, to be extended gradually year-by-year.

We believe that we have achieved a great deal, by enabling our youth to better integrate into the Serbian speaking state, at absolutely no cost to our own native language, our education or our culture and national identity. We believe our model could be a great example to many, and that is why I am grateful to have had the chance to present it to you here today.