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## ETNOPOLITYCZNE ZARZĄDZANIE W REPUBLICIE SŁOWENII

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**Adnotacja.** Badania etnopolitycznego zarządzania Słowenii jest ważnym problemem naukowym w kontekście identyfikacji i wykorzystania w praktyce pozytywnych/negatywnych punktów, formułowanie propozycji dalszych reform struktur państwowych, które zajmują się problematyką języka mniejszości. Podczas analizy wybranej problematyki autorka kierowała się różnorodnym zestawieniem metodologicznym. Jednak najbardziej uzasadnione było zastosowanie metody analizy systemowej, ponieważ operowaliśmy koncepcją systemu organów i instytucji państwowych. Okazuje się, że system władz etnopolitycznych w Słowenii jest niezwykle rozgałęziony, jednak główną rolę odgrywa w nim rządowy Urząd do spraw Narodowości, który koordynuje działania wszystkich innych organów i instytucji. Artykuł określa główne problemy i kierunki działania instytucji zarządzania etnopolitycznego oraz miejsce problematyki poszczególnych mniejszości w każdej z nich. Uzasadnione jest twierdzenie autora o niedoskonałości systemu ochrony praw mniejszości w Słowenii, powielaniu uprawnień i biurokratyzacji aparatu.

**Słowa kluczowe:** mniejszości narodowe, Republika Słowenii, kwestia romska, Socjalistyczna Federacyjna Republika Jugosławii, Komisja Rządowa, Rzecznik Praw Obywatelskich.

## ETHNOPOLITICAL MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

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**Abstract.** The study of ethnopolitical management in Slovenia is an important scientific problem in the scope of identifying and employing in practice the positive/negative aspects, the proposals definition for further state structures reforming dealing with issues faced by minorities. While analysing the taken problematics the author used various methodological tools. However, the most justified was the use of the method of system analysis because we handled the concept of the government body and institutions system. It was found out that Slovenia's ethnopolitical management system is extremely diversified, but the leading role is played by the Government Office for Nationalities which coordinates the activities of all other bodies and institutions. The article defines the main issues and an area of activities of ethnopolitical management institutions and the place of problems of individual minorities in each of them. There has been substantiated the authoress's statement about the imperfection of the system for protecting the minority rights in Slovenia, duplication of powers and bureaucratization of the apparatus.

**Key words:** national minorities, the republic of Slovenia, the Roma issue, SFRY, government commission, ombudsman.

## ЕТНОПОЛІТИЧНИЙ МЕНЕДЖМЕНТ У РЕСПУБЛІЦІ СЛОВЕНІЯ

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**Анотація.** Дослідження етнополітичного менеджменту Словенії є важливою науковою проблемою в контексті виявлення та використання на практиці позитивних/негативних моментів, формування пропозицій щодо подальшого реформування державних структур, що займаються меншиною проблематикою. Під час аналізу обраної проблематики авторка керувалася різноманітним методологічним інструментарієм. Однак найбільш виправданим було використання методу системного аналізу, адже ми оперували поняттями системи державних органів та установ. З'ясовано, що система органів етнополітичного менеджменту в Словенії є надзвичайно розгалуженою, однак провідну роль у ній відіграє урядове Управління у справах національностей, яке координує діяльність усіх інших органів та установ. Стаття визначає основні проблеми й напрями діяльності установ етнополітичного менеджменту та місце проблематики окремих меншин у кожній із них. Обґрунтовано авторське твердження про недосконалість системи захисту прав меншин у Словенії, дублювання повноважень і бюрократизацію апарату.

**Ключові слова:** національні меншини, Республіка Словенія, ромське питання, СФРЮ, урядова комісія, омбудсмен.

**Introduction.** Slovenia, like Ukraine, was finally formed only in 1991. Historically, both countries have been for centuries the centers of large-scale migration processes and the objects of interests of other states. These factors contributed to the formation of stable communities of national minorities in both countries, and consequently the structures of ethnopolitical management, which are responsible for meeting these communities' needs, protecting their rights and interests. The use of Slovenian experience of the functioning of bodies and institutions of ethnopolitical management is important in the context of being aware of the positive and negative effects of a similar system of managing the national minority communities' activities. Therefore, the purpose of our research is a comprehensive analysis of the system functioning of ethnopolitical management in the Republic of Slovenia at the present stage.

Near-complete disregard of the article subject in scientific literature in scientific literature makes it even more actual. Only few articles can be mentioned regarding it, e. g., by J. Zupančič and M. Klemenčič, who considered the development of the ethnopolitical management system in the general context first in SFRY (Klemenčič, Zupančič, 2004), then in Independent Slovenia (Zupančič, 2010).

**Main body.** The aim of our publication determines the setting of the following research **tasks**:

- systematically and step by step to consider the main bodies, establishments and institutions dealing with the protection of national minorities in the Republic of Slovenia;
- to specify the priority areas and work results of the state bodies;
- to highlight separate issues in the system functioning of ethnopolitical management in Slovenia and clarify their causes.

The choice of **the material and research methods** was dictated by the very formulation of a complex topic which has not been studied sufficiently. Since state bodies / institutions / organizations are the main object of the proposed study, the materials of these institutions became the main source of information, among them there are: information portals, reporting documents, summary tables and certain facts, information about which was taken from the media.

The specificity of the source base and the formulation of the topic enabled the author to establish the necessary **methodological tools** for comprehensive coverage of the issue. The materials of the official bodies are characterized by a one-sided position in the coverage of their work, so we had to actively resort to the methods of comprehensive and content analysis to verify the information about the Slovenian Republic's ethnopolitical management. The application of the system analysis method was determined by the fact that we focused on state structures as a separate system and addressed them in a comprehensive and interconnected way.

**Results and discussion.** The the times of socialist Yugoslavia and is formed around the Republic's Office for Nationalities.

The Office for Nationalities of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia is an extremely important, independent sectoral service of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia which monitors the implementation of constitutional and legal norms related to the special rights of the Italian and Hungarian communities, as well as the observance of the Roma population's special rights unless it concerns another state or the community bodies of national minorities. It is worth noting that there is a clear division of responsibilities between the Office for Nationalities and sectoral ministries. The norms enshrined in the Constitution and individual legislative acts are for the most part under separate ministries' control. The Office is to ensure the compliance with European normative documents in the field of human rights and protection of national minorities.

The Office should monitor the process of implementation of European standards at the state level, pay attention to shortcomings, and prepare together with sectoral ministries proposals and initiatives with regard to eliminating the identified violations. The scope of activities of the Office for Nationalities also includes the preparation of reports and analytical notes on broader issues of protecting national minorities in the Republic of Slovenia.

The Office also consistently supports cooperation on minority rights issues with international organizations – the Council of Europe, the European Union, the OSCE and even NATO. However, this body of the Slovenian government is also endowed with certain original powers which are entirely vested in the Office and do not fall within the scope of separate sectoral ministries. With regard to national minorities, the ministries control the following issues: the funding of umbrella organizations of the Italian and Hungarian national minorities, joint funding of bilingualism and other constitutional rights in those municipalities inhabited by Italian and Hungarian national communities, co-financing of Italian public and cultural institutions situated in neighboring Croatia, co-financing of Italian and Hungarian radio- and television broadcasting. The ministries also have competencies related to the Roma community living in Slovenia: financing the activities of the main Roma organization (Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia), co-financing Roma associations throughout the country and co-financing Roma local media.

To the direct tasks of the Office for Nationalities belong, in particular: cooperation with national NGOs and providing financial resources for their work, collecting initiatives and proposals related to events and solving specific problems faced by organizations or individual members of national communities or ethnic communities of the Republic of Slovenia. Another direct task of the Office is to cooperate with the Commission of the National Assembly for National Communities which immediately represents the Parliament of Slovenia. The Office also performs professional, administrative and organizational tasks on behalf of the Commission for National Communities of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Commission for the Protection of the Roma National Community of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

Most of the tasks in the field of protecting minorities are implemented mainly in the territories where minorities live. Therefore, one of the main tasks of the Office is to cooperate with local communities in ethnically mixed areas

and territories that are historically inhabited by the Roma population because it is impossible to solve the problems faced by minorities without their active participation. The Office provides them with qualified assistance and participates in allocating additional resources needed by local communities to carry out their tasks in the field of protecting minorities.

The Office for Nationalities of the Slovenian Government is also involved in the development of joint legislation concerning national minorities and monitors its implementation locally. The competence and results of the work of the Office for Nationalities prove that the Republic of Slovenia strives for the quality realization of the constitutional and legal rights of both indigenous national communities and the Roma community. Members of national communities are guaranteed the protection of collective and individual rights of individual minorities at a level that meets European standards, including: political participation of national communities in the work of the National Assembly and municipal bodies, equal use of the native language in everyday life, cultural, information and publishing activities, bilingual secondary education (O Urađu za narodnosti).

One of the main issues of the national policy of most European countries is the protection of the rights and social integration of Roma communities. Slovenia has not been spared from this issue either despite the fact that it is being addressed at the highest level there. This direction is of the highest priority in the activities of the Governmental Office for Nationalities – the Roma population receives much more attention than the Italian and Hungarian indigenous minorities, not to mention the unconstitutional minorities.

The European Union has developed EU Framework Program for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020. In 2015, based on this program and the EU Council's recommendations on effective measures for the Roma population's integration, the European Commission for the first time published a closed call for the establishment of national platforms for the Roma (or national contact points) for EU Member States. At the European Commission's invitation the Office for Nationalities also applied for the project "Strengthening the National Consultation Process in Slovenia by Creating the National Platform for the Roma Population – SIFOROMA". The European Commission then reiterated its call in 2016, 2017 and 2018; The Office for Nationalities applied for it annually.

As of 2020, several national platform projects, related to the Roma population, have been implemented, namely: SIFOROMA 1 (August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017), SIFOROMA 2 Project (January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018), SIFOROMA 3 (January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019) and SIFOROMA (January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020).

All projects are aimed at strengthening the consultation process in the field of social integration of the Roma by involving individuals and structures that participate in decision-making at the national and local levels, Roma communities and the private sector. The goals of SIFOROMA 1–4 are approximately the same:

- to organize an open and constructive consultation process;
- to provide opportunities for the exchange of experience, knowledge and practical skills;
- to yearn for interacting between the existing projects, initiatives and practical decisions in order to increase their effectiveness;
- to develop concrete proposals for improving the situation of the Roma population, which will be collected and supported by all key institutions and individuals involved in decision-making;
- to propose concrete measures and prepare guidelines for the future (Krepitev nacionalnega posvetovalnega procesa – Nacionalna platforma za Rome (SIFOROMA)).

The first SIFOROMA 1 project was focused on regulating the living conditions of members of the Slovenian Roma community. Following the nationwide consultations on this issue, the Office for Nationalities zeroed in on the municipality of Novo Mesto and organized several meetings with all key institutions and stakeholders. Two Roma communities within this municipality were also monitored (Fifth Report submitted by Slovenia. Pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 2 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities – received on 28 February 2020).

Within the framework of the second SIFOROMA project, the Slovenian government intensified its activities in the following areas:

- providing support and assistance to municipalities in developing their concrete and realistic local action plans for integrating the Roma population, which are adapted to the local needs together with taking into account any possible constraints. The municipality of Belyntsi took advantage of this initiative of the Office.

providing support and assistance to municipalities so that they can become a coordinator of interagency interaction and cooperation at the local level (multidisciplinary groups, security councils, etc.). Such a group, in particular, was formed in the municipality of Dobrovnyk.

- training Roma municipal councilors in the basics of legislation, familiarizing them with regulations, procedures and rules, which will ultimately enable them to participate more competently and actively in addressing important issues at the local level.

In addition, the issue of the so-called premature marriages and forced marriages of Roma children was considered during the national consultations (Letna evalvacija uresničevanja Nacionalnega programa ukrepov Vlade Republike Slovenije za Rome za obdobje 2017–2021, 2018: 5–7; Krepitev nacionalnega posvetovalnega procesa – Nacionalna platforma za Rome (SIFOROMA)).

Within the framework of SIFOROMA 3 project the Office for Nationalities continued the activities carried out within SIFOROMA 2 project. The program has been significantly modernized by adding measures that have a clear focus on implementing NPUR 2017–2021 (Measures for Roma of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Period 2017–2021) and structured dialogue related to monitoring the implementation of this program. This

time the activities focused on three key issues, namely: education, promotion of Roma employment, health care (Letna evalvacija uresničevanja Nacionalnega programa ukrepov Vlade Republike Slovenije za Rome za obdobje 2017–2021, 2018: 5–7).

The Office also continues to work in the field of preventing premature and forced marriages of Roma children and developing effective measures on the systemic and preventive solving of the problems of Roma communities of certain municipalities (Prva seja Komisije Vlade RS za zaščito romske skupnosti). The next annual round of implementing the SIFOROMA platform is an upgraded version of the previous cycle of the platform (Priročnik o prepoznavanju zgodnjih in prisilnih porok v romski skupnosti in o ukrepanju v teh primerih, 2021: 1–2).

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia also has several governmental commissions which zero in on national minorities' issues. Admittedly, the Roma population's issues are of paramount importance in the activities of the commissions, as out of 4 working groups, a separate one deals with the issues of Roma communities. Additionally, the Roma population's issues are being addressed by two other general working groups.

The Government Commission for National Communities has been standing and has existed, in one form or another, since 1993. Throughout its existence the commission was controlled by members of the Hungarian national minority, except for the period 1995–1997 when Roberto Batelli held the presidency. Until 2018 the governmental commission was headed by M. Pozsonec, a representative of the Slovenian Hungarians, and then she was replaced by F. Horvat. Representatives of the Italian minority have always held the position of a vice president.

The Commission for National Communities of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia is responsible for:

- monitoring the implementation of the constitutional obligations and legal provisions of the Republic of Slovenia concerning national communities;
- formulating proposals and initiatives related to protecting national communities by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and separate ministries within their competence;
- exchanging views between representatives of national communities and state bodies on all issues connected with the situation of national minorities (Komisija Vlade Republike Slovenije za narodni skupnosti).

One of the most acute and painful issues of Slovenia's national policy is the issue of recognizing and integrating the so-called unconstitutional minorities – the peoples of the former socialist Yugoslavia. To address this issue, the Slovenian Republic's Government Council for National Communities of the Member States of the former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia was established. The establishment of the council was conditioned by the adoption of the Government Declaration on the Status of National Communities of the Member States of the Former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia. In 2013 there was adopted a resolution on the establishment, composition, organization and tasks of the governmental council. The council had the status of an advisory and consultative body on unrecognized minorities from the territories of the former Yugoslavia. From our perspective, the establishment of such a body was a simple formality in response to the European Union's requirements to determine the status of these minorities. Even the official annual reports on the work of the Council state that it was formed to "fulfill Slovenia's international obligations".

The members of the Council are 6 representatives from state bodies (the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, the Office for Nationalities, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Public Fund for Cultural Activities) and 6 representatives from the national communities of the former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia (Albanians, Bosnians, Montenegrins, Croats, Macedonians and Serbs). The Council has always been headed by the current Minister of Culture as the official initiator of establishing the Council and curator of its work is the Ministry of Culture (Poročilo o delu Sveta Vlade Republike Slovenije za vprašanja narodnih skupnosti pripadnikov nekdanje SFRJ v Republiki Sloveniji za leto 2016).

On the official page of the Slovenian Republic's Council for National Communities of member states of the former SFRY there are declared the following tasks to be accomplished:

- to discuss issues, requirements and proposals submitted to the Council by interested organizations of members of the national communities of the peoples of the former SFRY in Slovenia;
- to consider and adopt proposals and comments on the decisions of the Slovenian Republic's Government and relevant ministries which deal with these minorities' issues;
- to control and evaluate the compliance and realization of the rights of members of the listed national communities in accordance with the adopted international obligations of the Republic of Slovenia, the constitutional provisions and other normative acts;
- to monitor the process of taking and implementing measures to preserve, develop and promote the national identity of members of ethnic communities of the former SFRY on the territory of Slovenia (Svet Vlade Republike Slovenije za vprašanja narodnih skupnosti pripadnikov narodov nekdanje SFRJ v Republiki Sloveniji).

The first governmental workgroup on the protection of the Roma population's rights was formed in 2009; its composition and activities were significantly impacted by the provisions of Slovenian legislation that touch the Roma population's issues. The Commission became the working body of the Slovenian Republic's Government and, in particular, was engaged in dealing with the following issues:

- the monitoring of the implementation of the program of activities mentioned in the first paragraph of Article 6 of the Law on Roma communities of the Republic of Slovenia;
- the monitoring of the implementation of constitutional obligations and legal provisions of the Republic of Slovenia, related to the Roma community;
- the formulating of proposals and initiatives for the protection of the Roma minority, which are directed to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and separate ministries in order to obtain their official positions;

- the exchange of opinions between representatives of the Roma community, self-governing local communities and state bodies on all matters relating to the Roma minority provisions;
- the solving of current problems of implementing special rights of the Roma communities.

In accordance with the provisions of the Law on Roma Communities, the Commission consisted of eight representatives from the state bodies, four representatives from self-governing local communities, in which a representative of the Roma community is elected to the city or the Municipal Council and four representatives of the Roma Community's Council of the Republic of Slovenia. Professional, organizational and administrative tasks in the Commission's work were carried out by the Office for Nationalities (Romska skupnost).

In 2019, the above-mentioned commission was reorganized to the Government Commission for the Protection of the Roma Community under the chairmanship of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports. In general, the Commission's activities were extremely ineffective – it conducted only 2 meetings whose essence was reduced to reaching agreement on a number of documents and programs developed by the Office for Nationalities (in particular, documental support of the SIFROMA platform). The only, more or less significant achievement of the Commission was lobbying Initiatives of the Roma Advisers Forum within the Slovenian Roma Association, which offered a number of measures linked to establishing a bilateral dialogue between the authorities and the Roma communities, as well as strengthening the political participation of the Roma population (1. seja Komisije Vlade Republike Slovenije za zaščito romske skupnosti).

The commission's inefficient work led to its liquidation a year after its establishment as it simply duplicated the powers of other governmental agencies and working bodies. However, the bureaucratization of the apparatus has not decreased – in the summer of 2020 the so-called Working Group on the Roma Population was formed, headed by a representative of the Ministry of Interior. Thus, there was only a change in the name of the body and it was transferred to the jurisdiction of another ministry. Interestingly, 50% of the new Working Group was made up of representatives of municipalities that are population centers with the Roma minority. At the first meeting the priority areas of the body's work were identified: employment and social guarantees of the Roma population, education, criminal-executive prevention among Roma communities, as well as solving the problems of individual municipalities. (Delovna skupina za obravnavo romske problematike; Namesto vladne komisije za zaščito romske skupnosti delovna skupina za obravnavo romske problematike; Prvi sestanek Delovne skupine za obravnavo romske problematike: člani so ga ocenili kot uspešnega).

The protection of national minorities' rights in Slovenia is also within the competence of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman). Regarding ethnic communities' issues, even the official reports of the Office of the Ombudsman note that as of 2020, initiatives, related to the Roma community, predominate – every year their number increases. The Ombudsman does not receive many initiatives from the Italian and Hungarian communities – for example, in 2020 the Office received only 3 complaints about violation of rights and one case (related to informing the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities about COVID-19) was initiated by the Ombudsman.

Among the challenging issues that are within the field of competence of the Ombudsman there should be noted the implementation of autochthonous minorities' special rights in the field of education. In particular, a heated discussion was caused by the Hungarian national community's position regarding the fact that the regulations of the Republic of Slovenia should be translated into Hungarian and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia. Representatives of Slovenian Hungarians also appealed for an expertise to the Office for Legislation of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, the Office for Nationalities and the Ministry of Public Administration. These authorities concluded that the translation of all regulations into Hungarian and their publication in the Official Gazette would go beyond bilingualism envisaged by Article 11 of the Constitution since in this case bilingualism would not be territorially limited but would operate throughout the country. Hungarians also saw discrimination in the position of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture because syllabuses and other teaching materials are translated into Hungarian according to financial and human resources. However, even the ministry's website does not contain materials in Italian and Hungarian.

With regard to Roma issues, taking into account the complexity and seriousness of the problems that have accumulated, it is not surprising that the problems of the Roma community or its members remain the most extensive area of work of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in terms of the number of cases discussed. The situation with resolving the Roma issue remains virtually unchanged, which is confirmed even at the level of official reporting documents. The conclusion that the situation with protecting the Roma population's rights is not changing is simply a reflection of the fact that there are no relatively prominent Roma communities in the vast majority of Slovenian municipalities, and, hence, the so-called Roma issue is a special aspect of the life of only a small number of local communities which is far from being in the first place in the list of pressing issues of state institutions (Letno poročilo za 2020 (razširjena spletna verzija). 2.2 Narodne in etnične skupnosti). Moreover, other state bodies openly ignore the requests and suggestions concerning the Roma population which are put forward by the Office of the Ombudsman.

As an example, closer to the end of 2020, the Seventh Report of the Slovenian Republic's Government on the situation of the Roma community in Slovenia was published. There is nothing in its content that would indicate a significant shift in the implementation of the Ombudsman's recommendations in this area during the reporting period. In addition, the report cites doubts as to whether the government can objectively report on this issue if obtaining accurate data for analyzing the situation, monitoring and evaluating progress is not possible due to

the protection of personal data. Surprisingly, despite the view that information on Roma communities cannot be collected and processed, specific governmental data on the Roma population's inclusion in the educational system and the labor market appear in several places in the above-mentioned governmental report (Sedmo poročilo Vlade Republike Slovenije o položaju romske skupnosti v Sloveniji). Among the Roma communities' issues which are under the constant control of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights there should also be mentioned the Roma population's access to drinking water and electrification of Roma settlements (Letno poročilo za 2020 (razširjena spletna verzija). 2.2 Narodne in etnične skupnosti).

The ombudsman also constantly monitors the situation of the so-called unrecognized (unconstitutional) minorities that are defined in governmental documents as migrants and foreigners. In this regard the Office is in long-term conflict with the position of most state agencies and the majority of Slovenian population in general. The Commissioner for Human Rights is often more or less openly accused of being excessively loyal to foreigners, emphasizing that he actually acts against citizens because he protects the interests of foreigners more than Slovenes, etc. This statement clearly illustrates the position of one Slovenian parliamentarian: "The Slovenian ombudsman has never done anything good for Slovenes in his work, he has mainly defended the rights of marginalized groups that deviate from the norm and foreigners" (Letno poročilo za 2020 (razširjena spletna verzija). 2.9 Tujci).

At the end of reviewing the government working bodies that are responsible for protecting national minorities' rights in Slovenia, there should be mentioned the activities of the Expert Group on Solving Spatial Problems in Roma Settlements which was established within the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in 2009. This group has prepared starting points for the comprehensive consideration and solving of the specific problems faced by the Roma settlements of Slovenia.

In December 2009 the work of the expert group was prolonged in a slightly changed composition but it began operating only in the spring of the following year. Among the priority activities was the placement of educational materials so that they could be available to the interested public. Representatives of relevant agencies, municipalities and Roma communities received membership in the working group (Zupančič, 2010: 65–69; Strokovna skupina o postopnem razvoju romskih naselij).

**Conclusion.** The exploration of the functioning of the system of state bodies and programs dealing with the issues of national minorities in Slovenia clearly manifests the considerable diversification of this system. However, this state of affairs does not contribute to the effective solving of the problems of national communities and the protection of the rights of minorities – it does rather the opposite.

The main body for implementing the national policy of the Republic of Slovenia is the Office for Nationalities, however, along with it, there are also a number of standing governmental commissions and working groups within the ministries, whose mandate encompasses solving the problems of national communities. Minority issues are also dealt with by the Ombudsman's Office and the Slovenian Police. Such branching only leads to an increase in bureaucratization of the state apparatus, duplication of powers, and the hindering of the decision-making process.

The study of the reporting documentation and program initiatives of these bodies enables us to clearly identify the main issue that is in the spotlight of all state institutions dealing with national minorities' issues – the so-called Roma issue. It should be admitted that these initiatives are obviously not the result of official Ljubljana's interest in the Roma population's issues – they are developed with the purpose of meeting the mandatory recommendations of the European Union which finances them.

In addition, it can be stated that the issues of unconstitutional minorities, i. e. the people from the territories of the former socialist Yugoslavia, have been almost completely ignored. In the system of ethno-political management of the Republic of Slovenia they are viewed along with foreigners and migrants, although they significantly outnumber any national minority of the republic. Scattered attempts to rectify the current situation can be traced in the activities of the Commissioner for Human Rights but they have no effect in the absence of reaction from other bodies that are part of the complex of ethno-political management in Slovenia.

An important negative factor is the high level of national communities' mistrust of state bodies, which is reflected in the small number of appeals and initiatives coming directly from communities; and in the case of the Roma population the negative factor is the closed community as well as devotion to archaic traditions.

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