

Dear Mr. Zelensky,

Amsterdam, January 21, 2024

Subject: Compliance with EU Core Values by EU Candidate Ukraine

On December 14, 2023, the European Council agreed to start accession negotiations with Ukraine for EU membership, after Ukraine officially became an EU candidate member on June 23, 2022. On April 6, 2016, the Dutch people expressed their democratic will by voting against Ukraine's European integration in a referendum, rejecting the ratification of the association agreement between the European Union and Ukraine. It was clear that Ukraine was already failing to meet its European obligations for peace and stability at that time. The Dutch government even stipulated in an [insert](#) that this agreement is not a stepping stone to EU membership.

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The European Language Rights Amsterdam foundation therefore demands that the Ukrainian government immediately fulfill its European obligations for peace and stability and that it make every effort to stop discrimination against vulnerable historical minorities. An example of discrimination is the American English signs ^(a)at the Transcarpathian Police without signs in the languages of the autonomous minorities ^(b). Discrimination on the basis of language is contrary to the spirit and letter of the following treaties and agreements in the EU:



1;[The Staatsburg Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.](#)
Bilingual signs are a symbol of ethnic equality and protect vulnerable minorities from the prevailing revisionist chauvinism in EU candidate member Ukraine. 2;
[The European Charter for Regional Languages.](#) 3;*The principle of non-discrimination according to Article 14 of the* [European Convention on Human Rights.](#) 4;*The* [Friendship Treaty between Ukraine and Hungary](#) *for the Hungarian language.* 5; [The Copenhagen Criteria.](#) *These are the European values and European customary law in accordance with the Acquis communautaire. These apply in particular to candidate members.* 6; *Customary law such as the* [Pacification Requirements for EU & NATO membership](#) *and the “European Way of Life” values to which you constantly refer. After all, the EU is* ²_____ *multilingual.* 7; [The Report of the E.C.](#) *which formed the basis for Ukraine's candidacy for EU membership and in which conditions were set.* 8; The [Convention on the Prevention of Genocide \(Articles 2b and c\)](#) 9; The [Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.](#)10; The [International Covenant on Human Rights.](#) *(Articles 1 and 2)* 11; *Pursuant to (Articles 1 and 2) of the* [Treaty of Lisbon.](#) 12; **Pursuant to Articles 2, 4, and 14 of the association agreement ratified against the [democratic will](#) of the [Dutch people](#).**

European Language Rights Foundation Amsterdam



This letter is also available online at

Dutch https://language-rights.eu/ZELENSKY_NL.pdf

English https://language-rights.eu/ZELENSKY_GB.pdf

Hungarian https://language-rights.eu/ZELENSKY_HU.pdf

French *Not yet available*

German *Not yet available*

Russian *Not yet available*

Romanian *Not yet available*

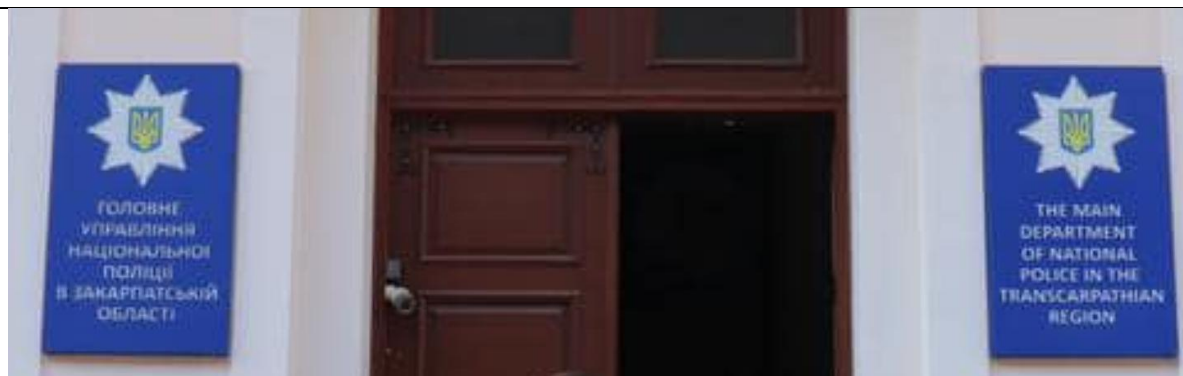
Frisian *Not yet available*

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS LETTER



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A: AMERICAN ENGLISH SIGNS IN TRANSCARPATHIA



The main department of National police in the Transcarpathian Region. In American English but not in Hungarian, Romanian, or Russian.



Khust District Police Department of the Main Police Department in the Transcarpathian Region? For the American autonomous minority?



Patrol Police American English, but not Hungarian, Romanian, or Russian.

Source Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UA.ZakarpattyaPolice>



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ENGLISH IS ONLY AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN IRELAND IN THE EU. "National Police," "District Police," or "Patrol Police" are American terms and not European ones. English is only an official language in the EU in Ireland, alongside Irish. The English language does not enjoy protection under the aforementioned treaties, as there is no American minority living in Transcarpathia. In any case, the above-mentioned American-English terms are not used in those administrative units in the EU where English is an official language. Irish police cars bear the inscription "**GARDA**." Source: BBC and garda.ie

Gardaí to begin wearing new uniform on duty

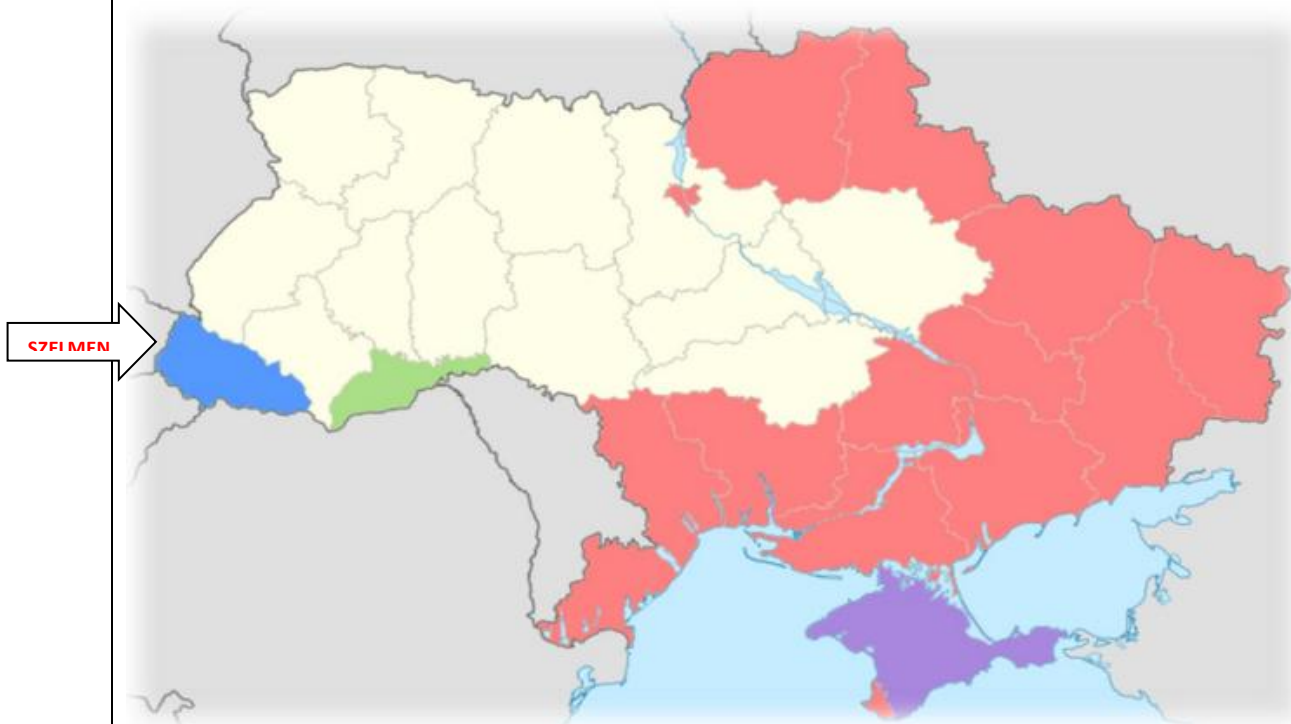
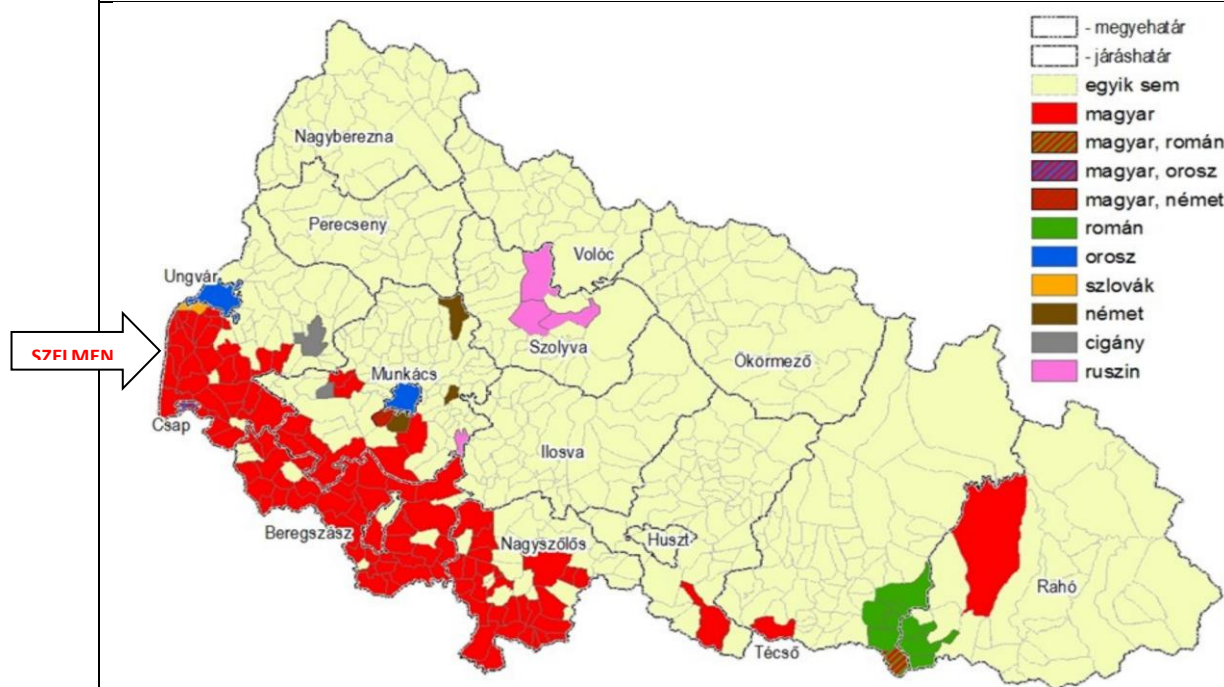


| The new jackets were worn on duty for the first time on Monday



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B MULTICULTURAL TRANSCARPATIA. *The languages of these autonomous minorities have co-official status under the aforementioned treaties. American English cannot derive any rights from any of the aforementioned treaties.*
Source: Language rights in Transcarpathia. ([LINK](#))



SZELMENC ILLUSTRATION TRAGIC FATE OF UKRAINE. *A family may have left their native village of Szelmenc and lived in eight countries within the span of a lifetime. 1. Austria-Hungary (1921), 2. Czechoslovakia (1921-1938) 3. Hungary (1947), 4. Czechoslovakia (CSSR 1990) 5. Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (CSFR 1992) 6. Slovakia (present) or 7. Soviet Union (1991), 8. Ukraine (present).* Official languages Hungarian, Czechoslovakian, Hungarian, Slovak, Russian, and Ukrainian. This vulnerable historical community in Szelmenc witnessed two world wars, two totalitarian dictatorships, and deportations to Soviet camps. The tanks with which the Soviet army occupied Budapest in 1956 and Prague in 1968 passed through Transcarpathia. **It is inconceivable that this historic community is threatened in its existence by the Ukrainian Language Law and revisionist Ukrainian chauvinism.**

Photo: Former border in the divided village of Szelmenc.

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1A. ON THE BASIS OF THE STATEBORG CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

*The horrors of the war in Yugoslavia (think of Srebrenica) proved the need for expansion of the EU and NATO. This ensures pacification through justice and prosperity. Former Soviet satellite states that want to join the EU and NATO **must meet strict requirements, such as the protection of minorities**. These rights are laid down in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (concluded in Strasbourg in 1996). Romania, where the first deaths from ethnic violence occurred in Marosvásárhely (Romanian: Targu Mures) even before Yugoslavia, was one of the first countries to ratify the treaties. This treaty has also been ratified by Ukraine.*



After the ethnic failure of Yugoslavia, this convention was a prerequisite for integration into the EU and NATO. Slovakia and Romania would never have become members of the EU and NATO if they had shown the same disregard for basic human rights, such as language rights, as Ukraine. In a multi-ethnic context, language has more than just a linguistic function. The fact that "RENDŐRSEG" is also written in Hungarian protects Magyars (ethnic Hungarians) against discrimination and is a visual encouragement of ethnic equality and a codification of the principle of non-discrimination. The bilingual sign is an icon of European values and a symbol of European identity.



1B. STRASBOURG CONVENTION *It is difficult to empathize with the daily problems faced by autonomous minorities. A minority has the right to live in its own language and culture and at its own pace, and to be protected from the intolerance of the majority. In Friesland, a notarial deed or official report may be written in Frisian, and ethnic Frisians may join the police force and use their language freely. Unlike in Romania, ethnic Frisians are not underrepresented in the sitting and standing judiciary. Due to mutual intelligibility with Dutch, the situation in a hospital in Friesland is different than in Ukraine or Romania. Unfortunately, there is no consistent Frisian-language communication "POLITIE-PLYSJE" at the police in Friesland, while bilingual communication in Sint Maarten "POLITIE-POLICE" is self-evident.*

Source https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Police_car_on_Sint_Maarten_14.jpg




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2. BASED ON THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL LANGUAGES. ([LINK](#))

*The Russian language, like Belarusian, Bulgarian, Gagauz, Greek, Yiddish, Crimean Tatar, Moldovan, German, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, and Hungarian, is also a minority language recognized by Ukraine in 2005, in accordance with the European Charter for Regional Languages. The fact that Ukraine is taking away existing language rights from vulnerable historical minorities through the Ukrainian language law is incompatible with Ukraine's EU candidate membership. **Whether a country is allowed to join the EU should be a professional decision, not a political one.** ([LINK](#))*

Reservations and Declarations for Treaty No.148 - European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ETS No. 148)

> State or International Organisation:  Ukraine

> Status as of 11/01/2024



Ukraine

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 19 September 2005 - Or. Engl.

Ukraine declares that the provisions of the Charter shall apply to the languages of the following ethnic minorities of Ukraine : Belarusian, Bulgarian, Gagauz, Greek, Jewish, Crimean Tatar, Moldovan, German, Polish, Russian, Romanian, Slovak and Hungarian.

STEUN AAN OEKRAÏNE BLIJF VOORWAARDEN STELLEN

Nederland reserveert 2,5 miljard euro voor steun aan Oekraïne ([24/12](#)), voor wapens en wederopbouw. Waarom stelt het kabinet geen voorwaarden aan deze steun? Tot op de dag van vandaag heeft Oekraïne de beperking van de taalrechten, zoals het ontmantelen van het onderwijs in de moedertaal van kwetsbare historische gemeenschappen zoals Hongaren maar ook Roemenen, nog niet ongedaan gemaakt. Oekraïne maakt het zelfs zo bont, dat vanaf 2023 het uitgeven van boeken in de Russische taal wordt verboden. De Russische taal is net zoals het Wit-Russisch, Bulgaars, Gagaoezisch, Grieks, Jiddisch, Krim-Tataars, Moldavisch, Duits, Pools, Roemeens, Slowaaks en Hongaars ook een in 2005 door Oekraïne erkende minderheidstaal, conform het Europees Handvest voor regionale talen. Het kabinet dient daarom van Oekraïne te eisen om als voorwaarde voor verdere steun per direct te voldoen aan haar Europese verplichtingen voor vrede en stabiliteit door haar discriminerende taalwet per direct buiten werking te stellen.

Gabor Landman Amsterdam NRC 31 DEC 2022



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3. ON THE BASIS OF THE ECHR, WHICH PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF LANGUAGE

Although the UK is no longer a member of the EU, it continues to exemplify European values and treaties. English police cars in Wales display "HEDDLU-POLICE" in an identical linguistic situation to that in EU candidate member Ukraine, and no American-English terminology is used.



4. ON THE BASIS OF THE FRIENDSHIP TREATY BETWEEN UKRAINE AND HUNGARY ([LINK](#)) As a condition for EU integration, Hungary and Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine have signed bilateral friendship treaties that respect both existing borders and existing languages. Bilingual signs at the police station and tax office in Párkány, Slovakia.



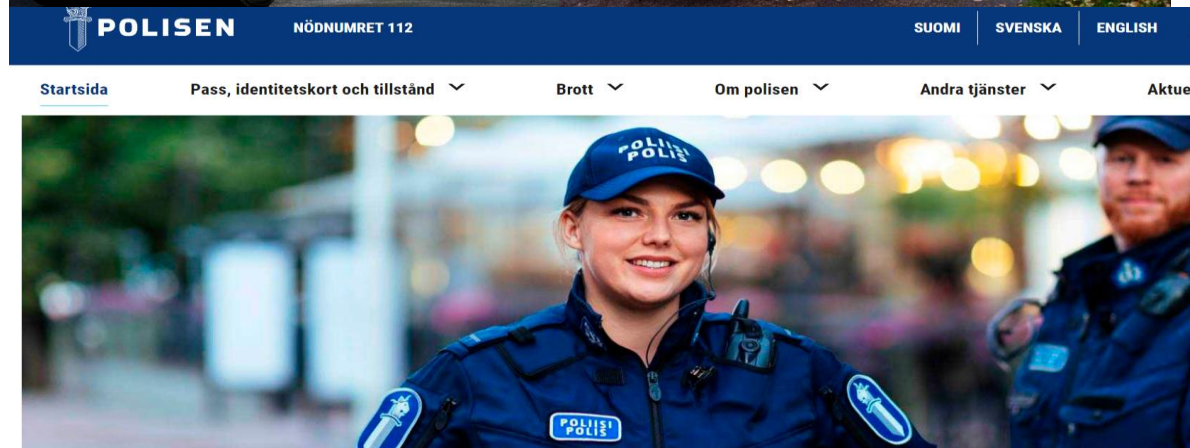
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The Hungarians from Transcarpathia also have the inalienable right to use their language freely. **The unilateral and violent modification of languages and borders is a violation of EU core values.** Language map: eurominority



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5A. BASED ON EUROPEAN VALUES AND EUROPEAN CUSTOMARY LAW In accordance with the *acquis communautaire*, the uniforms and cars of the autonomous Swedish-speaking minority in Finland bear the inscription **"POLIISI-POLIS,"** and those of the autonomous **German-speaking** minority in Italy bear **the inscription "POLIZIA-POLIZEI."** on the uniforms and cars of the autonomous German-speaking minority in Italy. The police website in Finnish, Swedish, and English is an example of EU core values. Source: <https://poliisi.fi/> & wikipedia



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5B. EUROPEAN CORE VALUES In Belgium, the police speak French, German, and Dutch, and also communicate in English. How could Belgium or the EU function if the police only spoke Dutch and consisted solely of ethnic Flemings? Could Belgium or the EU function if the police only spoke French and consisted solely of Walloons, or if the police only spoke German and consisted solely of Germans? **EU CANDIDATE MEMBER UKRAINE ALSO HAS OBLIGATIONS FOR PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND SECURITY.**

Source: <https://www.polizei.be>

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police_belge

wikipedia [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Belgian_Federal_Police_MB_Sprinter_\(2006\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Belgian_Federal_Police_MB_Sprinter_(2006).jpg)



5C. COPENHAGEN CRITERIA ([LINK](#)) The Italian authorities in South Tyrol are an example for European integration and show the way to European peace and reconciliation. **Compliance with basic human rights such as language rights is also a prerequisite for breaking the vicious circle of European history marked by hatred, wars, and massive human rights violations.**



5.D BUT ALSO ON THE BASIS OF PACIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. North Macedonia was only allowed to join NATO after it had met pacification requirements by recognizing the language rights of Albanians. Language rights are **the key** to sustainable peace. Source: Report on Fading Values. ([LINK](#)) After all, Europe has a shared past and a common future



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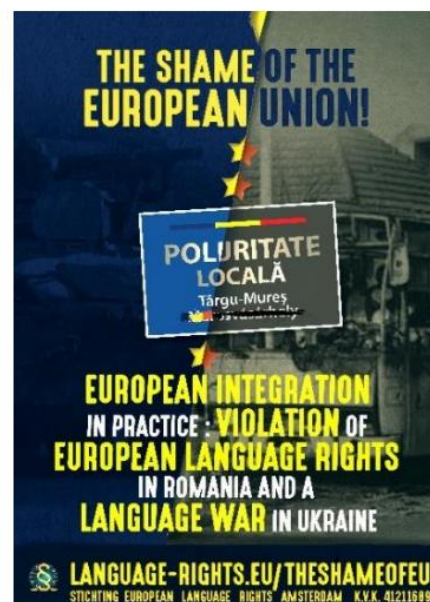
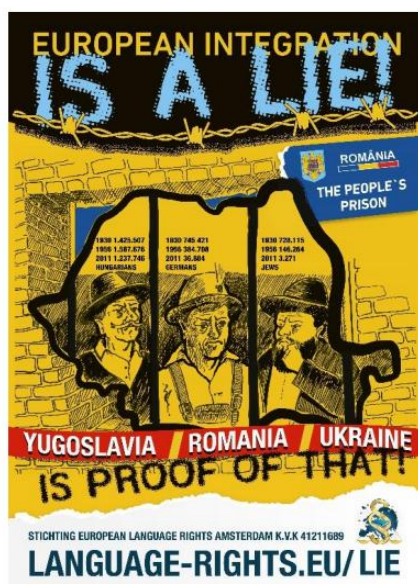
6. ON THE BASIS OF THE "EUROPEAN WAY OF LIFE" You have publicly demanded on several occasions that Ukraine should become a member of the EU and NATO as soon as possible, without making any symbolic efforts or gestures towards minorities. In Dutch politics, warnings were already being issued in 1996 that a lack of respect for ethnic minorities would hinder the rapid integration of Central Europe into the EU. Photoshop impression of linguistic basic Human rights in Romania, Moldova, Serbia, Gaugazia and Ukraina. Peace is cheap.



7. BASED ON THE EC REPORT ([LINK](#)) that formed the basis for Ukraine's candidacy for EU membership. Ukraine has already been helped once by ratifying the association agreement against the democratic will of the Dutch people. Ukraine is damaging the EU by flouting the conditions for its membership.

P14 "Respect for the language and education rights of persons belonging to a national minority and their representation in elected bodies at all levels of public life *MUST BE GUARANTEED. TO THIS END, THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VENICE COMMISSION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON EDUCATION LEGISLATION AND THE LAW ON THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE MUST BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED AND THE MOST RECENT MONITORING CYCLE OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON NATIONAL MINORITIES MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. MONITORING CYCLE OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON NATIONAL MINORITIES. Ukraine has taken steps to implement the recommendations of the Venice Commission, but the reform of the legal framework for NATIONAL MINORITIES MUST BE COMPLETED AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS MUST BE ESTABLISHED.*

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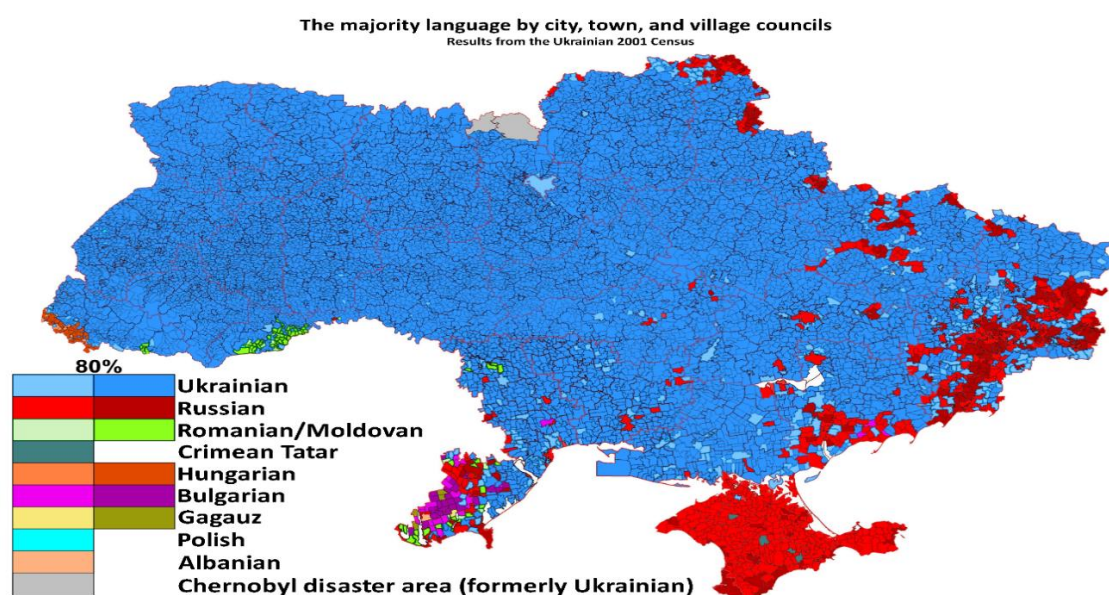
Poster campaign Lie ([LINK](#)) and The Shame of The European Union ([LINK](#)) in Amsterdam by the foundation in 2018 and 2019.



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8. ON THE BASIS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE

([LINK](#)) This prohibits the infliction of mental suffering. There are fears for the survival of a once-vital historical community of 150,000 Magyars (ethnic Hungarians). Their numbers have already fallen dramatically. The foundation is aware of ethnic harassment and intimidation by the Ukrainian authorities through testimonies and has signed a request to the UN to protect this minority. **Since 2014, the Ukrainian authorities have been repeatedly warned to comply with the ratified treaties without delay.** Naturally, the provisions of this treaty apply to all national, ethnic, and religious groups within Ukraine. Source: Image from Wikipedia Tovel, Spesh531 - 0,



The paradox of Ukrainian nationalism is that it seeks to create a unified state by imposing a single language and identity on the population of a country that has historically been very diverse and inclusive. Ukraine's multilingual and multicultural character (Russians, Romanians, Tatars, Hungarians, Bulgarians, Poles, Gagauz, Jews, etc.) is precisely what gives it its European identity. Ukraine should protect vulnerable historical groups rather than banning their language. Prohibiting the free use of a minority language is tantamount to causing serious psychological harm to this group.



9. ON THE BASIS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. ([LINK](#)) *The Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination states that human rights must be respected without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion. Dismantling a functioning education system for a vulnerable minority is incompatible with this convention. In the Ukrainian context, people are discriminated against on the basis of their language. **How would people in the Benelux react if education were only allowed to be provided in the majority language?***



Protest Of Ethnic Romanians Chernivtsi (Romanian :Cernauti) in 2017 „NU NE FURAȚI LIMBA NOASTRĂ CEA ROMÂNĂ! / НЕ КРАДІТЬ НАШУ РІДНУ РУМУНЬСКУ МОВУ! DO NOT STEAL OUR ROMANIAN LANGUAGE. A child suddenly has to learn physics, mathematics, chemistry, etc. in Ukrainian, whereas previously this was allowed in the mother tongue.

Ukraine is depriving vulnerable minorities of the right to education in their own language, as evidenced by the shocking testimonies of ethnic Hungarians and Romanians, as well as those of Gagauz people from Moldova, regarding their language rights before the Council of Europe in October 2021. The testimonies can be listened to on our website. ([LINK](#))



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10. ON THE BASIS OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

[\(LINK\)](#) Language rights are basic human rights. Ukraine is violating these core values with its language law. The massive human rights violations in Eastern Europe, which, unlike Western Europe, has no colonial past, have taken place quantitatively and qualitatively on the basis of ethnicity and also language.

Photo: Police car in Catalonia and the Basque Country. Source: Wikipedia.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Catalan_Police_Car.jpg https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ertzaintza_autoa_001.JPG
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The EU must therefore protect its credibility by defending its own core values. Discrimination against the historical communities in Ukraine is a matter for all European citizens. When, in 1957, the American school Little Rock Central High School, on the orders of Governor Orval Faubus, refused to admit black students, a federal army unit was able to intervene and ensure that American laws were upheld. Thirty years after the fall of the ^{Berlin} Wall, in the 21st century, Europe still has a long way to go. After all, the EU is unable to defend its core values on paper in practice. [\(LINK\)](#)



11. ON THE BASIS OF THE TREATY OF LISBON, THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION

The equal treatment of EU citizens is a core value of the EU, as formulated in the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and the Maastricht Treaty. How can an EU market exist if some of its citizens are second-class citizens? The pillar of the EU is freedom of movement and services through European civil rights. An interpreter or truck driver with Dutch nationality may work in Romania just as a Romanian may work in the Netherlands. The Marosvásárhely case ([LINK](#)) shows that Romania is violating these core values. The EC stands by and watches.

Since January 16, 2021 the customer service language is Ukrainian!

The State Language Protection Commissioner Taras KREMIN reminds that according to Article 30 of the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring the Functioning of the Ukrainian as the State Language", since January 16, 2021 all service providers, irrespective of the form of ownership, are obliged to serve consumers and provide information on goods and services in the state language.

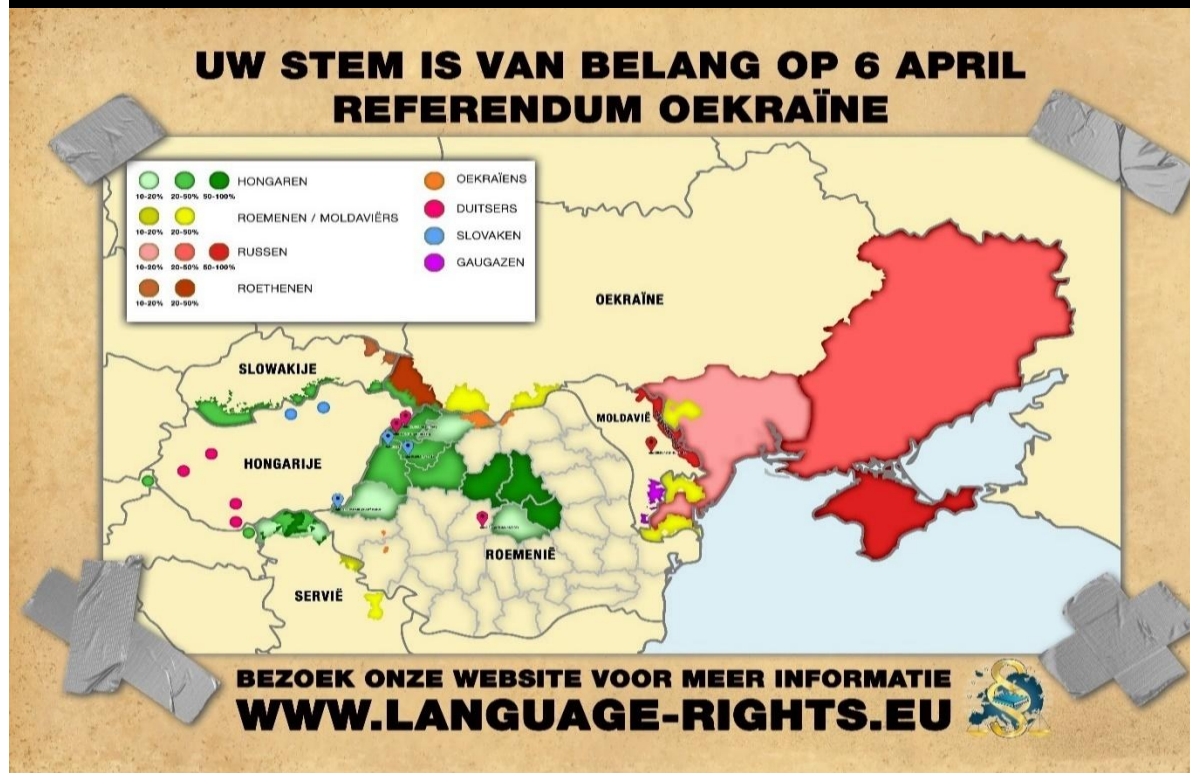
*The Ukrainian "Language Police" ([LINK](#)) proudly reports on its website that it is prohibited to use languages other than Ukrainian in commerce, thereby proving that it does not take European values seriously. If Romania had introduced exactly the same language law during its EU candidacy period, it would not have become an EU member. Romania's incomplete compliance with European civil rights was precisely the basis for our stemtegen.eu campaign. **Ukraine is damaging European unity and the credibility of the European project with its language law.** The association agreement with Ukraine should therefore never have been ratified. ([LINK](#))*



12. BASED ON THE DEMOCRATIC WILL OF THE DUTCH PEOPLE. ([LINK](#)) The Dutch people voted NO (62 %) in a democratic election. The turnout was higher than that of the EU Elections of 1999.



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