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Monolingual country? Multilingual society.

Aspects of language use in public administration
in Austria.



- **official languages**
- **languages spoken in Austria**
- **numbers of speakers**

Federal Constitutional Law

Art. 8

- (1) **German** is the **official language** of the Republic without prejudice to the **rights provided** by Federal law **for linguistic minorities**.
- (2) The Republic of Austria (the Federation, Länder and municipalities) is **committed to its linguistic and cultural diversity** which has evolved in the course of time and finds its expression in the **autochthonous ethnic groups**. The **language and culture, continued existence and protection of these ethnic groups shall be respected, safeguarded and promoted**.
- (3) The **Austrian Sign Language** (Österreichische Gebärdensprache, ÖGS) **is a language in its own right**, recognized in law. For details, see the relevant legal provisions.

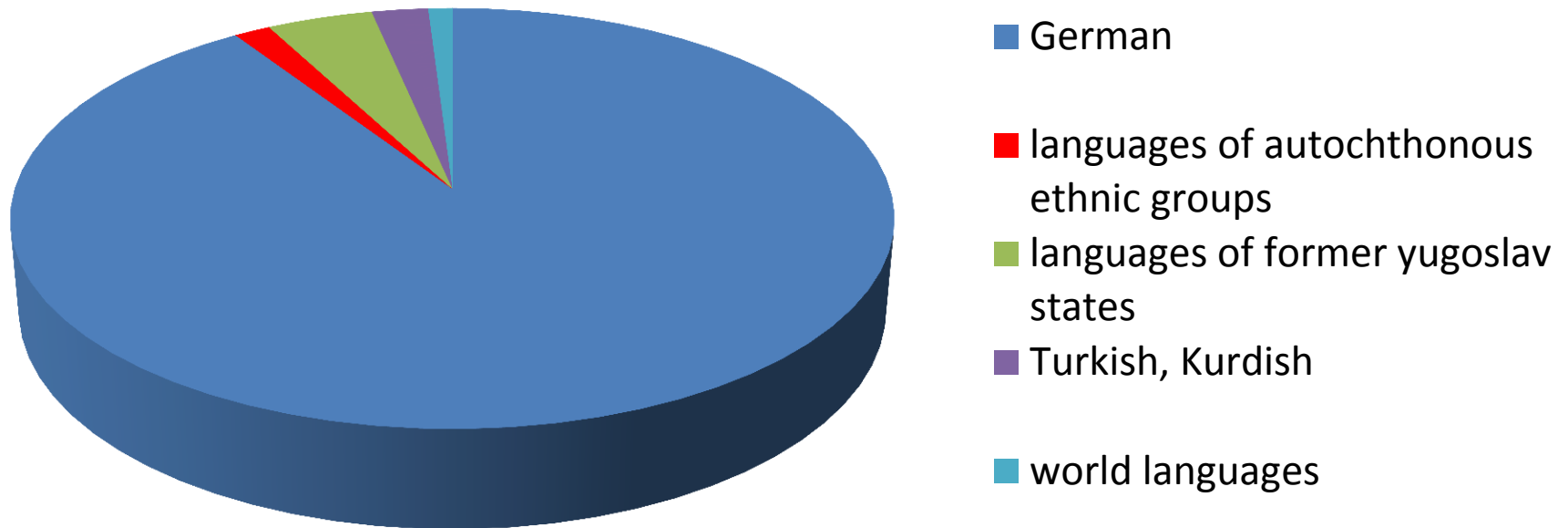
Official language(s) of the Republic of Austria

1. German
2. Languages of the Austrian autochthonous ethnic groups
3. Austrian sign language

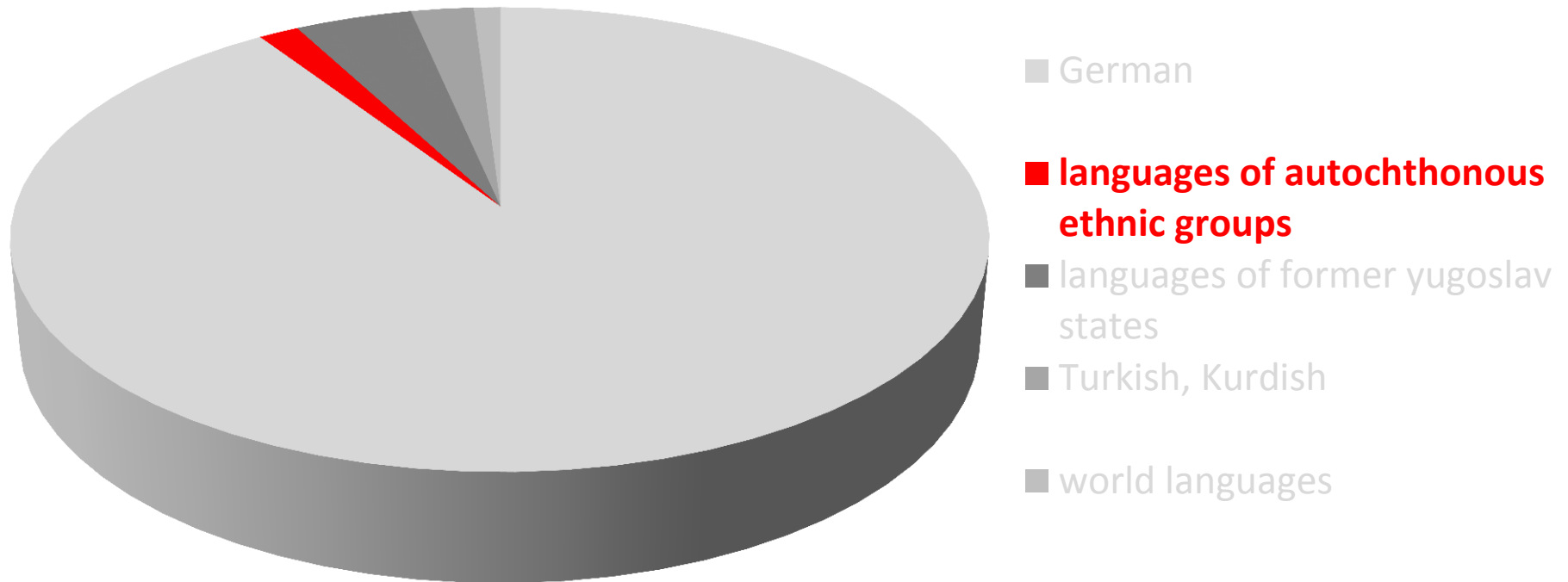
Resident population – everyday language – nationality (2001)

Everyday language	Resident population	Austrian citizens
	total: 8.032.926	total: 7.322.000
German	7.115.780 88,58%	6.991.388 95,48%
Languages of the Austrian autochthonous ethnic groups	119.667 1,49%	82.522 1,13%
Austrian sign language	approx. 10.000	
Languages of the former Yugoslav states	348.629 4,34%	41.944 0,57%
Turkish, Kurdish	185.578 2,31%	61.167 0,84%
World languages	79.514 0,99%	43.469 0,59%

Languages of resident population 2001 in %



Languages of resident population 2001 in %



Languages of the Austrian autochthonous ethnic groups

Everyday language	Resident population	Austrian citizens
Hungarian	40.583	25.884
Slovene	24.855	17.953
Burgenland-Kroatisch	19.412	19.374
Czech	17.742	11.035
Slovakian	10.234	3.343
„Romanès“	6.273	4.348
„Windisch“	568	567
Austrian Sign Language	approx. 10.000	no numbers

Status and support of regional and minority languages

Other important legal documents, apart from article 8 B-VG, essential to the status of minority groups:

- Article 7 *Staatsvertrag* Vienna **1955 (state treaty)** explicitly mentions:
 - the Slovenian minority group in Carinthia and in Styria
 - the Croatian minority in Burgenland
- Lays down their **right to primary school education in their respective mother tongues**, and to a **number of secondary schools**
- *Volksgruppengesetz* **1976**: establishment of „advisory councils for ethnic minority issues“ (*Volksgruppenbeiräte*) → **more minority ethnic groups received official recognition** later on

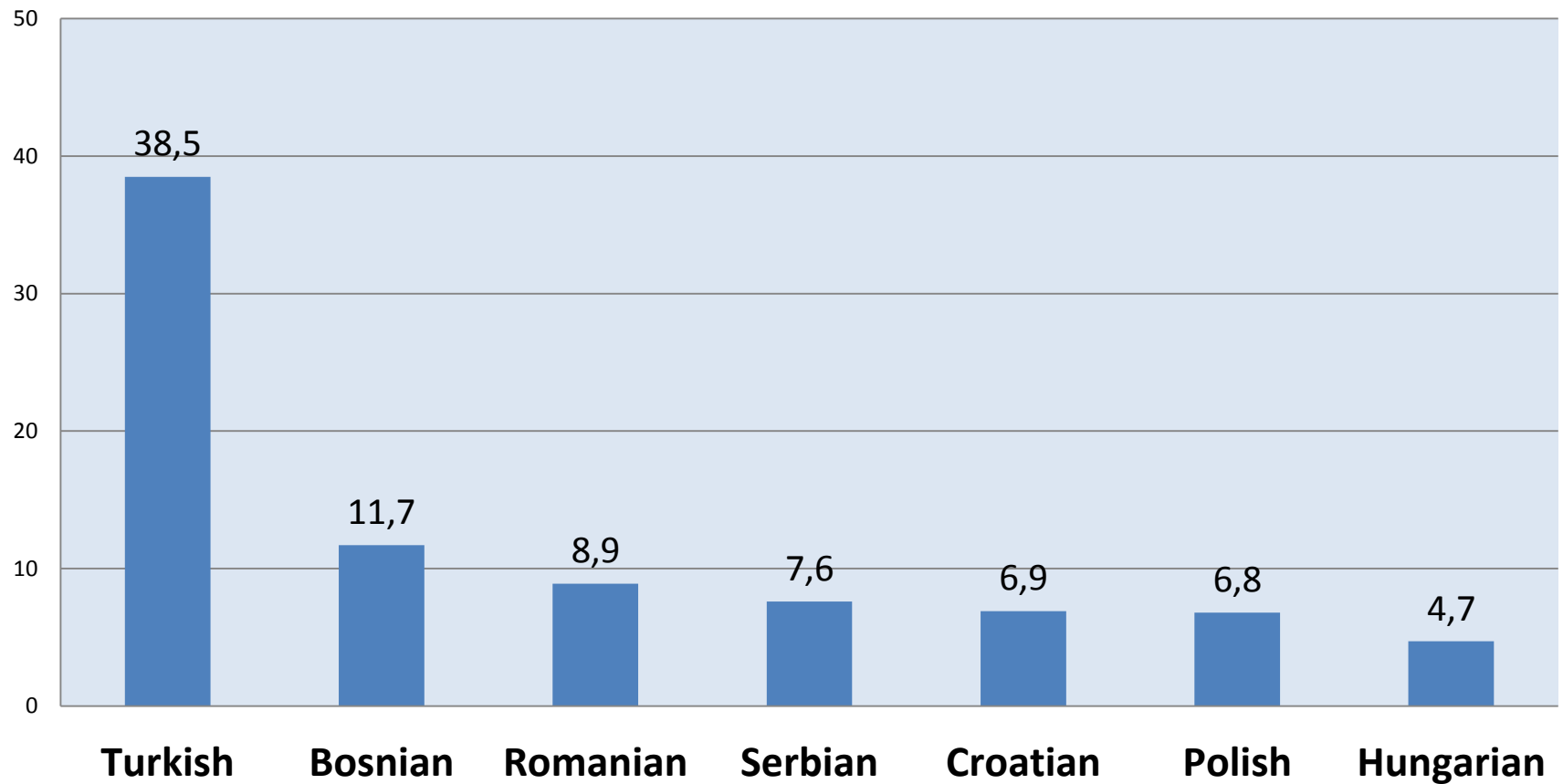
Status and support of regional and minority languages

- **Austrian Sign Language** was officially recognised as a minority language in Austria (**2005** amendment to the federal constitutional law)
- No further rules or relations exist
- In Austrian special schools for children with hearing impairments, Austrian Sign Language is offered as an optional subject

Language policies for schools

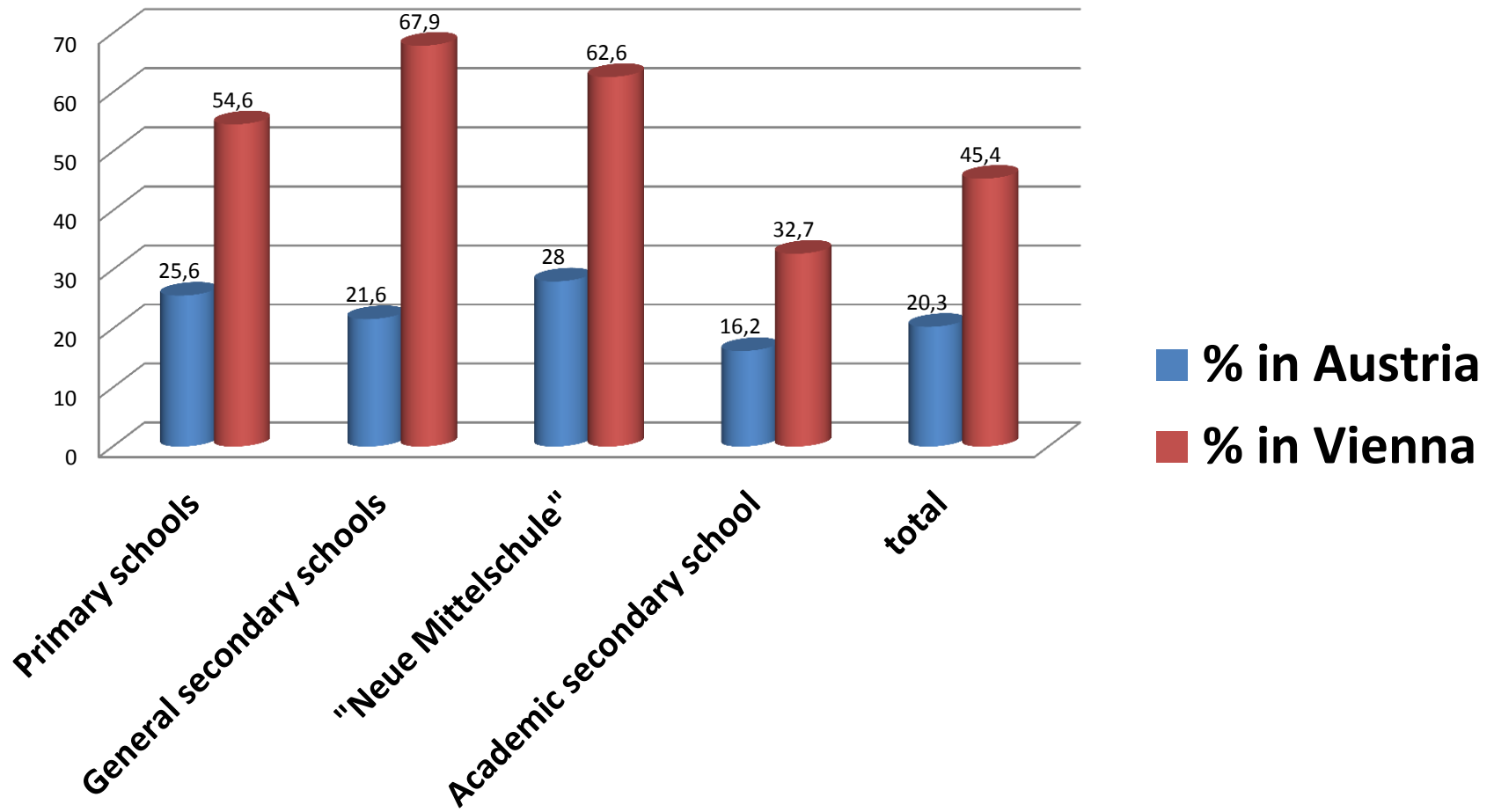
- Certain language regulations concerning education for minorities in Burgenland (dating back to the 1930ies)
- Carinthia: language regulations and laws for schools have been causing conflicts since 1945
- Laws for Carinthia (1959) and Burgenland (1994) provide regulations for Slovene, Burgenlandkroatisch and Hungarian
- Bilingual classes at primary school level; unsatisfactory opportunities at secondary schools; more bilingual facilities at some academic secondary schools and at upper secondary level (Klagenfurt/Celovec bzw. Oberwart/ /Felsöör/Borta)
- For Czech and Slovakian: Komensky-Schule in Vienna (private school)
- In Carinthia wide acceptance of bilingual school: two thirds of pupils come from German-speaking families – despite difficult status of minorities

Most common first languages if German is second language (%)



Source: STATISTIK AUSTRIA. Erwachsenenbildungserhebung 2011/2012 (AES).

School students with other first languages than German



Linguistic conditions for migrants

- **Some authorities** (f.ex. school boards, social and health security services, revenue offices) **offer forms and information brochures in foreign languages**, also in the two main migrant languages in Austria (Turkish, BKS)
- **No laws or regulations guarantee further language rights** (e.g. at administrative bodies and authorities) or translation services (hospitals)
- **Project „video interpretation“** for non-German speaking patients at **Vienna hospitals**
- No official support for migrants' linguistic and cultural identity

Mother tongue teaching in migrants' languages

- Pupils whose mother tongue is not German may attend „*Muttersprachlicher Unterricht*“ at Austrian schools
- aims at broadening and strengthening those children's mother tongues
- 2005/06: approx. 26.000 pupils attended „*Muttersprachlicher Unterricht*“
- **Languages taught:** Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BKS), Bulgarian, Chechen, Chinese, Hungarian, Italian, Macedonian, Persian, Polish, Portugese, Romani, Romanian, Russian, Slovakian, Spanish, Turkish.

„Integration agreement“

- German language skills stipulated for the first time in an amendment to legal provisions regarding nationality and citizenship (1998) for persons applying for Austrian nationality
 - applicants need to:
 - prove German language skills corresponding with the applicant's circumstances of life and basic knowledge of Austria's democratic structures/history (1998)
 - pass an exam level A2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) in 2006, B1 in 2011
- Third-country nationals: „integration course“ in German language required: A1 (2003); A2 (2006); A1 before moving to Austria and A2 required for temporary residence, B1 for permanent residence since 2011

Court and jurisdiction

Language choice at trials:

- The relevant legal regulation states that court decisions are basically monolingual (with exceptions).
- German is the language of jurisdiction for oral and written communication
- Written court procedures should be written in a „comprehensible code“
- Court or authorities decide if interpretation services are necessary (and possible)

Citizen's right to use a different official language than German in public domains

Example:

Member of Slovene community in South of Austria insisted on his right to receive notifications on council tax („Abgabenbescheid“) in Slovene

→ local mayor refused

→ court appeal



Kärnten wird einsprachig!

Drei Dinge hat Landeshauptmann Jörg Haider in der Ortstafelfrage versprochen. Erstens: Keine Lösung gegen den Willen der Kärntnerinnen und Kärntner. Zweitens: Die direkte Mitsprache der betroffenen Bevölkerung in Form einer Volksbefragung. Und drittens: Keine Ortstafelflut für Südkärnten.

hauptmann Jörg Haider hingegen hat sofort gehandelt: Noch am selben Tag war er vor Ort bei den betroffenen Mitarbeitern. Wenige Tage später konnte er sowohl für ARA in Feldkirchen als auch für Elmönt in Klagenfurt Lösungen präsentieren: Die Mit-

Worüber man nichts liest

Sie tun das, was sie immer getan haben. Sie tun es aber noch erbitterter und noch brutaler. Sie, die Polit-Redakteure in den heimischen Zeitungsredaktionen führen wieder ihren Kampf gegen Jörg Haider und die Freiheitlichen im BZÖ. Weil sie mehr denn je ihre Chance wittern, Jörg Haider und die Freiheitlichen zu besiegen. Indem sie Haider und die Freiheitlichen verschweigen. Über das, was Haider und die Freiheitlichen tun, nicht berichten. Mehr noch: Nur das schreiben, wovon sie glauben, dass es Haider und den Freiheitlichen schadet.

Ein Beispiel: Heinz Christian Strache. Wer hätte gedacht, dass der rechts-rechte Strache zum Liebling der linken Medien wird? Es passiert, weil es dem Kampf gegen Jörg Haider dient. Für diesen Kampf ist eben jedes Mittel recht. Die wöchentliche

Media laws

Consumer laws

- No quota regulations in Austria's media laws
- Austria's public broadcasting company (ORF): about 5 hours of radio programmes and 30 minutes of television programmes per week are broadcast in the official minority languages
- Consumers' laws: adaptations necessary: no regulation in consumer laws making it mandatory to use German for product descriptions or warnings (except for children's toys)

← → http://volksgruppen.orf.at ORF-Minderheitenredaktion - ... Volksgruppen Übersicht

volksgruppen ORF.at

Fernsehen TVthek Radio Debatte Österreich Wetter IPTV Sport News ORF.at im Überblick

SLOVENCÍ

Vesti iz življenja slovenske narodne skupnosti

Glavna vest
„V ospredju naj bo, kar povezuje“

- ▶ Nadaljnja izbira
- ▶ Meldungen auf Deutsch

HRVATI

Aktualne informacije i ponude u internetu na hrvatskom jeziku

Top vist
Hrvatske mini-knjige za dicu

- ▶ Veća ponuda
- ▶ Meldungen auf Deutsch

MAGYAROK

Aktuális információk és internetes kínálat magyar nyelven

Fő híreink
Bécsbe került Ödön von Horváth tragédiája

- ▶ További kínálatunk
- ▶ Meldungen auf Deutsch

ČEŠI

Český život od vzdělávání až po umění a literaturu

Hlavní zpráva
První michelinský kuchař Pavel Pospíšil

- ▶ Další nabídka
- ▶ Meldungen auf Deutsch

SLOVÁCI

Správy o Slovákoch a udalostiach týkajúcich sa ich jazyka a kultúry

Hlavná správa
České Ozvěny | Slovenské Ozvěny | 11. októbra | o 13:05 hod. | ORF 2 Viedeň

- ▶ Ďalšia ponuka
- ▶ Meldungen auf Deutsch

ROMA

Nevipe pedar o Roma ando europitiko khetanipe | historija & identiteta

Top mejdinipe
Blumas deutsche Gypsy-Schlager

- ▶ Weitere Web-Angebote
- ▶ Aktueli Romani

DIVERSITÄT

News zu Themen der Interkultur und der Menschenrechte

Top-Meldung
Migrationsbewegungen halten für Jahrzehnte an

- ▶ Heimat Fremde Heimat
- ▶ Ethno-Tipps

Foreign ministry

tendency to favour English as a language of communication abroad, rather than German

'Es wäre erstrebenswert, würden alle nur noch auf Englisch verhandeln', meint [N. N.] vom Außenministerium - freilich nur ,aus Gründen der Sparsamkeit und Effektivität'. (*Die Presse*, 31.1.2007)

Austria's treaty of accession to the EU (1995):

Protocoll no. 10 „on the use of specifically Austrian expressions in the German language, within the framework of the European Union“

- lists 23 „typically Austrian expressions“ for foods
- must be included in German language acts of law of the EU
- to emphasize that Austrian Standard German is a variety of German in its own right

Thank you.