



YEN Youth of European Nationalities
JEV Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen
JCEE La Jeunesse des Communautés Ethniques Européennes
MHE Молодёжь Народностей Европы

*Living diversity:
Vielfalt leben!
Raznoobrazie!
Vivre la diversité!*

Bautzen, 19.10.2011

Resolution of the Youth of European Nationalities regarding the census in Albania, Serbia, Republic of Macedonia and Romania

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN), as representative umbrella organization of the youth of autochthonous national and ethnic minorities in Europe, with regard to the current context of census in Albania (1-21 October 2011), Serbia (1-15 October 2011), Republic of Macedonia (1-15 October 2011) and Romania (20-31 October 2011), would like to draw attention on the following important aspects:

YEN underlines that the Armâns from Romania, Albania and Republic of Macedonia define and identify themselves as belonging to an ethnic group distinct from the majority population or other ethnic groups, and they, like any other person, are entitled to ask the respect of their identity and consciousness.

With regard to this, community law states the right of individuals to decide freely and without any constraints their belonging to an ethnic group or to a majority, without any disadvantage that may result from such a choice or from the exercise of the related rights.

In this context, YEN believes that census data collection and tabulation should circumscribe in the principles of respect and promotion of diversity, pluralism, tolerance and nondiscrimination, which are imperative to ensure that all ethnic groups are granted the right to live without giving up that identity, without any discrimination between persons who identify themselves as belonging to an ethnic group or another.

Moreover, with regard to the census in Romania, it needs to be indicated that **the classification of ethnic and minority languages** – NELM – contains **18 ethnic groups** corresponding to a unique code (eg. Romanian – code 1000, Hungarian – code 1100, Roma – code 1200, German – code 1300, etc.), a category of “**other ethnic**” – code 3200 and “undeclared ethnic” – code 9999.

YEN underlines that in this classification, the Armâns/Aromanians are not mentioned as a distinct ethnic group, but as a subcategory of the Romanian ethnic group; therefore, at the data's final collection the Armans that declared themselves as such will be included in





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Romanian ethnic group and considered having a Romanian ethnic origin, despite their own declaration of belonging to a distinct ethnic group.

Furthermore, the situation of Armân people is equally problematic in Albania. During the communist period, many members of ethnic groups were forced by the regime to register as Albanian. Persons who state an ethnic origin different than the one registered in the civil status are subject to a 750 EUR (roughly 1000 \$) fine. This measure is obviously designed to discourage people from declaring themselves anything other than Albanian, thus violating their right to an ethnic identity.

The Armâns have their own ethnic identity expressed through culture, language, traditions - identity that they want to keep, express and promote and that must be respected especially through the legislative measures taken internally.

Therefore, to ensure the fundamental right to identity of the Armans, who expressly state an ethnic origin other than Romanian, Albanian, Macedonian as an act of assertion and affirmation of the ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic consciousness,

YEN urges responsible states

- to consider Armans as a distinct ethnic group and
- to include Armans as such in all documents and rules adopted regarding the census.

