**ANNEX V**

**Reply to paragraph 51 of the list of issues:**

*Information on the projects implemented by the Ministry of Culture regarding the Roma communities*

Between 2022-2023, the Ministry of Culture has administered numerous programmes and sessions for financial support of projects open to all ethnic groups in the country:

In accordance with the measures set out in Section II, p. 4 of the Priority "Culture", "Support of creative projects in the field of performing arts for the creation and dissemination of cultural product aimed at the Roma community, with the participation of representatives of the Roma community", in 2023, in the supported session for financial support of festivals in the field of professional theatre, during the festival „Forbidden for Adults", which took place in Smolyan, was presented a photo exhibition "Artists for Children" with the works of artists and children of Roma origin, who were participants in the Summer Theatre Academy for children at risk in the village of Shiroka Luka.

Тhe total number of supported projects for the creation and distribution of a stage product in 2022 was 184. For 2023 the number of supported projects in the field of stage art was 171: in the field of theater art - 75, in the field of dance art - 29, and in the field of musical art – 67. The number of sessions was 9, the number of given performances/concerts was 13,535, including persons from the Roma community.

With regard to the policies implemented by the National Culture Fund towards equality, inclusion and participation of Roma in 2023, the financial support for projects in the field of culture was aimed to increase the access to art, engage in the field of amateur art for integration and prevent the undesirable behavior, whilst prioritizing the implementation of measures in order to develop the community centers as centers of spiritual growth which would not only form a cultural identity but also create a knowledge-oriented culture.

The decentralization of cultural content that deliberately affects vulnerable groups was a priority in all the Culture Fund competition programs in 2022 and 2023.

Two of the annual competition programmes are directly related to the objectives set in the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of the Roma Community 2021-2030. These are the programmes aimed at socially engaged arts and amateur arts:

In 2023, projects funded through the programme “Socially engaging arts”, were implemented. The programme was delivered in two modules: “Campaigns to address a social issue through the arts” and “Working with the disadvantaged communities and groups”.

In 2022, a total of 267 applications were received for the two modules, of which 179 project proposals were submitted for the module “Campaign to address a social issue through the arts” and 88 – for the module “Working with the disadvantaged communities and groups”. Out of the 267 applications, 77 projects were funded. The program of “Socially engaging arts” supported projects in performing arts, music, visual arts and screen arts that implemented a creative process when working with communities and groups in disadvantaged situation as well as engaging them in projects related to ongoing social issues.

In 2023, 103 applicants participated in the competitive session, 36 of them were approved for funding of a total amount of BGN 489,719.

In 2022, the competition “Programme for a recovery and development of organizations in the field of amateur arts” was aimed at organizations actively working with amateur arts with a direct impact on equality, inclusion and participation of the Roma community. 241 candidates participated in the competition. Given the severely limited budget of National Fund for Culture for 2023, 19 projects were approved for funding amounting to BGN 5,475,693.

In the field of the movable cultural heritage, museums, art galleries and visual arts in which applications can only be made if the project is aimed at the representatives of different ethnic groups, including the Roma community, the Ministry of Culture annually finances applicants within the framework of competitive sessions, including the projects of representatives of the different ethnic groups in the country.

In the field of book publishing and the creation of literature, the Ministry of Culture annually finances projects in which the representatives of the country’s ethnic groups can participate within the competitive sessions. The financial support of both programs amounts BGN 600,000 per year which funds authors’ projects for literature and publishing books in the country.

For the programmes “Cultural entrepreneurship, heritage and cooperation” and “Improved awareness of arts and culture of ethnic and cultural minorities”, with a great focus on the Roma community, a budget of BGN 2,233,115 is foreseen.

The Ministry of Culture annually funds national and international events in which representatives of all communities in the country participate. In this way, the cultural diversity of the country is demonstrated and promoted. The "Festival of Ethnicities", which regularly receives funding throughout the programmе “Improved awareness of arts and culture of ethnic and cultural minorities”, is a remarkable illustration of the support given to the development of the country's multicultural environment.