



2021–2022

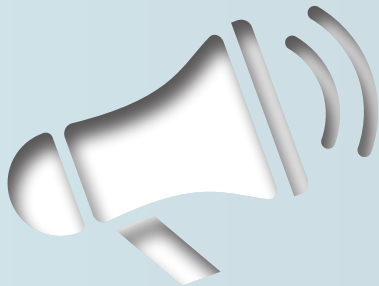
MINORITY GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

...the umbrella organisation
of more than 100 minority
organisations from
35 European countries

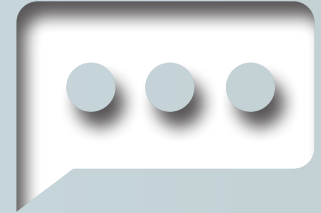


FUEN IS...

...the voice of the
minorities at international
organisations, the
European Union,
the Council of Europe,
the United Nations and the
Organization for Security
and Co-operation in Europe

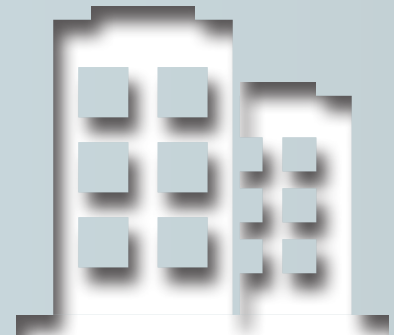


...a mutual support
community and
the main advocate
of minority rights
in Europe



...the largest and most
representative organisation
of Europe's autochthonous
national minorities,
nationalities and
language groups

We run three offices:
in Flensburg, Berlin
and Brussels.



MINORITY GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

Excitement, drama and unexpected turns of events – these are the main ingredients of all successful TV shows. Our organisation's 2021-2022 season would surely be a hit if it was on TV. But when these things happen in real life, to real people, it hits very different. Drama and tragedy can lead to despair, unexpected turns to failure, but on the other hand the excitement can also be so much rewarding in real life.

The effects and aftereffects of the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's unjustified and cruel war on Ukraine have forced the FUEN to change its plans several times and to reconsider its short-term priorities. With eight active member organisations in Ukraine, FUEN feels a special responsibility to help where it can.

Meanwhile, the European Union wanted to involve the citizens in defining its future. With the war, it suddenly became clear that Europe's future might not be one of peace and prosperity such as we aspired for. FUEN was heavily involved in the Conference on the Future of Europe, organizing an international conference and presenting a set of proposals for the improvement of the situation of the autochthonous national minorities and language groups.

Even though back in January 2021 the European Commission had decided not to initiate legal acts based on the Minority SafePack Initiative, the last year showed us that the story of our European Citizens' Initiative is far from over: Thanks to it, FUEN is now an indispensable actor when it comes to minority issues in Europe, be it the stakeholder meetings organized by the European Commission on geoblocking regulations, the new German government programme or the evaluation of the Council of Europe's minority conventions.

And despite all the tragedies and unexpected events, we are thankful that we were able to continue our work for the minorities in Europe by continuing our projects, organising the FUEN Congress 2021 in Trieste/Trst, Italy, and, after two postponements, being able to welcome the teams in Carinthia/Koroška, Austria, for EUROPEADA 2022, the European football championship of autochthonous minorities. Celebrating together the uniqueness of the minorities and the things that we have in common was the best way to end another season of FUEN. Goals were scored on the field, but, against all odds, we have also reached some of our goals.

Get ready, the new season – hopefully with less drama and more joy – starts in September 2022 in Berlin, with the FUEN Annual Congress 2022!

FUEN EVENT CALENDAR 2021–2022

22.-25.09.2021	Conference AGDM and Cultural Foundation of German Expellees – Wiesbaden, Germany
23.09.2021	Europe Talk with Delara Burkhardt MEP (SPD), “Our Baltic Sea Region – A Model for Europe?” – Online
24.09.2021	3rd Thematic Seminar of the Working Group for Turkish Minorities/Communities (TAG) – Online
27.-29.09.2021	Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Education – Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
30.09.2021	Presentation in the context of “Fremtidsfabrikken”, Sydslesvigsk Forening (SSF) – Flensburg, Germany
30.09.-03.10.2021	24 th AGSM Seminar at the Molise-Croatian minority –Molise, Italy
10.10.2021	Opening of the AGDM travelling exhibition in Croatia
14.-15.10.2021	5. Forum of the European Minority Regions: “Nordic diversity – a formula for economic growth?” – Helsinki/Helsingfors, Finland
18.10.2021	Dialogforum Norden Meeting – Sankelmark, Germany
19.10.2021	Council of Europe Conference “The Identity of National Minorities in Diverse Societies: European Perspectives” – Strasbourg, France
26.-28.10.2021	Western Balkans Project: Virtual Study Tour through Schleswig-Holstein – Kiel, Germany/hybrid
28.10.2021	Conference “Three decades of Aussiedler and minority policy – a success story in focus”, conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft – Online
28.10.2021	Presentation of the Minority Report 2021 Land Schleswig-Holstein – Kiel, Germany
29.10.2021	Visit to the German Museum North Schleswig – Sonderborg/Sonderburg, Denmark
04.-07.11.2021	30 th AGDM Annual Meeting – North Schleswig, Denmark
07.11.2021	Anniversary celebration 30 years AGDM – North Schleswig, Denmark
07.-09.11.2021	AGDM Youth Annual Conference – North Schleswig, Denmark
09.11.2021	1. Stakeholders' dialogue by the European Commission on access to audiovisual content across the EU – Brussels, Belgium
10.11.2021	European Affairs Committee of the Schleswig-Holstein Landtag – Kiel, Germany
11.11.2021	Working Meeting of the European Minority Organisations in the European Parliament – Brussels, Belgium
12.11.2021	MINDSET Conference on the EU's competences – Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca, Romania
18.-20.11.2021	Annual meeting of the Non-Kin-State WG at the North Frisian Minority – Dagebüll, Germany
22.11.2021	2. Stakeholders' dialogue by the European Commission on access to audiovisual content across the EU – Brussels, Belgium

02.12.2021	Presidium meeting – Flensburg, Germany/Online
02.-03.12.2021	Meeting with representatives of the minorities in the German-Danish borderland – Flensburg, Germany
02.12.2021	Meeting with Stefan Seidler (SSW), member of the German Bundestag – Flensburg, Germany
03.12.2021	Meeting with Johannes Callsen, Commissioner for Minorities in Schleswig-Holstein – Flensburg, Germany
03.12.2021	25 th anniversary of the European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI), discussion and ceremony – Flensburg, Germany
06.12.2021	Board meeting Minority Competence Network in Sankelmark, Germany
10.12.2021	Lecture on the FUEN at the educational seminar for teachers of the Selfgovernment of Germans in Hungary (LdU) – Online
11.12.2021	7 th Annual Meeting of the FUEN Turkish Minorities/Communities Working Group (TAG) – Online
10.01.2022	PETI Committee of the European Parliament on Turkish language teaching in pre-school in Greece – Strasbourg, France
12.01.2022	Meeting of the European Dialogue Forum – Online
20.01.2022	Participation in the Intergroup Session of the European Parliament – Strasbourg, France
02.02.2022	European Affairs Committee of the Schleswig-Holstein Landtag – Online
03.02.2022	Extraordinary Presidium Meeting – Online
17.02.2022	Debate on the situation of the Hungarian minority in Ukraine, European Parliament – Strasbourg, France
17.02.2022	Presentation Conference on the Future of Europe by FUEN at the EU Intergroup meeting – Strasbourg, France
22.02.2022	Participation Online Conference: “The Cuts in German Lessons for the German Minority in Poland and the Consequences”
28.02.2022	Meeting with the President of the organization “Assembly of Nationalities of Ukraine” – Berlin, Germany
01.03.2022	Meeting with the Foundation “Verbundenheit” – Berlin, Germany
03.03.2022	Extraordinary Presidium Meeting – Online
10.03.2022	Launch of the FUEN humanitarian aid campaign “Help, so we can help – Minorities for Ukraine”
15.03.2022	General Meeting Minority Competence Network – Online

21.03.2022	Presidium Meeting – Online
28.03.2022	Meeting of the Dialogue Forum Norden – Flensburg, Germany
28.03.2022	FUEN-Conference on the Future of Europe “Europe’s Cultural and Linguistic Diversity –Models and Challenges” – Flensburg, Germany
31.03.-01.04.2022	ECMI Conference “Minority Language Media” – Flensburg, Germany
01.04.2022	MINDSET Youth Conference – Marosvásárhely/Tîrgu Mureş, Romania
04.04.2022	Visit to the exhibition “What does minority mean here?” in the German Bundestag and panel discussion – Berlin, Germany
04.04.2022	Meeting with Member of the Bundestag Stefan Seidler (SSW) – Berlin, Germany
05.04.2022	Meeting with Member of the Bundestag Sönke Rix (SPD) – Berlin, Germany
05.04.2022	Meeting with Member of the Bundestag Petra Nicolaisen (CDU) – Berlin, Germany
06.04.2022	Meeting with Member of the Bundestag Feliz Polat (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen) – Berlin, Germany
06.04.2022	Meeting with Member of the Bundestag Sandra Bubendorfer-Licht (FDP)
07.04.2022	Participation in the Intergroup Meeting of the European Parliament – Strasbourg, France
08.04.2022	Panel discussion on the International Roma Day in the Austrian Parliament –Vienna, Austria
08.04.2022	Preparatory meeting for EUROPEADA 2022 in Carinthia/Koroška, Austria
11.04.2022	Minority Monitor publishes case study on German-language education in Poland
13.04.2022	Vote on the MSPI resolution in the German-speaking Parliament of Belgium – Eupen, Belgium
26.04.2022	BDV Annual Reception – Berlin, Germany
02.05.2022	UN Regional Forum on Minority Issues – Vienna, Austria
03.- 05.05.2022	Visit to the organization “Macedonian Movement to Promote Mother Language”/”NPO Krste Misirkov” – Central Macedonia, Greece
05.05.2022	Meeting with the Chairperson of the Federation of Greek Societies of Ukraine, Alexandra Protsenko-Pichagi – Thessaloniki, Greece
09.05.2022	Meeting with UEFA President Aleksander Čeferin on possible cooperation at EUROPEADA – Vienna, Austria
13.05.2022	Visit of the Song Contest “Liet International” – Tønder, Denmark
16.05.2022	2nd draw for the groups of EUROPEADA 2022 – Carinthia/Koroška, Austria
16.05.2022	Meeting with the new Minorities Commissioner of the Federal Government of Germany, Natalie Pawlik – Berlin, Germany
16-17.05.2022	Goethe Institute Coordination meeting – Berlin, Germany
18.05.2022	Film presentation “Think Across Borders” at the Minority Competence Network – Sankelmark, Germany

18.05.2022.	Meeting with CDU/CSU group in Bundestag – Berlin, Germany
23.05.2022.	Online discussion “30 years of German-Kazakh Bilateral Relations – Role and Perspectives of the German Minority”
31.05.2022	Expert meeting of the Education WG on online platform for minority education – Online
31.05.2022	Participation in the meeting of the European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism (ECSPM)
03.-05.06.2022	Build Yourself! training – Budapest, Hungary
08.06.2022	Meeting of the European Dialogue Forum – Online
09.06.2022	Ladins and Hungarians in Slovakia as guests of the European Parliament’s Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, Ethnic Groups and Languages – Brussels, Belgium
09.06.2022	Opening of the AGDM touring exhibition in Ljubljana, Slovenia
15.06.2022	Meeting with State Secretary Juliane Seifert – Berlin, Germany
17.-19.06.2022	Build Yourself! training – Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca, Romania
20.06.2022	Meeting with Member of the Bundestag Simona Koß (SPD) – Berlin, Germany
21.06.2022	Meeting with Member of the Bundestag Stefan Seidler (SSW) – Berlin, Germany
25.06. - 03.07.2022	European Football Championship of the autochthonous national minorities EUROPEADA – Carinthia/Koroška, Austria
27.06.2022	MINDSET Conference on the role of traditional values in the future of Europe – Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca, Romania
07.07.2022	Meeting of the Minorities Council – Berlin, Germany
08.07.2022	Visit of the youth organisation BJDM from Poland – Berlin, Germany
14.07.2022	Discussion “Facts about our Country” by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe – Online
16.-17.07.2022	AGDM Youth Training
25.-26.07.2022	Study visit to the “Montenegrin Community” ZCGA – Elbasan, Albania
20.-21.08.2022	Open Day at the BMI – Berlin, Germany
31.08.-03.09.2022	Annual Conference of the Non-Kin-State Working Group – Velingrad, Bulgaria

EUROPEADA 2022

On 25 June, after six years of preparation and two postponements due to the pandemic, the EUROPEADA could finally begin – a week of football in Carinthia/Koroška, characterised by intercultural exchange, exciting matches and emotional moments.

More than 550 sports-crazy participants from eleven European countries had come together in Carinthia/Koroška near the Slovenian minority in Austria between 25 June – 3 July 2022 to play out the European champion of the autochthonous national minorities among a total of 23 teams. At twelve different venues in the region, one of which was in Slovenia (Prevalje), football was played on the pitch at a high level.

EUROPEADA, the European Football Championship of the autochthonous, national minorities is a major sporting event that combines the fair competition and enthusiasm of a sports festival with the concerns of the autochthonous, national minorities. The meeting and exchange of the minorities and the public promotion are in the centre of attention. The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) organised EUROPEADA in cooperation with the Slovenian Sports Association from Klagenfurt, the Council of Carinthian Slovenes, the province of Carinthia and the Republic of Slovenia.



At the opening reception, FUEN President MEP Loránt Vincze noted that the EUROPEADA is the biggest event organised by FUEN, which brings all of the umbrella organisation's main goals together with the teams proudly representing different languages and minority groups. "UEFA's letter of support shows that FUEN is on the right track with EUROPEADA. We do not expect any hate speech or xenophobia at the games, as EUROPEADA is about the love of sport, fair play and mutual respect. We want to feel good together and send a message to the stadiums across Europe", said the FUEN President.



“EUROPEADA connects in many ways – we noticed this every day during the preparations,” said Marko Oraže from the local organising committee of the Carinthian Slovenes. The community in the region has come together through the preparations: from sports clubs to municipalities to companies and institutions, many actors were involved and pulled together.



UEFA sends a message of support

EUROPEADA's significance was also recognized by the UEFA. After a personal meeting with the FUEN and the local organisers, which took place in Vienna, UEFA President Aleksander Čeferin sent a letter of support before the start of the tournament. The president noted that UEFA is delighted to see the continued and growing success of EUROPEADA and wished every success for the event.

“At UEFA, we share a deep common commitment with FUEN to the motto you have chosen for the tournament “TOGETHER UNIQUE / SKUPNO ENKRATNI / GEMEINSAM EINZIGARTIG”. As discussed at our meeting in May of this year, UEFA looks forward to further engaging with organisations such as FUEN to advance our common objectives related equality, diversity and inclusion. We are encouraged to see how FUEN is harnessing the power of football, and in the case of EUROPEADA a major football event, not only as a demonstration of fair competition, respect and sporting enthusiasm, but also as a platform to showcase and promote the values and concerns of the autochthonous national minorities” – said the letter.



“This event reaches far beyond the sporting, footballing sphere. All the cultural associations in the region are involved and it will enrich everyone in Carinthia,” said Peter Kaiser, Governor of Carinthia/Koroska. “The beauty of EUROPEADA is that it brings different people and nationalities together in reality, not just on an abstract political level,” said Vesna Humar, State Secretary at the Office for Slovenes Abroad.





The week-long football festival with many exciting matches, emotional moments and fantastic intercultural exchange came to an end on Saturday evening with the finals in the women's and men's tournaments. The finals were close, hard-fought and loud, as both final matches at the Welzenegg Sports Park in Klagenfurt/Celovec were decided in the last moments. In the end, the hosting Carinthian Slovenes' Team Koroška, rejoiced in the women's competition, while the South Tyroleans were the winners in the men's competition.

It was not until the 88th minute that Jonas Clementi from Südtirol scored the decisive 1:0 against the Carinthian Slovenes at the Welzenegg Sports Park in Klagenfurt/Celovec, who did not manage to equalise

in the final minutes of the game. The team of German speakers in Italy thus won the European Football Championship for minorities for the fabulous fourth time in a row. They had already lifted the trophy in Switzerland in 2008, in Lausitz/Germany in 2012 and in their South Tyrolean homeland in 2016.

The women's final initially remained goalless and was only decided in a penalty shoot-out: After a 4:2 score, the players from "Team Koroška" won against the so far undefeated South Tyroleans.

The sporting programme was accompanied by political and cultural events, such as concert evenings with local music groups, panel discussions on minority issues, choir performances. The Cultural Day in the center of Bleiburg/Pliberk, where all teams had the opportunity to present their minority on the big stage was one of the highlights of the event and offered many goosebump moments. Here, EUROPEADA turned into a true





THIS IS FUEN – an exhibition of our 73 year history

How did FUEN actually come into being? And what were the milestones in the 73-year eventful history of the umbrella organisation of the autochthonous national minorities and language communities of Europe? All this was shown in an exhibition which celebrated its premiere in Carinthia/Koroška as part of the EUROPEADA and was on display at different locations during the events. The traveling exhibition was first presented in Klagenfurt/Celovec, followed by Eberndorf/Dobrla vas, Rückersdorf/Rikarja vas, Bleiburg/Pliberk and Sankt Kanzian am Klopeiner See/Skocjan. On 32 large panels with texts and numerous photos, viewers were guided through more than seven decades of successful minority work and got an impression of the themes and ideals for which FUEN stands.



festival of cultural diversity. In the run-up to the EUROPEADA, many school classes in the Carinthia region had worked on various projects related to intercultural understanding, sport and linguistic diversity and presented some of their results at the Cultural Day. Hundreds of spectators – footballers and local people alike – cheered them on as they were awarded medals for their efforts. After that, the stage belonged to FUEN Vice-President Gösta Toft and Vice-President Angelika Mlinar and in the following the 23 teams presenting a wide range of performances, including videos, dance, music, traditional costumes and chants.

“The long wait was worth it,” agreed the organisers from FUEN and the local organising committee of the EUROPEADA in Carinthia/Koroška – because the tournament was actually supposed to take place there in 2020, but went on hold due to the pandemic. The event clearly lived up to the hype and expectations, and it was a week-long celebration of diversity under the motto “TOGETHER UNIQUE / SKUPNO ENKRATNI / GEMEINSAM EINZIGARTIG”.



FUEN ANNUAL CONGRESS

2021



After a year in which we were not able to organize a proper congress due to the pandemic, we were happy that in September 2021 most of us could finally meet face to face in Trieste/Trst, Italy, at the Annual Congress hosted by the Confederation of Slovene Organizations (SSO).

Trieste/Trst is the capital of the autonomous region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, currently home to 200,000 people. Next to the Italian majority population, the Slovenes represent the largest minority community. About 80,000 Slovenes live in the entire region. From 9th to 12th September more than 140 participants from 20 countries, representing 41 minorities gathered here at the 65. FUEN Congress to exchange views on current developments in minority issues, joined remotely by the ones who could not be present due to the restrictions still in place.



The congress panels covered topics such as the future of cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe, the analysis of the impact of the Minority SafePack Initiative, minority education, the situation of the Slovenes in Italy. FUEN's member organisations also presented their ongoing and upcoming projects.

"This was an extraordinary period which required extraordinary efforts and flexibility in our organisation" – said in his annual report FUEN President Loránt Vincze at the Assembly of Delegates. Regarding the Minority SafePack Initiative, he noted: "Today, the issue of autochthonous minorities is better known than it was a decade ago.





We are visible, we are on the map. Even if this is not yet a moment of full celebration, it is certainly a moment to be proud of these achievements, and we are determined to build on them in the future."

Vice Presidents Gösta Toft, Vladimir Ham, Angelika Mlinar, Halit Habip Oglu, Bahne Bahnsen, Daniel Alfreider and YEN President Andor Barabás presented their activity reports to the Assembly. Secretary General Éva Péntzes praised the FUEN team for their successful efforts in reshaping the organisation's activities, the Presidium members for the good collaboration and thanked the member organisations and the organisers of the Congress.



Fernand de Varennes receives FUEN Prize 2021

"Minority rights are human rights – these must be put on the same level and respected" – with this appeal Fernand de Varennes addressed the audience in his acceptance speech after he was awarded 2021's FUEN Prize.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues is considered one of the leading experts in the field of minority rights. His appointment as Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues by the United Nations was a logical consequence of his successful work, as FUEN Vice-President Angelika Mlinar pointed out in her laudation.

Dr Fernand de Varennes is a Canadian citizen and teaches at several universities: he is a lecturer at the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and the National University of Ireland-Galway (Ireland) as well as a visiting professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong (China). He has published more than 200 works in 30 languages. FUEN appreciates the work he has done as an academic expert on minority issues.

The FUEN Prize is a special honour for the extraordinary dedication and great commitment to the autochthonous national minorities and language groups in Europe. Launched in 2019, the award has now been formally presented for the second time at the FUEN Congress 2021.

The FUEN Prize 2021 is entitled „Zwei Brücken“ (engl. two bridges) and symbolises one of FUEN's guiding principles: minorities are bridge builders. The work of art, made of cast resin, gold leaf and wood, was produced by the Flensburg artist Simone Bruhn, who belongs to the Danish minority in Germany.



The speakers of the working groups presented their activity reports, Bahne Bahnsen presented the Financial Report, while the MSPI legal expert Thomas Hieber talked about the reasons why the Citizens' Committee and FUEN applied for the annulment of the European Commission's decision on the Minority SafePack Initiative.

At the Assembly, a Main Resolution was adopted on the future of autochthonous national and linguistic minorities in the European Union. Welcoming the Conference on the Future of Europe as a much-needed process of participatory democracy and reiterating its strong disappointment regarding the European Commission's dismissal of the Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative, the resolution asks the Conference on the Future of Europe to expressly include in the Treaties of the European Union the protection of national and linguistic minorities and their cultures and languages as an unambiguous competence and obligation for the EU and also that the respect of the Copenhagen Criteria is not limited to accession countries but is an obligation for all Member States. The resolution calls on the European Commission for a set of measures, including:

- » To fully incorporate the monitoring of the situation of national and linguistic minorities within its rule-of-law mechanism;
- » to draw up, in line with the request of the European Parliament a common framework of EU minimum standards for the protection of rights of persons belonging to minorities, which are strongly embedded in a legal framework guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights throughout the EU;
- » to initiate and engage in a mutually reinforcing cooperation with the Council of Europe in the area of protecting the rights of national and linguistic minorities,
- » to take urgent action for the protection of the EU's endangered minority languages
- » to issue a strategy for the protection of its citizens belonging to national and linguistic minorities





CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE



What ideas do Europeans have for their Europe of the future? Last year, the EU sought answers to this question in the framework of the “Conference on the Future of Europe”, a broad-based campaign for citizen participation. The aim was to get Europeans actively involved in shaping EU policy. No doubt FUEN saw this as a welcome opportunity to raise the voice of minorities once again, following the regrettable rejection of the Minority SafePack Initiative by the EU Commission.

So what can the European Union do to ensure that its minorities enjoy better rights in the future? FUEN sought answers to this question from members of minorities across Europe from autumn 2021 to spring 2022. The result: the “Future Manifesto” - eight concrete wishes and demands of the European minorities for their Europe of the future. The spectrum ranges from tangible political frameworks for the protection of minorities to the abolition of geo-

blocking and the establishment of a centre for linguistic diversity. We uploaded these proposals on the EU’s official project platform and promoted their public support in the form of a small campaign.

Download me:

THE FUTURE MANIFESTO



To ensure that the demands of minorities were presented in a coordinated way and with the greatest possible impact, the European Parliament's Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages (which is co-chaired by FUEN President MEP Loránt Vincze) has initiated a dialogue with the major international organisations with decades of experience in the field of minority protection. The Federal Union of European Nationalities worked together with the European Language Equality Network (ELEN), the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD), the Coppieters Foundation and the Minority Dailies Association (MIDAS) in several work meetings and the proposals of the organizations were presented in a press conference in the European Parliament and at the February meeting of the Intergroup.

On 28 March 2022, we hosted our own Future Conference in Flensburg in cooperation with the minorities in the German-Danish borderland. On the topic of "Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity - models and challenges", representatives from politics and society as well as from numerous minority associations discussed the relevance of the German-Danish minority model in the European context. How can this best-practice model inspire the EU and its member states to find practicable solutions for minority issues throughout Europe? It became clear that existing models can never serve as a blueprint, as the regional context is crucial. But as a source of inspiration, well-functioning minority models should be presented to the widest possible public, which is why events like this are so important.

The conference was also marked by the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine. Aminata Touré, Vice-President of the Schleswig-Holstein Parliament,

emphasised that this once again showed that minority policy is always also peace policy. "We have to counter this with values, ideas and concrete proposals on how it is possible for different people and nationalities to live together," she demanded, calling the proposals developed by the minorities at the conference "active peace work".

The "Future Manifesto" was also presented at the Flensburg conference - as a clear work order to the EU on how minority rights can remain more than just an empty phrase and be implemented concretely.

"Minorities are an added value for our society. They must be actively involved in shaping the future of Europe, because all Europeans benefit from this."

Johannes Callsen, Commissioner for Minorities in Schleswig-Holstein



We were able to achieve a partial success: The official final report of the Conference on the Future of Europe mentions the protection of Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity and our proposal for the establishment of a European Centre for Linguistic Diversity is recommended.

Help,
so we can help!



HUMANITARIAN AID CAMPAIGN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



The war has changed the lives of the people of Ukraine from one day to another. All nationalities of Ukraine suffer because of the Russian invasion. Besides their lives being in constant danger, they often lack the most basic things needed for survival like water, food, heating, or electricity. They spend nights in shelters in deplorable conditions. No jobs, no schools, no security. Millions of people have fled the country, trying to seek refuge in the bordering countries and in Western Europe, but the majority stays.

FUEN has eight member organisations in Ukraine, and we feel a strong solidarity with them and with all people of Ukraine. While FUEN's basic work is to secure the rights of minorities – such as education in their mother tongue and the preservation of their own culture and identity – we realise that all Ukrainian citizens are suffering in this situation. And we want to help them all. For this reason, we have launched the humanitarian aid campaign "Help so we can help! Minorities for Ukraine" and asked member organisations, partners and friends to support Ukrainians in need with a donation.

We are happy to announce that more than 10,000 euros were collected, which we handed over to our partner in the fundraising campaign, the Ukrainian Red Cross. The donations will be used to help the residents of small towns near Kyiv, Buchi and Irpin. These towns were the last line of defense in front of the capital in March and were under occupation for several months. The work of the Ukrainian Red Cross here includes repair work in children's institutions, where windows and doors were damaged during the fighting, and the repair of broken heating networks in medical institutions. They are also helping to solve the heat issue in houses, which, with the onset of autumn, became acute, as private households of low-income families need metal stoves.

FUEN is in permanent contact with its member organisations from Ukraine, we had several discussions and meetings with them, and we are working with the Red Cross Ukraine. Vice President Gösta Toft flew to Thessaloniki to have a face-to-face meeting with the leader of the Mariupol Greeks, President Loránt Vincze visited the Ukrainian border with Hungary and Romania, and we also used EUROPEADA to raise awareness and collect donations for Ukrainians.

MINORITY SAFEPAK INITIATIVE

The main project of the FUEN for the last eight years, the Minority SafePack Initiative gave FUEN a new perspective, a new visibility, and support and solidarity from all corners of Europe, which came after the European Commission's regretful decision not to initiate legislative acts based on our proposals. Looking back on the January 2021 decision now, it doesn't feel like the end of the road for the European Citizens' Initiative demanding protection and promotion for Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity, but the beginning of something even greater. Right after the decision we were overwhelmed by the support coming from all parts of Europe, and while we were preparing our request of annulment of the Commission decision at the European Court of Justice, these supportive voices only grew stronger.

Perhaps the biggest gamechanger of this period was the new German government's coalition agreement, which explicitly mentions the MSPI. The document, presented by the new government of SPD, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen and FDP in November 2021, contains passages on minority protection as well as a clear commitment to the MSPI. Specifically, it states:

"The national minorities – the Danish minority, the Frisian ethnic group, the German Sinti and Roma as well as the Sorbian people – are a self-evident part of our diverse society. The same applies to the cultural heritage of the expellees, ethnic German repatriates and late repatriates." (S. 118)

"We proactively support the Minority SafePack Initiative and are implementing it in Germany. We are expanding projects for the preservation and development of minorities, their languages and culture." (S. 122)

FUEN welcomed this gratifyingly explicit commitment to minorities, linguistic diversity and the planned expansion of

the Federal Republic's involvement. "We are pleased that the new government coalition in Germany is committed to the proactive implementation of the MSPI in the coalition agreement. This support from Germany is an important step towards European minority protection and gives us hope that there will now also be movement on the issue at the European level," said FUEN President Loránt Vincze.

And movement there was, even if it was not spectacular: FUEN got invited by the European Commission to take part in the stakeholder dialogue about geo-blocking. One of the points of the MSPI which FUEN campaigned for was to improve cross-border access to audio-visual content, which would greatly benefit the minority communities. And now we were suddenly sitting at the table at a series of meetings with the major online broadcasters, content providers and content-makers to present our point of view and represent the interests of the autochthonous national minorities regarding video streaming and access to online content of TV broadcasters. FUEN was represented at the meetings by Vice President Angelika Mlinar. This invitation shows that FUEN is now viewed by the Commission as a legitimate and essential partner in all European issues concerning the interests of minorities.

Two regional governments also took a step forward regarding minority protection in the EU: in September 2021, the regional government of the Province of Fryslân expressed its support for the MSPI in a statement, while in March 2022 the Parliament of the German-speaking Community of East Belgium voted a resolution of support. In a video conference with the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, which took place in January 2022, the Minister President of Schleswig-Holstein, Daniel Günther called for greater protection and promotion of minorities and their languages throughout Europe.

FORUM OF EUROPEAN MINORITY REGIONS 2021



Our fifth Forum of European Minority Regions was held from 14 October 2021 to 15 October 2021 in Helsinki, Finland. Entitled “Nordic Diversity - a Formula for Economic Growth?”, representatives of regions and minorities as well as policy makers and academics presented and discussed linguistic, political and economic framework conditions in the Nordic countries and their transferability to other regions. 31 regions were represented, including Scotland, Lapland, Balearic Islands, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Åland and Grisons for the first time.

An important conclusion of the Forum was that minority and regional languages are a valuable asset that should be promoted, as there is a proven economic added value of languages in cross-border cooperation as well as in the labour market. The presentations on Autonomous Regions in the North - Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Åland - which are all self-governing, were followed with great interest.



The aim of the Forum is to raise the European Union's awareness of the concerns of minorities in European regions, to talk about the importance of regionalism in terms of minority representation and participation, to promote cooperation among minority regions and thus to support partnerships in the regions. The Forum also wants to contribute to the emergence of new, innovative ideas and thus to promote economic and cultural development in the regions where minorities live.

The location was deliberately chosen because Finland, with its two official national languages, is a good example of how to not only respect minorities but also promote them.

WESTERN BALKANS: Virtual study tour of Schleswig-Holstein

Between 2016-2018 FUEN and its partners ran the project entitled Minorities in Western Balkans, which aimed to present the successful minority protection framework in Schleswig-Holstein to people working in this field in the Western Balkan states and implement the good practices there. During the pandemic, face-to-face meetings with citizens of non-EU-member states became virtually impossible. Nevertheless, the sharing of good practices and knowledge has to continue, and this is why FUEN has decided to organize the Virtual Study Tour of Schleswig-Holstein between 26-28 October 2021.

As the continuation of the Western Balkans project, with the guidance of FUEN and GIZ, the study tour took the local level public officials and representatives of NGOs, coming from ethnically diverse municipalities from different Western Balkan states connected via a livestream on a three-day virtual visit to the offices of diversity governance institutions and structures, NGOs and minority organisations in Schleswig-Holstein.

BUILD YOURSELF!

After two years of online trainings in English and German, FUEN's capacity-building trainings finally returned in form of events with physical participation in June 2022. Representatives of the nationalities in Hungary as well as Hungarians from Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine and Serbia took part in two Hungarian-language training sessions in Budapest and Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár/Klausenburg. Courses on

organisational and political communication, new media, presentation skills and many more were on the table, along with a discussion with the FUEN President.



MINORITY PROTECTION IN GERMANY AND IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

FUEN took part in several conferences and meetings on the topic of minority protection in Germany and in the land of Schleswig-Holstein:

- » in October, Vice Presidents Daniel Alfreider and Angelika Mlinar took part in the conference Three Decades of Resettler and Minority Policy, organized by Deutschen Gesellschaft.
- » in October, the Schleswig-Holstein state government presented the Minority Report 2021. Vice President Gösta Toft represented FUEN at the meeting of the Landtag's European Affairs Committee evaluating the reports.
- » FUEN's delegation participated in April in a panel discussion organised by the Bundestag on the minorities in Germany.
- » In May, FUEN President Loránt Vincze and Secretary General Éva Péntzes met new German Commissioner for Minorities Natalie Pawlik in Berlin.
- » In July, the Minorities Council in the Berlin Bundestag, representatives of Germany's four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups, the Minderheitensekretariat and FUEN met to discuss the upcoming FUEN Congress in Berlin



FUEN IS THE NUMBER ONE ADVOCATE FOR MINORITY INTERESTS IN EUROPE

In close cooperation with international organisations, states and regions, FUEN endeavours to highlight minority issues in Europe's multi-level political system. Relying on its many years of experience and its large network, FUEN encourages the relevant stakeholders to maintain a sustainable minority policy. FUEN has participatory status at the Council of Europe and consultative status at the United Nations.

FUEN demands that the Council of Europe's conventions, the recommendations of the OSCE and the UN conventions be taken seriously and updated to meet contemporary needs.

The FUEN is a regular attendant of the Minority Intergroup meetings in the European Parliament, of the PACE and the UN's annual Minority Forums, as well as the relevant institutions inside the OSCE. The FUEN regularly submits relevant information and data about the situation of national minorities in Europe to all bodies involved in minority protection.

Minority Intergroup

FUEN was represented at many meetings of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament by its Vice Presidents and staff members. In his quality of co-chair of the Intergroup, the President of FUEN, MEP Loránt Vincze made numerous interventions and contributions to the cause of minorities. The Intergroup

initiated dialogue and was a centerpiece in the efforts to make the demands of minority organisations visible in the debate on the Future of Europe. The UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, high representatives of the CoE and Commissioners involved in topics related to minority topics as well as numerous minority representatives were guests of the Intergroup.



UN Regional Forum on Minority Issues

In October 2021, FUEN President MEP Loránt Vincze took part in the UN European Regional Forum on conflict prevention and the protection of the human rights of minorities, where he formulated specific recommendations, including a minority protection framework in the EU and strengthening

the collaboration between the EU and the Council of Europe regarding the Framework Convention and the Language Charter. At the 2022 Forum, held in May in Vienna, he completed this list with the recommendations that the EU should maintain the legal requirements of the Copenhagen criteria concerning minority protection vis-à-vis its Member States following accession too and with regard to all Member States; and that the EU should strengthen the integration of the promotion and protection of autochthonous minority and regional languages into its policy on multilingualism and linguistic diversity.



Council of Europe

“A new generation of minority rights instrument is needed. This should be on the agenda of the Council of Europe as soon as possible and should address individuals and community rights instead of state interests and it should promote best practices in this field including successful autonomy arrangements in Europe”, said FUEN President MEP Loránt Vincze at the closing conference of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in October 2021, “The identity of national minorities in diverse societies: European perspectives”.

Conference on International Romani Day in Vienna

“We have to admit that the first decade of the EU Roma Strategy did not visibly improve the situation of Roma. We need to do much more in the interest of Roma, for example by relying on best practices,” said FUEN President MEP Loránt Vincze in the Austrian Parliament, where he took part in a panel discussion organised on the International Roma Day. The FUEN President was invited to Vienna by the President of the Austrian Parliament, Wolfgang Sobotka to take part in the event at which experts of the topic focused on the goals of the new EU framework for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma.

In a meeting with Wolfgang Sobotka, the FUEN President presented the Minority SafePack Initiative and agreed on the need for closer cooperation between Central and Eastern European Member States to protect Roma and other autochthonous minority communities.



FUEN CONDEMNS THE DISCRIMINATION OF GERMAN CHILDREN IN POLAND

Unfortunately, one of the hottest topics of 2022 regarding minority policies was the discriminatory legal acts adopted in the Republic of Poland. The Federal Union of European Nationalities repeatedly and strongly condemned these procedures and the rhetoric accompanying them, which gravely harm the whole German minority in Poland and especially the children.

Despite strong opposition, on 17 December 2021 the Polish Sejm adopted an amendment to the 2022 Budget Act, which provides a significant cut of PLN 39.8 million (about 10 million euros) in educational grants for minority language teaching. The Polish Senate proposed an amendment that would have restored the funds, but to no prevail: this amendment was rejected on 27 January 2022.

On 4 February 2022 it became obvious that this action was meant to affect the teaching of German as a minority language: on this date, the Polish Minister of Education and Science Przemysław Czarnek published the amendments to the regulation on teaching minority languages, in which a paragraph about language classes in minority languages was changed from "to the extent of 3 hours per week", to "to the extent of 3 hours per week and, in the case of pupils belonging to the German minority, 1 hour per week".

FUEN considers this a clear case of discrimination against the German minority and children belonging to the German community. This amendment introduces a dangerous double standard, which is in contradiction to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Poland's own Law on National and Ethnic Minorities, and, most importantly, the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, an international act signed and ratified by Poland.

FUEN finds it incomprehensible that a national minority is deprived of the means to acquire its mother tongue and thus the basis for the maintenance and development of its identity. FUEN believes that the rights and funding of minority groups living in Poland should not be negatively affected due to ambitions aiming more support for Polish communities abroad, and the rights and future of children should never be put in jeopardy due to political reasons.

FUEN reiterates its continuous support for the German minority in Poland, continues to work on finding a solution to this problem by all means at its disposal and addressed and will continue to address this matter in political discussions at the highest level.



FUEN PHOTO CALENDAR 2022

One of the most important roles of the FUEN is to make minorities visible. Another important task is to facilitate collaboration between minorities, and to make them know and understand each other better. With the FUEN Photo Calendar we aim to take steps in this direction.

With the calendar, we plan on celebrating different aspects of minority life – in the context in which our lives are defined by our past, present and hopefully, our future too. Our traditions, arts, sport, personalities, events and our common goals all define who we are and who we want to be.

Having this in mind, starting with 2021 the FUEN Calendars present each year one of these defining elements of the minorities. For 2021, we chose folk costumes as the theme.

For 2022, we decided to showcase an important part of the cultural added value of minorities in our societies, namely contemporary paintings. 12 artists belonging to minority communities from different parts of Europe are presented in this prestige format calendar.

For 2023, football will be the main topic of the calendar, in which we will present the emotions of EUROPEADA through 12 of the participating teams at 2022's football championship of European nationalities.

To find out more about the artist and the minorities they represent, check out the FUEN Calendar 2022:





WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP OF GERMAN MINORITIES (AGDM)

For FUEN's oldest and largest working group, the AGDM, the year 2021 was not only marked by the 30th anniversary of its foundation, but also by the persistent Corona pandemic, which continued to grip the world tightly. The ongoing pandemic continued to create unusual working circumstances, especially a lack of face-to-face encounters with the people who are at the heart of our work. We have tried to overcome these circumstances through regular online exchanges with our affiliates. In two spring months, we had more frequent exchanges with young people through the continuation of the training series "AGDM Academy: Generation Future", the content of which was designed according to the wishes of our young people. Our travelling exhibition "In Two Worlds. 25 German Stories. German Minorities present themselves" was reopened and shown in Pécs (Fünfkirchen) in Hungary in June and in Osijek (Esseg) in Croatia in October after a long break.

Fortunately, we were able to hold our long-awaited AGDM Annual Conference and Youth Conference in Northern Schleswig, in Denmark in presence at the beginning of November 2021. In addition, we were also able to hold our anniversary celebration in Northern Schleswig and thus again convey a firm and good sense of community.

“Minorities abroad are invaluable for Germany” - FUEN BundesTalks, Part 2

There must be no reduction in funding for the German minorities abroad. Their function as bridge builders in the European context is too important, emphasised all the candidates for the Bundestag who sat on the virtual podium at the FUEN BundesTalks on 23. August 2021.



The second edition of the debate organised by the FUEN in the run-up to the Bundestag elections focused on the parties' views on the role and future of German minorities abroad. How should they be supported in the future? What role should they play in the context of European integration? And how can the German minorities living abroad gain more presence in federal politics? These and other questions were addressed by six politicians in an online discussion round. The invitation was accepted by Eckhard Pöls (CDU), Dietmar Nietan (SPD), Manuel Sarrazin (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen), Peter Heide (FDP), Simone Barrientos (Die Linke) and Sybilla Nitsch (SSW).

Video here:



AGDM meeting at the FUEN Congress 2021

On 10 September 2021 a work-meeting of the AGDM, chaired by the AGDM spokesperson Bernard Gaida, was held in Trieste, Italy, during the FUEN Congress 2021.



Representatives of AGDM member organisations from Hungary, Romania, Poland, Denmark, „ Croatia, Slovakia, Italy and France participated. Participants from Latvia, Russia, Serbia, Kazakhstan, Georgia and the Czech Republic, who were connected online, were also able to report on their activities.

The meeting focused on the exchange of information about the situation of the German minorities on site. Past and future activities of the AGDM were also discussed. All in all, it was a very informative meeting at which some interesting and important points were discussed.

Homeland Expellees and Homeland Remainers met in Wiesbaden

From 22nd to 24th September 2021, representatives of the organisations of German expellees after World War Two and German minorities from Eastern Europe and Baltics met in Wiesbaden at the invitation of the Cultural Foundation of German Expellees and the AGDM for the conference “Homeland Expellees and Homeland Remainers – Two Sides of the Same Medal”.

Bernard Gaida, spokesperson of the AGDM, called the expellees and those who had remained in their homeland a community of destiny. Both sides had to work together at eye level to achieve common goals.

During the conference, a discussion took place with the Hessian Minister of the Interior, Peter Beuth. The Minister emphasised the importance of strengthening youth work and its cross-border expansion in cooperation with the Cultural Foundation and AGDM, and how he supports the MSPI initiative to create standards for dealing with minorities at the European level.



AGDM Annual Conference and Celebration of 30 Years of AGDM

Intensive working sessions, lively exchange and a festive evening programme: the annual conference of the Working Group of German Minorities AGDM from 4th to 7th November in Northern Schleswig, the home of the German minority in Denmark, was a complete success.

For the past 10 years, the meetings have been held in Berlin, so the on-site visit to Northern Schleswig provided a new setting that gave all participants welcome insights into the real life of the minority there – with visits to a rowing club, the German grammar school in Apenrade, the German Museum in Sonderburg and the celebrations of “German Day”, which is held annually in early November in Tingleff. In this context, Daniel Günther, Prime minister of Schleswig-Holstein, emphasised in his speech the necessity of anchoring minority rights at the European level. Living together the way it is done in

the German-Danish borderland is “not a matter of course in Europe”. “That is why we will continue to push for Europe to take responsibility for minorities and support the Minority SafePack Initiative, which has been signed by millions”.

On 6 November, the 30th founding anniversary of the AGDM was celebrated. The special role of the AGDM for the German minorities abroad in the last 30 years was acknowledged in his speech by the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities, Prof. Bernd Fabritius.



Future-oriented, with many intensive discussions and a strategy lab, the AGDM Youth Conference took shape

The 2nd Youth Conference of the AGDM took place from 7th to 9th November 2021 on Knivsberg in Northern Schleswig, Denmark. On site as well as online, the young people of the German minorities from several countries exchanged views on forward-looking topics and worked out the future central points of the AGDM youth work. The youth conference in North Schleswig kicked off with an enlightening discussion between the youth representatives in the AGDM and Prof. Bernd Fabritius, the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities.

30
agdm
Seit 1991

AGDM relief action for refugees from Ukraine

Already in the first hours of the Ukraine war, at the end of February 2022, the AGDM family quickly organised itself and created a virtual info point on the AGDM Facebook page. The aim was to offer informative support to people fleeing Ukraine on their escape route

through Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary.

Our member organisations from Romania (Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania), Poland (Association of German Societies) and Slovakia (Carpathian German Association in Slovakia) immediately joined the call and organised help on the spot. Through the AGDM, contacts were arranged, and quick help and support was offered

on the escape route. In the first weeks of the relief operation, the AGDM supported between 150 and 200 people and families on their arrival in Germany and we would like to take this opportunity once again to thank all the volunteers from the member organisations who gave their time, money and resources to self-sacrificially help the fleeing people, some of whom were members of the German minority from Ukraine.



The first AGDM-JuLeiCa training for youth representatives of the German minorities

The first multinational youth leader training for AGDM youth representatives was held from 16-22 July 2022 in Bad Gottleuba in Saxony, Germany. Nine youth representatives from Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Poland and Ukraine took part in the training programme, which was carried out in cooperation with the AGDM, the djo-German Youth in Europe, National Association and the djo-Saxony Regional Association.

During the JuLeiCa training, interested young people get the opportunity to jointly acquire the specialist knowledge necessary for leading international groups and to expand their personal competences. The aim of the training is to qualify young people as well as youth workers to lead international youth encounters. Furthermore, the commitment of volunteer group leaders in international cooperation has the effect of motivating more young people to use their free time meaningfully and to exercise their right to participation.



AGDM spokesperson Bernard Gaida receives the Medal of Honour of the Federation of Expellees

The highest award of the German Federation of Expellees (Bund der Vertriebenen), the Medal of Honour for Services to Human Rights, will be conferred on the spokesperson of the Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) in the FUEN, Bernard Gaida, in 2022. The Medal was awarded for Mr Gaida's commitment in the AGDM, for his energetic and successful work for the interests of the German minorities in Europe and in the former states of the Soviet Union. Thanks to this commitment, the population groups in their countries, in Germany, but also in Europe as a whole, were made more visible both politically and publicly and their cross-border bridging function was clearly highlighted, reads the statement on the awarding of the Medal of Honour to Bernard Gaida.



"I understand the award presented to me as spokesperson of the Working Group of German Minorities in the FUEN within the event of the "Day of the Homeland" as recognition, both for my many years of activity as a representative of the German minorities and as a tribute to the work of thousands of voluntary activists of the German national minorities in many countries of Europe and Central Asia. The activity in service of the national minorities is an achievement for human rights and in this way, for peace. I am very grateful that the largest organisation of expellees – Bund der Vertriebenen – wants to emphasise so clearly the role of the German ethnic groups in the process of unification and understanding in Europe and Central Asian countries. At a time when the inhuman war is again gathering victims, this has an additional and profound significance," said AGDM spokesperson Bernard Gaida.



WORKING GROUP OF SLAVIC MINORITIES (AGSM)

The Working Group of Slavic Minorities is an already well-established working group in the FUEN network, whose seminars of Slavic minorities in Europe have a long tradition. In 2017, the coordination of the AGSM was taken over by the FUEN Coordination Office, which meant that long-standing aspirations of the working community to further develop and professionalize its activities could finally be realized. It was not only members who confirmed to us that this was an extremely meaningful step, it also became evident in the FUEN internal strategies.

Communication activities

Since 2019, the AGSM has been sending out a newsletter at regular intervals, it has a new, thoroughly designed homepage (www.agsm.fuen.org), and has published an AGSM brochure about its members, which is already available in 4 languages, so there are now 8 members of the AGSM who can use the brochure in their native or national language. The Croatian edition of the AGSM brochure was translated with the help of the Croatian Center for Culture, Education and Politics in Vienna/Beč, and was presented at the AGSM annual meeting at the FUEN Congress. In 2022, AGSM produced the Slovenian translation of the brochure with the help of two Slovene-speaking member organizations, NSKS – Council of Carinthian Slovenes and SSO – Council of Slovene Organizations in Italy. The Slovenian and Croatian editions of the brochure are available on the AGSM homepage in online format, as well as a printed version from AGSM.

These were important steps to increase public presence and awareness of the concerns of Slavic minorities in Europe.





Working meeting at the FUEN Congress

Thanks to stable funding from the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community of the Federal Republic of Germany, the AGSM was able to develop and carry out its activities in 2021/22 despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the FUEN Congress 2021 in Trieste/Trst, the AGSM was able to meet again in person at a working meeting. The congress was a guest of the Slovenian minority in Italy, which was also a very good opportunity to get to know them. Their situation and institutions were also presented in detail during the congress. The members also presented their situations and discussed further AGSM activities.





24th Seminar of the Slavic minorities

At the end of September 2021, the 24th seminar of the Slavic minorities in Europe took place again as a face-to-face event in Molise, Italy. Over 30 participants from seven countries and nine minority groups attended the meeting. Antonio Sammartino, President of the host organization, Foundation Agostina Piccoli, felt honored to host the event and thanked everyone for their participation, showing a strong sign of support for the community. FUEN Vice-President and AGSM Spokesperson Angelika Mlinar emphasized that

FUEN supports all its members in solidarity, regardless of the size of the community. The situation of this small ethnic group and, above all, the declining number of relatives has prompted many participants to present concrete suggestions for improving the situation. A great success happened a few weeks later, at the suggestion of the seminar, with the visit of the delegation of the Council of Europe. For the first time, the Commission of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities included the minority in its report. Unfortunately, we had to accept a very sad news that Antonio Sammartino has passed away just weeks after the seminar. He will always be in our hearts, rest in peace Antonio!



EUROPEADA hosted by Carinthian Slovenes

With EUROPEADA 2022, another major FUEN event was hosted by a Slavic minority. The Carinthian Slovenes were excellent hosts and Carinthia/Koroška a wonderful place for sporting and cultural exchange. The Slavic ethnic groups and minorities were the most numerous, represented at the tournament with 9 men and one woman team: Carinthian Slovenes, Lusatian Sorbs, Pomaks, Slovaks from Hungary, Burgenland Croats, Slovenes from Italy, Serbs from Croatia and Croats from Serbia, as well as Slovaks and Czechs from Romania were there. The Slavic semi-final between Team Koroška/Carinthia and Serbske Mustwo in front of more than 1,000 spectators in Sele/Zell was also "historic". The AGSM would like to congratulate all teams for their sporting and cultural achievements!



WORKING GROUP OF TURKIC MINORITIES/COMMUNITIES (TAG)

Established in 2013, TAG unites Turkic minorities and communities under the umbrella of FUEN and promotes solidarity and cooperation among Turkic minorities and communities in a vast geographical area ranging from the Balkans to the Caucasus. The FUEN TAG Secretariat is currently being run by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) which is an umbrella organization representing the Turkish community in Western Thrace, Greece. The Speaker of the Working Group is Halit Habip Oğlu, ABTTF President and FUEN Vice-President.

The TAG currently unites 12 organisations representing Turkic minorities and communities, the Tatar community in Romania represented by the Democratic Union of Tatars has become the new member organisation of FUEN and the member of the FUEN TAG family in 2021.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, travel restrictions and measures to tackle COVID-19 in 2021 and Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 have, unfortunately, prevented the TAG to carry out its regular activities in the 2021-2022 period.

3rd FUEN TAG Thematic Seminar

The 3rd thematic seminar of FUEN TAG gathered Turkic minorities and communities on a virtual platform on 24 September 2021. On behalf of the new member of FUEN, President of the Tatar Democratic Union Naim Belgin, expressed great pleasure in joining the FUEN TAG family and informed about the activities of the Tatar Community in Romania and the Tatar Democratic Union, which was established in 2008.

On behalf of the Public Organisation of Meskhetian Turks "VATAN", Head of Foreign Relations and

Researcher Ansar Usmanov, delivered a presentation on the history and culture of Meskhetian Turks, the theme of the seminar, and their struggle to return to their ancestral lands in Georgia. Usmanov further indicated that the Russian Public Organisation of Meskhetian Turks "VATAN" representing Meskhetian Turks and the Public Union of Meskhetian Turks living in Azerbaijan "VATAN" are actively working both in Russia and Azerbaijan, where they are based, and on international platforms for the return of Meskhetian Turks to their ancestral lands.

FUEN TAG 7th Annual Meeting

The 7th annual meeting of FUEN TAG took place online on 11 December 2021 and brought the Turkic minorities and communities that are members of FUEN together. The Ukrainian Gagauz Union representing the Ukrainian Gagauz people also participated in the meeting.

Following the opening remarks by FUEN Vice President and FUEN TAG Spokesperson Halit Habip Oğlu and Naim Belgin, the participating organisations conveyed important developments related to the Turkic minorities and communities they represent and their current issues and their work and activities. In the second part of the meeting, the theme of the meeting was education, mother tongue, and the importance of teaching and using minority

languages in the public sphere for an inclusive society within the framework of the linguistic rights of Turkic minorities and communities were discussed.

The participating organisations conveyed the practices of teaching the mother tongue within the framework of the linguistic rights of the Turkic minorities and communities they represent in their countries of residence and the use of Turkish in the public sphere at the local, regional and national level with education in the mother tongue.

The FUEN TAG Annual Meeting in 2022 will take place towards the end of the year.



WORKING GROUP EDUCATION

The Working Group of the FUEN dedicated to Education keeps on ensuring the sustainability of the educational work of minorities. Education definitely plays an essential role in the preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity, that's why the Working Group wishes to deepen its commitment.

Annual meeting in Bolzano

In 2021 the Working Group on Education enjoyed being able to meet in presence for its annual meeting, this time in Bolzano/South Tyrol (Italy) on the invitation of its speaker and FUEN Vice President Daniel Alfreider. From September 27th to 29th 2021 the focus was set on early education: experts from the European minority communities representing our member organisations but also institutes, competence centers and educational institutions, learned about South Tyrolean education models, exchanged experiences and discussed new research findings about the positive effect of early multilingualism on the linguistic and cognitive level. On the agenda were also study visits with direct insight into practice in a school of the German language group and a Ladin kindergarten as well as the visit of the EURAC - Institute for Applied Language Research.



Minority Rights in Education – Synthesis Report

In 2021, the Working Group on Education published a detailed report on the survey it did during 2020 on the educational right of minorities in Europe. The findings reflect the situation of 54 minorities from 30 states and were presented at the FUEN Congress 2021 by Zora Popova.



Insights – film series on education

The region of South Tyrol was also the playing field of the last short films in the series “Insights” produced by the Working Group on Education, this time together with filmmaker Lukas Pitscheider. After the German-Danish border Region in the 2020 edition, lively reports from the German secondary school in Merano and the Ladin primary school in Badia, provide a look behind the scenes. In this way the Working Group on Education is extending FUEN’s informative material through film and video about minorities’ educational institutions in Europe and gives it more visibility.

Minority Memo

As a playful approach to the national minorities’ thematic a Memory game called “Minority Memo” was created. With nicely illustrated and colourful cards eighteen minorities are represented in their traditional costume and can be used to play and learn about (other) minorities for children in kindergartens and early primary schools. Visibility on a nice and friendly way intended for minority as well as majority population.



Plans

The Working Group on Education wishes to launch by the end of 2022 a digital platform with methods, activities and ideas around minority language teaching. As the first step towards this project, an online expert meeting took place on 31 May, 2022 at which 14 members of the Working Group and interested persons exchanged ideas and experiences, in order to develop a suitable concept.

NON-KINSTATE WORKING GROUP

One of the youngest but also most diverse working groups of the FUEN is the Non-Kinstate Working Group. It unites 25 organisations of minorities without a kin-state in Europe. The NKS launched its new website, <https://nks.fuen.org/> in 2022.

Annual Conference

Representatives of 15 different minorities from all over Europe gathered in Dagebüll/Doogebeel on 18-20 November 2021, partly in person, partly digitally, to hold the annual conference of the FUEN's Working Group of Minorities without a Kin-State. The North Frisian hosts themselves belong to this group and welcomed about 20 participants from various European minorities – among them Ladins from South Tyrol, Roma, Sorbs, Aromanians from Romania and Pomaks from Bulgaria.

In addition to numerous working sessions, the programme of the annual conference also included insights into North Frisian culture: a visit to the Hans-Momsen-House, which conveys the way of life of the Hallig Frisians, as well as an excursion to the island of Föhr and the Frisian museum there gave the international guests vivid impressions of culture and language.

The core topic of the conference was the question of how tourism can contribute to preserving the language and culture of a minority. "During our visit to Föhr, the massive confrontation between mass tourism on the one hand and the over 1,000-year-old Frisian culture on the other became clear," says Bahne Bahnsen, FUEN Vice President, himself a member of the Frisian minority and speaker of the Non-Kinstate Working Group.

One fact that surprised many participants was the administratively closed unity of North Frisia, the home of the North Frisian minority. Whether Ladins, Aromanians or Bretons: most minorities without a mother state have the problem of having to fight for their rights and the preservation of their culture not only in different regions, but even in different states. In comparison, the situation is much easier for the North Frisians.

"The meeting has further strengthened our ties and we have entered into a fruitful dialogue that we will continue," summed up Bahne Bahnsen. He has certainly gained a few ambassadors for North Frisian culture.



EUROPEAN DIALOGUE FORUM (EDF)

FUEN established the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) in 2008, together with members of the European Parliament and the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN), in order to establish a political representation at the European Parliament. The Forum is a body currently composed of seven representatives of FUEN and two representatives of YEN, including the two presidents. Its members are elected for a three-year period.

The EDF held its first meeting of 2022 at the beginning of January. At the online meeting chaired by Jens A. Christiansen members of the FUEN body working on the political representation of the organisation discussed current developments regarding their communities. Jens A. Christiansen mentioned the historical success of SSW in the Bundestag elections, saying that "it is positive for all minorities in Europe that we now have a voice in the Bundestag".

FUEN President Loránt Vincze informed the members about the recent developments in the lawsuit of the Minority SafePack Initiative against the European Commission. He also pointed out that FUEN got invited to the Stakeholder Dialogue on the accessibility of audio-visual content, which shows the growing influence of the FUEN, since also the Commission recognises the umbrella organisation as representative organisation of the national minorities in Europe.

The discrimination of the German minority in Poland was the focal point of the second online meeting of FUEN's European Dialogue Forum in 2022, which took place on 8 June. After the greetings of EDF chairman Jens A. Christiansen, FUEN Vice Presidents Gösta Toft

and Bahne Bahnsen informed the members about FUEN's ongoing projects. AGDM Speaker Bernard Gaida and expert Bogna Piter presented in detail the case of German teaching in schools in Poland, which clearly discriminates German children based on their language and nationality.

The German member of the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe's Language Charter, Beate Sibylle Pfeil fully agreed with this assessment, noting that from 2011 the Committee had to reissue the same recommendations several times, meaning that no progress has been made. Regarding the new situation, a cut in funding that reduces the number of German classes from three to one per week, she enlisted the number of international agreements signed and violated by the Polish government's decision, adding that the Committee is still in dialogue with the Polish government and tries to do its best to change the situation.

Her presentation was followed by a discussion with the members of the European Dialogue Forum about ways to help the cause of the German minority.



YOUTH OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES (YEN)

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is a European umbrella organisation of 42 youth organisations of autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups from all over Europe. YEN supports the preservation and development of the language, culture, identity as well as the rights of European minorities with the special focus on young people and their interests.

As a European network, YEN organises international seminars, trainings, workshops as well as cultural and social gatherings for young minority members. The main seminars of the year (usually three to four) are hosted by minority youth organisations belonging to the network. During these seminars topics important to young people are discussed in the workshops led with the methods of non-formal education.

YEN understands itself as a self-organised and self-managed youth organisation. The Board of YEN consists of 7 young representatives of different European minorities. The work of the Board is supported by three Working Groups dealing with the topics of Minority Rights and Politics, Communication and Member Integration. The Office is currently staffed with the Secretary General and a Project Manager and is located in Berlin.

YEN enjoys a strong cooperation with FUEN and the President of YEN is a member of the FUEN Presidium. In 2022 Andor Barabás was elected as president for a second mandate 2022-2024.

In 2021 YEN was “Changing the Narrative”: we looked at the stories we tell about ourselves, the stories a minority tells about itself and the stories others tell about us. In addition, we learned and discovered together how to write and tell these stories ourselves. Starting with a theoretical look at the impact of “stories” on society and individuals, then thinking about our own stories, the stories of our own minority and how they are perceived in society and finally creating new stories, learning how to tell and spread them.

Once again, we had to re-plan or reschedule many events and continued to experience the limits of youth work in an online sphere. Therefore, we were especially happy when we could bring minority youth from all over Europe back together for cultural exchange and united empowerment in Autumn 2021.





and thoughts with youth from over 15 minorities in Europe and we were especially happy to welcome many new faces to a YEN event.

At our Diversity Festival "Utopi(j)a", which took place parallel to EUROPEADA in Kärnten/Koroška, we thought about what a utopic world would be for minority youth. Participants had the chance to take part in puppet theatre, choir and movement and film making workshops but also to learn about the Carinthian Slovene minority and see the finale of the EUROPEADA.

We started 2022 with excitement, as it is a year in which we want to address some of the problems brought about by the pandemic with our topic "growing together". With this topic we want to empower and motivate young people who belong to national, ethnic and linguistic minorities to actively shape and be engaged in their own youth organisations, in YEN and their communities.



Our Easter Seminar on Knivsberg was a great success and gathered over 70 young people to think about minority identity and minority rights and to take a closer look at the situation of minorities in the Danish-German border-region. It was also a great opportunity to exchange ideas



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH YEN OR IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO
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PARTNERSHIP

FUEN sees itself as a community based on solidarity and collaboration. This is why we maintain a large network and contacts to the European minorities and their organisations, to policymakers, scientific institutes, youth organisations, media, cultural and educational institutions and other partners.

The FUEN collaborates with a wide range of institutes and organisations in Europe and beyond: Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD), Mercator Network, Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), European Language Equality Network (ELEN), European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), European Academy (EURAC), Tom Lantos Institute (TLI), Coppieters Foundation, The South Tyrolean Institute of Ethnic Groups. We participated in and organised many events involving these partners of ours.





FUEN CONGRESS 2022

The largest meeting of autochthonous national minorities in Europe – the FUEN Congress – will take place in Berlin, Germany in 2022. Taking into consideration the current international situation, especially the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its possible consequences, the FUEN Presidium took the decision to organise the Congress in the German capital instead of Tallin, Estonia. The event will take place on 29 September – 2 October, in cooperation with the Minority Council of the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany.

The Congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) has been held annually by the umbrella organisation since 1949 in cooperation with hosting minorities and is dedicated to European minority concerns as well as the specific situation and activities of the respective host minorities. With around 200 participants from more than 30 countries, the FUEN Congress is the largest meeting of autochthonous, national minorities in Europe – with corresponding European impact and visibility. In addition to member organisations and partners of FUEN, personalities from politics, science, culture and the media also take part.

BUILDING-UP THE FUEN

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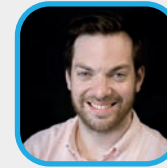
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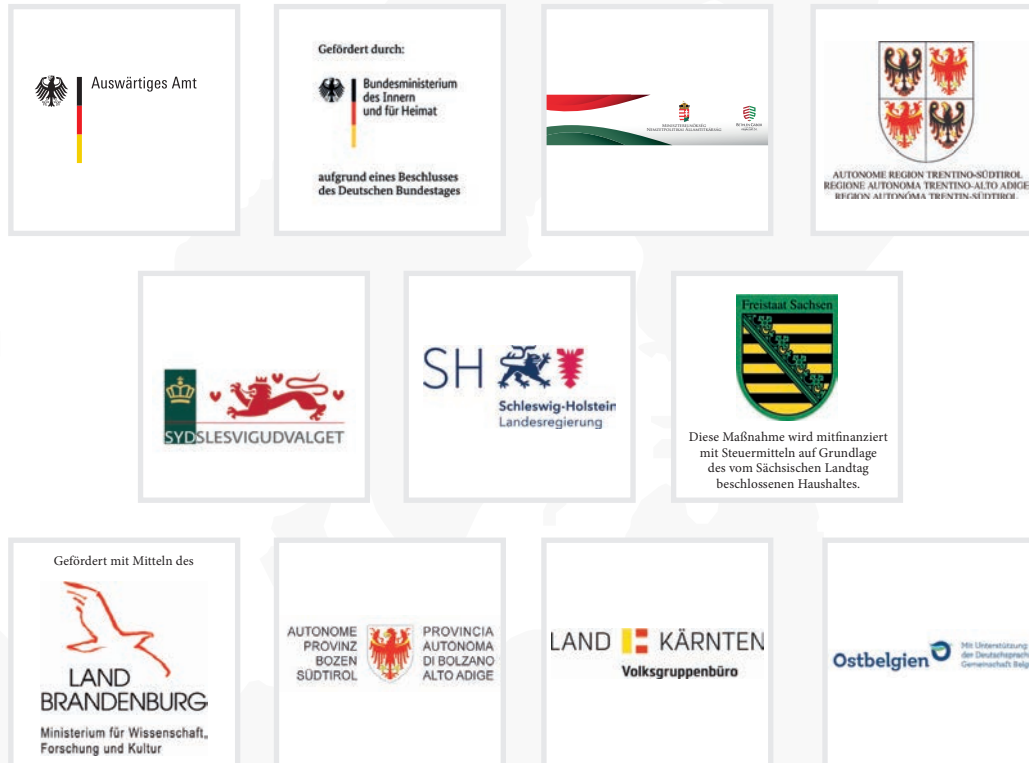


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