



From Cluj • Kolozsvár • Klausenburg
to Leeuwarden • Ljouwert

THE YEAR
**OF POWERFUL
COMMUNITIES**

2017/2018



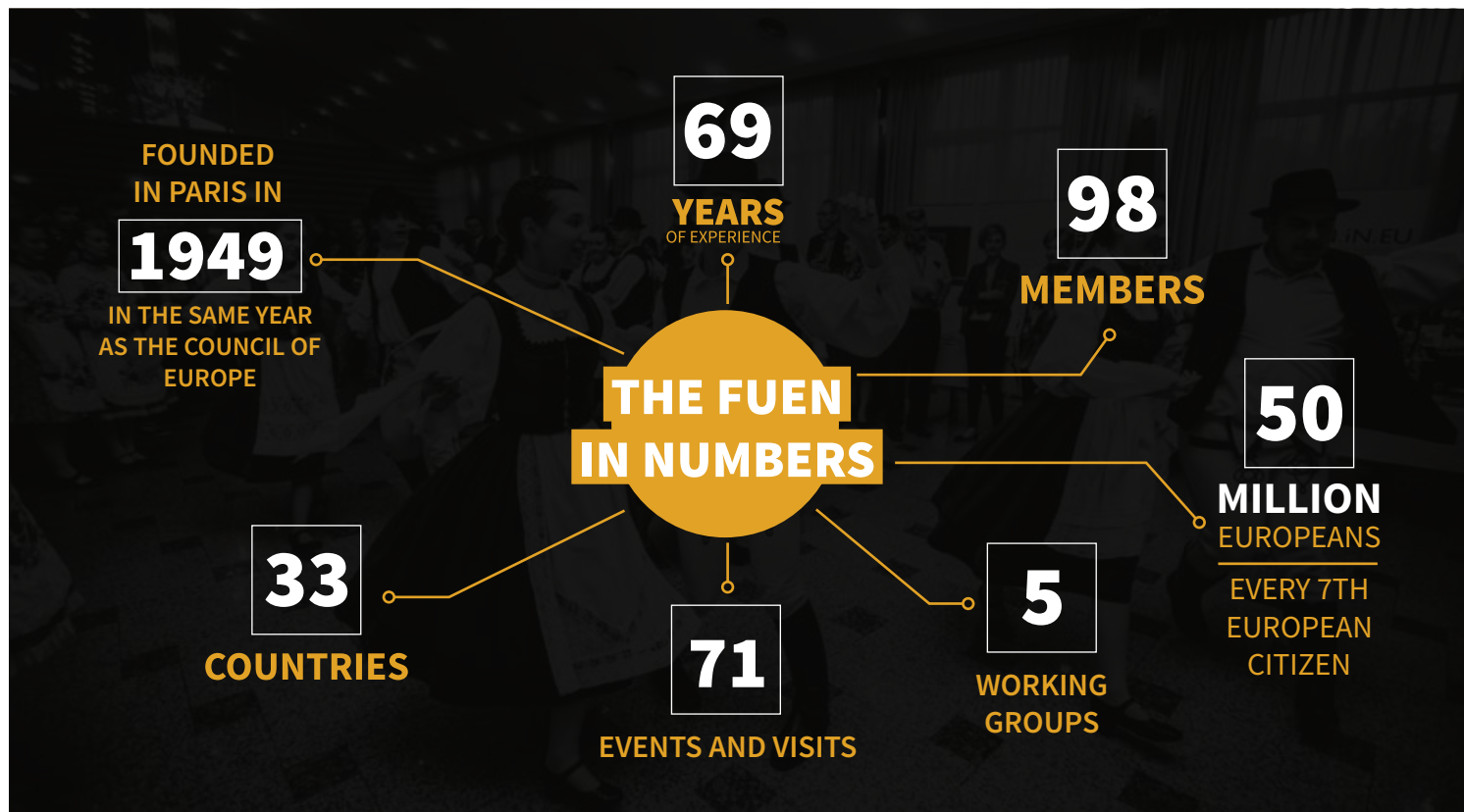
THE FUEN

is the main advocate and the biggest umbrella organisation of Europe's autochthonous national minorities, nationalities and language groups. Under its umbrella it unites **almost 100 member organisations in 33 European countries**, with new members joining every year. FUEN sees itself as a mutual support community that represents the interests of the European minorities at regional, national, and particularly European level.

It maintains a large network of policy makers, scientific institutes, cultural and educational institutions, youth organisations, media and other associates. FUEN works for the preservation and promotion of the identities, languages, cultures, rights and traditions of the European minorities.

*#politicalParticipation #minorityRights #culturalDiversity
#promoteDialogue #equalChances
#MinoritySafePack*

The FUEN is the voice of the minorities in the international organisations, especially the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the OSCE. Over the last couple of years, FUEN has increased and consolidated its team and its presence, running three offices – in Flensburg, Berlin and Brussels. FUEN is headed by the Presidium, formed by the President, six Vice Presidents and the YEN President ex officio. Since the 2016 FUEN Congress in Breslau/Wrocław (Poland) the Presidium is led by Loránt Vincze, member of the Hungarian community in Romania.





THE PAST YEAR

was a year of growth, new experiences, learning, self-evaluation and great success for the FUEN. We had one goal in mind: to empower minority communities. We achieved this by collecting 1.3 million signatures for the Minority SafePack, by forming new partnerships with important organisations, by opening a new office in Brussels, by expanding our team and by organising some inspiring events.



Officially launched at the 2017 Congress in Cluj and finished just two months before the 2018 Congress, the **Minority SafePack** campaign was the most important project for us in the year 2017/18. The signature collection campaign was also the biggest project in the 69 years history of our organisation. Starting from April 2017 we had twelve months to collect 1 million signatures, and we did it!

Thanks to our financial supporters, during this year we were able to expand our team, continue our main activities and to start new projects. Today we are closer to our goal to become the main agenda setting organisation in the field of minority protection in Europe.

In May 2017 we had a truly inspiring and fruitful **Congress in Cluj-Napoca** (Kolozsvar • Klausenburg) hosted by the organisation of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ). Multiannual projects like the Minorities in the Western Balkans and the Caucasus region were again successful and were agreed to be continued this year. Our House of Minorities office in Flensburg is the venue of many meetings and conferences organised in collaboration with our members and partners.



We are also proud to have organised for the first time a conference at the Committee of the Regions, named **Deeply rooted in the regions** and a **Minority Media Forum** in Berlin with many participants coming from different European countries. **The grand opening of our new office in Brussels in March 2018 was another highlight of the year.**

We are now looking forward to prepare and launch the **Minority Monitor** online news portal about minority protection as well as to offer capacity building to our member organisations, while opening a new chapter for the Minority SafePack Initiative.



MAIN EVENTS

- **17-21 May** – FUEN Congress, Cluj-Napoca • Kolozsvár • Klausenburg, RO
- **1-2 June** – Bundestag debate on the support of Minority languages and MSPI conference organised by the Minority Council of Germany, Berlin, DE
- **15 June** – Minority Intergroup meeting in the European Parliament about the MSPI campaign, Brussels, BE
- **19-22 June** – AGDM German Working Group Annual Meeting, Berlin, DE
- **22-25 June** – Annual Meeting of the Slavic Working Group, Bautzen • Budyšin, DE
- **6-7 July** – Presentation to university students from Romania and Hungary, Torockó, RO
- **19-21 July** – Schleswig-Holstein Plenary meeting of the Landtag supporting the MSPI, Kiel, DE
- **18 August** – Interetnica Festival, Segesvár • Sighisoara • Schäßburg, RO
- **21-22 August** – MSPI campaign preparations meeting, Budapest, HU
- **24-25 August** – Debate on minority rights and future of Europe at the RMDSZ Training Camp, RO
- **4 September** – AGDM Travelling exhibition opening event, Berlin, DE
- **5 September** – Presidium Meeting, Berlin, DE
- **6 September** – Ukraine delegation visit, Flensburg, DE
- **7 September** – Konrad Adenauer Foundation conference, Osijek, HR
- **8 September** – Visit to Slovenia, meeting with the President of the Slovenian Parliament and with minority community leaders, Ljubljana and Lendava, SL
- **14 September** – European Dialogue Forum event, Minority Intergroup meeting in the European Parliament about the MSPI campaign, Strasbourg, FR
- **21 September** – Minority Council in Germany met with the Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Berlin, DE
- **21-22 September** – MSPI campaign visit in several municipalities and Bratislava, SK
- **25 September** – Dialog Forum Norden meeting in Sankelmark, DE
- **25-26 September** – Friesland regional government signs the MSPI in Brussels, BE
- **25-29 September** – Minorities in the Western Balkans project in Flensburg, DE
- **26-28 September** – Visit in Transylvania, meeting with RMDSZ political representatives and the press in seven towns, RO
- **1 October** – YEN Bus Tour to support the MSPI – first stop Flensburg & FUEN, DE
- **2-6 October** – Minorities in the Western Balkans program in Kosovo, RKS

- **4 October** – Meeting with Johannes Callsen, Minority Commissioner of Schleswig-Holstein in Kiel, DE
- **5 October** – Visit of Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal President of Germany in the House of Minorities, Flensburg together with the Minister President Daniel Günther of Land Schleswig-Holstein, DE
- **9-11 October** – European Dialogue Forum event, meetings in the Framework of the CoE Parliamentary Assembly session, Strasbourg, FR
- **12 October** – Meeting with the Bishops of the Reformed and Evangelical Lutheran Churches and mayors in Transylvania, RO
- **16 October** – MSPI presentation in the Committee for National Minorities in the Hungarian Parliament, HU
- **24-27 October** – TAG Turkish Working Group meeting, Izmir TR
- **30 October** – MSPI campaign start event in Wien, AT
- **4 November** – Participation at the General Assembly meeting of the Society for Threatened Peoples (GfvB) in Göttingen, DE
- **6-8 November** – Non Kin-State Working Group founding meeting, Rome, IT
- **9-10 November** – Presentation of the MSPI at the annual meeting of the Hungarian Communities Abroad, MÁÉRT, Budapest, HU
- **13-14 November** – Presentation at the Language Charter Conference, Budapest, HU
- **13-17 November** – Building Bridges between minorities in Germany and Ukraine, organised by the Society for Threatened Peoples (GfbV) in cooperation with the Crimean Tatar youth organisation DEVAM, Kiev, UA
- **16 November** – Minorities in Western Balkans project, opening of the Minority Commissioners office, Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)
- **17 November** – Presentation at the Minority Media Conference, Újvidék • Novi Sad, SRB
- **21 November** – Presentation of FUEN proposals at the Advisory Committee of the ECMRL, Strasbourg, FR
- **30 November – 1 December** – Minority Regions Forum - Deeply Rooted in the Regions, Committee of the Regions, Brussels, BE
- **2 December** – Presidium meeting, Brussels, BE
- **5 December** – Meeting on the MSPI with the minority members in the Croatian Parliament, Zagreb, HR
- **11-12 December** – Meeting on the International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019, UNESCO, Paris, FR
- **13-15 December** – Minorities in the Caucasus conference, Flensburg, DE
- **14-16 December** – FUEN Team Christmas Celebration, Flensburg, DE
- **18-19 December** – MSPI visit to the Basque Country, Bilbao, ES

2018

- **17-18 January** – Mid-term MSPI Campaign meeting, Brussels, BE
- **31 January – 2 February** – Minorities in Western Balkans, Final Conference, Skopje, MK
- **31 January – 1 February** – Minority Media Forum, Berlin, DE
- **2-3 February** – Presidium meeting, Berlin, DE
- **5-6 February** – MSPI visit in Catalonia, Barcelona, ES
- **9 February** – Presentation of the MSPI at the annual meeting of the Hungarian Communities Parliamentary Representatives, KMKF, Budapest, HU
- **27-28 February** – MSPI visit in Denmark, DK
- **13-14 March** – 20 Years Anniversary of the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities, Frankfurt, DE
- **17-18 March** – 49. Europe Day of the Paneurope Union in Andechs, DE
- **22 Mar** – New FUEN Europe Office Opening, Brussels, BE
- **26-29 March** – YEN Easter Seminar and visit at the VDG German community organisation in Poland, Opole, PL
- **3 April** – MSPI Signature Campaign Deadline
- **4 Apr** – International Press Conference in Flensburg • Flensburg • and Cluj-Napoca • Kolozsvár • Klausenburg
- **10 April** – University of Flensburg visit to the House of Minorities, DE
- **11 April** – Handover of MSPI signatures in Bucharest, RO
- **12 April** – Handover of MSPI signatures in Slovakia, SK
- **17 April** – Handover of MSPI signatures in Rome, IT
- **18 April** – Meeting in Chisinau with Irina Vlah, Governor of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, Republic of Moldova (MD)
- **20 April** – Handover of MSPI signatures in Budapest, HU
- **23 April** – Handover of MSPI signatures in Köln, DE
- **24 April** – Handover of MSPI signatures in Zagreb, HR
- **25 April** – Handover of MSPI signatures in Sofia, BG
- **30 April** – Handover of MSPI signatures in Vilnius, LA
- **3 May** – Handover of MSPI signatures in Riga, LT
- **8 May** – Handover of MSPI signatures in Warsaw, PL

Events in white were also attended by FUEN President Loránt Vincze

MINORITY SAFEPAK INITIATIVE

Your signature – the power of your community

We started our project in 2012 as the joint initiative of the RMDSZ, the SVP, the YEN under the umbrella of the FUEN. In 2017 we achieved our first big victory: the European Court of Justice admitted our appeal and obliged the Commission to review its initial decision to reject our European Citizens' Initiative.

We did it in big fashion: according to the final numbers, announced in April 2018, we collected 1,319,119 signatures and passed the threshold in 11 states: Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Croatia, Spain, Denmark, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Slovenia and Italy.

After a year of hard work in more than twenty European states we gained an outstanding victory: we succeeded in collecting statements of support from more than one million citizens of the EU, while also managing to reach the national threshold in more than the required seven member states.

This is a strong message of strong communities from all over Europe, who want to have a future in Europe. We want European protection for the rights of autochthonous minorities, and we want European support for our languages and cultures.













A European movement for minority rights

Despite the end result, the MSPI campaign has not been an easy one. We did something nobody has ever done before: to unite the minorities, nationalities and language groups of Europe for one common cause.

It took nine months of hard work, dozens of local events, a lot of lobbying, communicating in more than 30 languages, networking with more than a hundred organisations, coordination between the central and the local campaign teams. We are proud that at the end of the campaign we can say: Yes, we did it!

We did not only achieve all of our goals, but we were also able to show the power of minority communities in Europe and we created an EU-wide movement for minority rights.





You are not alone. One million signatures for diversity in Europe

The MSPI campaign was a great opportunity for self-evaluation. Now we know what we can achieve as FUEN, and we also have a good sense of the organisation capacity of our members. We were there when help was needed, and we are going to be there in the future with capacity-building trainings.

It was great to see that a lot of organisations and communities, which are not members of the FUEN, got involved in the MSPI campaign, as our message got through to them. Basques and Catalans, the Polish community from Lithuania, Russians in Latvia, the Turkish community in Bulgaria and even the majority in Hungary joined our cause to make this a truly European campaign. This is something we can build on in the future.



1,320,053 European citizens have voiced a crystal clear demand from the EU: they want to have a legislative framework for protecting minority rights. They are the messengers of fifty million people belonging to a national minority community or language group within the EU. We want to make sure that our European cultural and linguistic heritage will be preserved.”

Loránt Vincze

What's next?

During April the statements of support on online and on paper forms were presented to national authorities in all 28 Member States. The certificates issued by them in no more than three months will be presented to the European Commission, which will organise a public hearing in the European Parliament and let its position known.



. The MSPI campaign team

MSPI – the results

1.320.053

HUNGARY 565.667

ROMANIA 291.914

ITALY 59.320

SLOVAKIA 57.421

SPAIN 53.452

BULGARIA 23.291

LITHUANIA 19.706

CROATIA 16.450

DENMARK 11.903

LATVIA 7936

SLOVENIA 6458

A day to remember

It was a great honour for FUEN to welcome the Federal President of Germany, Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier to the House of Minorities in Flensburg on October 5th. During his visit Mr. Steinmeier welcomed the fact that Germany had decided to put an emphasis on minority politics and to support the work of FUEN. He believes that in today's Europe it becomes obvious that minority politics are and have been important. He called the model of Schleswig-Holstein an example of successful minority politics, as people living in the German-Danish border region have learnt from history and the mistakes of the past.



MAIN FUEN PROJECTS

SOUVENIRS FROM CLUJ • KOLOZSVÁR • KLAUSENBURG 2017

05/
2017

2017 FUEN
CONGRESS
IN CLUJ •
KOLOZSVÁR •
KLAUSENBURG,
ROMANIA

In May 2017 we had a truly inspiring and fruitful Congress in Cluj-Napoca • Kolozsvár • Klausenburg) hosted by the Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ and MPP) with the contribution of the Transylvanian Saxons (Germans) and the Aromanian communities.



Over 300 delegates and guests attended the four-day event of the largest minority umbrella organisation in Europe. During the FUEN Congress 2017, we enjoyed the traditional minority market, witnessed interesting and exciting contributions, celebrated the official launch of the Minority SafePack Initiative petition campaign, welcomed new member organisations and decided on the EUROPEADA 2020 and Congress 2019 venues. The main topics of the 62nd Congress were the challenge of modernity for the minority communities and their contribution to the European cultural and language heritage.

*#modernity #innovation #CulturalHeritage
#autonomyCEE*





EUROPEADA 2020

The Carinthian Slovenes convinced the delegates with an emotional presentation as well as a coherent concept. 100 years after the plebiscite in Carinthia • Kärnten • Koroška, the EUROPEADA offers the Slovenian minority the opportunity to raise awareness for still existing problems in their homeland.



EXCITING DEBATES



Prestigious guests graced us with their presence. European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth & Sport Tibor Navracsics, and President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities Prof. Petra Roter spoke about good practices regarding the language rights, autonomy and innovation in minority communities. Speakers also drew the attention of the participants to the infringements upon minority rights in Central and Eastern Europe.



LAUNCHING THE MSPI CAMPAIGN

The petition campaign for the Minority SafePack Initiative was launched during a memorable festive event organised at the Bánffy castle in Bonțida • Bonchida, Romania. The signatures were symbolically written on a large map of Europe to show that FUEN is counting on every European state during the petition campaign. The petition campaign coordinated on a European level was launched in September.



OUR COMMUNITIES IN THE REGIONS

30.11-
01.12/
2017

Between the 30th of November and December 1st, the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) organised a two-day-conference on minority communities and language groups in the EU Regions, in Brussels. The event was held at the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), under the patronage of President Karl-Heinz Lambertz. For several years, FUEN has been aiming to create a forum for minority regions and minority-friendly regions. The event entitled Deeply Rooted in the Region was a launching conference for this forum.

„Minority rights should be connected with general policies we already have inside the EU and UN: multilingualism, regional cohesion, human rights, cultural heritage, foreign policy.” – said the President of the European Committee of the Regions who proposed the creation of an interregional group within the CoR for border-regions or for minority delegates from the regions.



1-2.02/
2018

MINORITY MEDIA FORUM

More than 30 German-speaking and international media representatives joined us in Berlin for FUEN's first ever Media Forum, entitled "Politics and Media for Minorities: Information, Network, Communication". The forum, focusing on current minority issues was organised between the 1st and 2nd of February. Journalists from Germany, Romania, Latvia, Poland, Hungary, Moldova, Austria, Russia, Kazakhstan, Italy and Croatia contributed their own experiences to the discussions.



The topics of the event were the influence minority representatives have in politics, the role of minorities in the European regions and useful strategies for presenting minorities in an authentic and differentiated manner. Participants considered the event useful for exchanging experiences, finding solutions and networking. They agreed that media is an important aspect of every minority's identity – as one of the participants put it: "We disseminate identity". FUEN Vice President Olga Martens promised that the Media Forum will have a follow-up.

1.02/
2018

MINORITIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



One of the main objectives of FUEN is to support the minorities who need it the most. The minorities in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia) still suffer because of social and economical discrimination. Our project in support of them ended successfully after two years with the Final Conference in Skopje on February 1st 2018. Some of the main outcomes include the establishment of the Minority Commissioner's Office in Bijeljina (BiH) and the creation of a platform for social dialogue and cooperation in Tetovo (Macedonia) which was inspired by the Dialog Forum Norden, trainings in monitoring and implementation of Roman and Ashkhali action plan in Ferizaj • Uroševac and Prizren (Kosovo).

The project was a successful step towards the knowledge transfer from the region of Schleswig-Holstein to the Western Balkans, together with a more sustainable and long-term cooperation between the municipalities and the (mainly Roma) NGOs in five countries from the region.

13-
15.12/
2017

MINORITIES IN THE CAUCASUS

From the 13th–15th of December 2017, FUEN organised the second seminar 'Minorities in Caucasus: Dialogue for a stable future' in Flensburg, Germany. The aim of the seminar was to give minority representatives from the Caucasus region the opportunity for hosted discussions and the exchange of ideas. Representatives of Germans in Georgia, Azeris in Georgia, Ahiska Turks in Russia, Ahiska Turks in Azerbaijan and Talysh in Azerbaijan took part in the seminar, which focused on the topics 'reform of education and language learning' as well as 'The Bolzano Recommendations on national minorities in inter-state relations'. The organisers invited several experts from both Caucasus and the German-Danish border region.



09/
2017

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION “IN TWO WORLDS – 25 GERMAN STORIES. GERMAN MINORITIES INTRODUCE THEMSELVES“

Never before the German minorities have come together to present their past and their present in public. For this reason, it is all the more pleasing that the first AGDM travelling exhibition deals with the history and the current situation of German minorities in 25 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, states of the former Soviet Union, the Baltic states and Denmark. It offers visitors the unique opportunity to get to know the German minorities in their individual regions with their similarities and their differences united in one exhibition.

The exhibition was opened in September 2017 in Berlin.

The travelling exhibition was organized by the AGDM under the umbrella of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) and



supported by the German Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI). It offers visitors new and comprehensive insights and impulses regarding German minorities living outside the German borders. Since October the exhibition has already been shown in Sønderborg/ Denmark, Dresden/Germany and Sibiu/ Romania. Stations in Slovakia, Poland and Latvia are planned for 2018. More will follow. The exhibition will be on its way until 2020.

Further information on the exhibition can also be found at <http://agdm.fuen.org/wanderausstellung/>



THE WORKING GROUPS OF FUEN

The Working Groups in the FUEN were established with the common aim of a group of members to have an exchange of experiences and dialogue to guarantee the rights and future perspective of their specific language communities or other elements of common ground.

The German Minorities WG was the first one to be established, followed shortly by the Slavic Minorities WG and a few years ago by the Turkic Minorities WG. In 2017 the Non Kin-State WG was founded by the organisations belonging to minorities without a kin-state. In 2018 the Education Working Group had its second exchange of views. The WGs have an annual meeting at the congress and a second one as a working meeting of several days.

Speakers of the Working Groups



Working Group of German Minorities:
Bernard Gaida

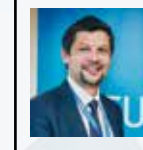


Working Group of Slavic Minorities:
Bernhard Ziesch

Working Group of Turkic Minorities:
Halit Hapib Oğlu



Non Kin-State Working Group:
Daniel Alfreider



Education Working Group:
Olga Martens

German Working Group (AGDM)



On the initiative of the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, in 1991 the German communities decided to establish their own working group under the umbrella of the FUEN in order to shape their autonomous profile, share their common interests and create their own projects.

The German working group inside of the FUEN represents the biggest language group, which certainly has a crucial role in shaping our organisation. Germany as a kin-state assumes the role and responsibility it has towards the German communities all over Europe. The German organisations play an important role as bridge-builders between Germany and their homelands.

26th annual conference of the AGDM

During 19-22.06.2017 the 26th annual conference of the Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) took place. Around 45 participants, representatives of minority organisations from 20 European and Central Asian countries met in Berlin to discuss current and future concerns and projects and in further meet with decision-makers of the German government.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sigmar Gabriel was impressed by the lively community and important bridging function of the German minorities, highlighting their relevance for a lively Europe.



Cultural Commissioner of the Federal Government, Prof. Monika Grütters, showed her support for the preservation of the cultural heritage which is further supported by several Resolutions and laws outlined by the German Parliament.

In meetings with the President of the Bundestag Norbert Lammert, he expressed the connectedness of the German Bundestag to the German minorities, which is clearly demonstrated by the budgetary appropriations approved in the parliamentary procedure in recent years.

From 1 August 2017, Renata Trischler, Danube Svbian (German) from Esseg / Osijek (Croatia), took over the position of AGDM Coordinator. After two years of successful work for the AGDM, the Hungarian-German Éva Adél Péntzes said farewell and took on another important role within FUEN as executive director.



Renata Trischler



Éva Péntzes

Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM)

The Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM) was founded under the umbrella of FUEN in 1996 and comprises more than 20 organisations. It is the second largest working group in FUEN after the AGDM and it advocates the interests and concerns of the Slavic minorities in Europe. It is a bridge builder not only between the minority communities but also with the states they live in and it fosters their cooperation.

In 2017 the AGSM met for their 20th meeting since its establishment. This seminar is the annual highlight of its collaboration. It serves the exchange and report of experiences of the Slavic minorities in FUEN. In cooperation

with the Federation of Lusatian Sorbs – Domowina, the 20th seminar was organised from 22.-25. June 2017 in Lusatia, Germany, in parallel to the XII. International Folklore Festival “Łužica • Lausitz • Lusatia”. Besides working sessions the delegates joined the programme of the folklore festival and excursions through Upper and Lower Lusatia in order to gain a full picture of the diverse sides and situations of the Sorbs in the different regions.

For the first time the seminar was also organised in cooperation with the new AGSM Project Coordinator Theresia Lippitsch who joined FUEN and the working group in May 2017.



Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG)



The Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) headed by FUEN Vice-President Halit Habip Oğlu (ethnic Western Thrace Turk from Greece) aims to succeed in supporting the Turkic minorities/communities over a vast geographical area from the Caucasus to the Balkans. The FUEN TAG Secretariat is currently being run by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) located in Germany.

FUEN-member Turkic organisations at the OSCE, 18/09/2017 – The FUEN TAG-member organisations participated in the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Warsaw, Poland. At the largest conference in Europe in the field of human rights and democracy, the member organisations raised the significant problems they encounter in their countries.

FUEN TAG 4. Annual Meeting, 24-27.10.2017 / İzmir, Turkey – The 4th Annual Meeting of the FUEN TAG was held on 24–27 October 2017 in Izmir, Turkey and hosted by the FUEN-member organisation Rhodes, Kos and Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association (ROISDER). The meeting was attended by thirteen organisations from nine different countries. At the meeting, FUEN's Minority SafePack Initiative and the signature collecting campaign in support of the MSPI was presented. The Turks living in Macedonia and Gagauz Turks living in Moldova participated for the first time in the TAG annual meeting. The participants visited the Mayor of Karşıyaka, Hüseyin Mutlu Akpınar, in his office.

Meeting with the Governor of Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, 18.04.2018 – The FUEN Vice-President and Speaker of the FUEN TAG Halit Habip Oğlu met in Chişinău, the capital of Moldova, with Irina Vlah, Governor (Başkan) of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia which is going to host the 5th Annual Meeting of FUEN TAG in 2018.

Non Kin-State Working Group

The Non Kin-State Working Group's first ever official meeting took place between the 6th and 8th of November 2017 in Rome, Italy. The aim of the meeting was to give minorities without a kin-state the opportunity to establish a fruitful dialogue and strengthen their connections. Thus their aspiration expressed at the FUEN Congress 2017 in Cluj • Kolozsvár • Klausenburg became a reality.

The city of Rome was deliberately chosen as the location of the founding meeting, since the Ladins – FUEN members and a minority without a kin-state – were facing a historic moment, which is a role-model situation for others. The Italian Parliament has drafted and adopted a constitutional law, installing equality in rights for the Ladin community in South Tyrol.

FUEN Vice President and Member of the Italian Parliament, Daniel Alfreider representing the Ladin community was elected as spokesperson of the new working group.

During the first meeting of the working group, the challenges and strengths of the minorities without a kin-state were analysed and discussed.



Education Working Group

14 organisations were represented at the meeting of the Education Working Group of the FUEN, which took place in Flensburg between 28-29 May 2018. The right to education in mother language, the minority school systems and future strategies were the themes discussed at the meeting hosted by FUEN Vice President Olga Martens. The focus of the working group is the exchange of experiences and the sharing of problems and best practices.

YOUTH OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES (YEN)

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is a European umbrella organisation of 40 youth organisations of autochthonous national minorities or ethnic groups from all over Europe. YEN supports the preservation and development of the languages, cultures, identities as well as the rights of European minorities.

As a European network, YEN organises international seminars, trainings, congresses, workshops and cultural and social gatherings for young minority members. YEN aims to increase awareness of minority issues and motivates young people to engage in political activities at local, regional, national and European levels.

The board of YEN consists of 7 young representatives of different European minorities and the office is located in Berlin. Besides a large number of smaller activities, YEN organises 3-5 during winter, spring, summer and autumn, which are hosted by minority youth organisations all over Europe.

YEN enjoys a strong cooperation with FUEN and the President of YEN is a member of the FUEN Presidium.

The newest project of YEN is the “Minority Messengers” project. With this project, YEN aims to strengthen public relations of minorities at the local level. During 2018 young Minority Messengers will be educated to visit NGOs, youth clubs, schools etc. to talk about minorities in Europe, their identities as well as challenges and to collect data on the situation of minorities in Europe.



If you are interested in a cooperation with YEN or if you have any other questions please send an email at office@yeni.org

Find YEN on Facebook and Instagram

[@yeni.org](https://www.facebook.com/yeni.org)
[@yenjev1984](https://www.instagram.com/yenjev1984)
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EUROPEAN LOBBY WORK

FUEN is the No. 1 advocate of minority interests on the European level



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 are 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.

THE EUROPEAN DIALOGUE FORUM

FUEN's goals include the establishment of a political representation at the European Parliament. Together with members of the European Parliament and the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN), FUEN established the European Dialogue Forum in 2008.

The Forum is a body currently composed of seven representatives of FUEN and two representatives of YEN, including the two presidents. At the 2016 Assembly of Delegates, its members were elected for the period of 2016-2019.



Loránt Vincze
FUEN President,
Hungarian
from Romania, RMDSZ



Jens A. Christiansen
EDF Speaker, Danish
minority in Germany,
Sydslesvigsk Forening



Bernard Gaida
German minority
in Poland, VdG



Gabriela Novak-Karall
Burgenland Croatis in
Austria, Hrvatski centar



David Statnik
Lusatian Sorbs in
Germany, Domowina



Tanja Novotny Golubić
Czech minority
in Croatia



Zikel Anxhara
Aromanian minority
in Albania, YEN



Britta Tästensen
German minority in
Denmark,
YEN President

PARTNERSHIPS

FUEN maintains a large network of contacts to the European minorities and their organisations, to policymakers, scientific institutes, youth organisations, media, cultural and educational institutions and other partners. It supports initiatives such as the joint project of theatres of European minorities and the creation of a European museum network. FUEN sees itself as a community based on solidarity and collaboration.

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). We participated and organised many events involving them.





CONSOLIDATION OF FUEN

FUEN Europe Office in Brussels

FUEN grew substantially in the last year. We have opened a new office in the heart of Europe and also in Berlin. We added new colleagues to our team, but we also have the strategical and financial stability we need, thanks to our Presidium.

As all of the projects of the European minority umbrella organisation are related to the European Union, it is important for the FUEN to have a presence and a way to lobby in Brussels. The new Europe Office, officially opened on 21 March 2018, is located in a beautiful Art Nouveau style building, offered by the German speaking community in Belgium.

BUILDING-UP THE FUEN

Presidium



President Loránt Vincze,

International Secretary of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania/Romániai Magyar Demokrata Szövetség (RMDSZ), Hungarian Minority in Romania
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Vice President Olga Martens,

Vice Chairwoman of Internationaler Verband der Deutschen Kultur (IVDK), German Minority in Russia
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Vice President Daniel Alfreider,

Vice Chairman of the South Tyrolean People's Party, Südtiroler Volkspartei (SVP), Ladin Minority in Italy
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Vice President Dieter Paul Küssner,

former Chairman of Sydslesvigsk Forening (SSF), Danish Minority in Germany
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Vice President Bernhard Ziesch,

former Secretary General of Domowina, Federation of Lusatian Sorbs, Sorbian Minority in Germany
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Vice President Halit Habipoglu,

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Vice President Gösta Toft,

former Secretary of the political party SP and Chairman of the Social Services in Nordschlesig, Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN), German Minority in Denmark
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President of Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) Giuanna Beeli,

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Team – bigger, better, stronger

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Susann Schenk
(Sabbatical year)

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COMING UP IN 2018

Congress 2018

The 63rd Congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) will take place from 20-24 June 2018 in Leeuwarden • Ljouwert, The Netherlands. The Congress will be organised and hosted in cooperation with our West Frisian Member Organisation Ried fan de Fryske Beweging.

FUEN and Ried fan de Fryske Beweging prepare together a multifaceted agenda, great cultural moments and meetings with the local community. Leeuwarden • Ljouwert is the European Capital of Culture in 2018. The main topic of our Congress will be language diversity in Europe, the current situation of the Frisian community in the Netherlands, sharing good practices and working models in minority protection. The future of the Minority SafePack Initiative will be in the centre of the congress debates, as well as new developments in the field of minority rights in Europe.





Minority Monitor

The European ethnic groups / communities / language groups etc. provide many news through their own channels about the problems they face regarding their linguistic, educational and other issues. We know how difficult it is for the minority groups to share their cases with European media and various institutions and partners.

The project called Minority Monitor would be implemented by the FUEN, but all partner organisations and institutions will have the freedom to work independently with their own resources and methodology. This project aims to collect all relevant news about European minorities and to upload and share them online. As the database grows, the Minority Monitor will work as a unified European information centre, the news will be sent to all major media providers, and it will also become a strong resource for our European lobby.

Minority SafePack Initiative

After a very successful campaign period, a new era begins for the Minority SafePack Initiative. Now we have to turn our attention from the large public to the European decision makers, as the fate of our initiative is going to be decided in Brussels. During FUEN's long activity we have managed to build up a strong network of partners, friends and supporters, and this circle became even wider during the campaign. Our European lobby will continue throughout the year, as we want to make sure our initiative will have the right support when it will be presented to the European Commission. We will also ask national governments and parliaments to facilitate the presentation and the debate on the proposals in the different states and regions. In the meanwhile our legal experts will elaborate legislative proposals for all nine points of the MSPI, as we want to show the EC how our proposals can be put in practice.

SPONSORS



Der Dank gilt allen langjährigen Förderern, Mitgliedern und Unterstützern.
We would like to thank all the institutions, individuals and members that have supported us over the years.

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