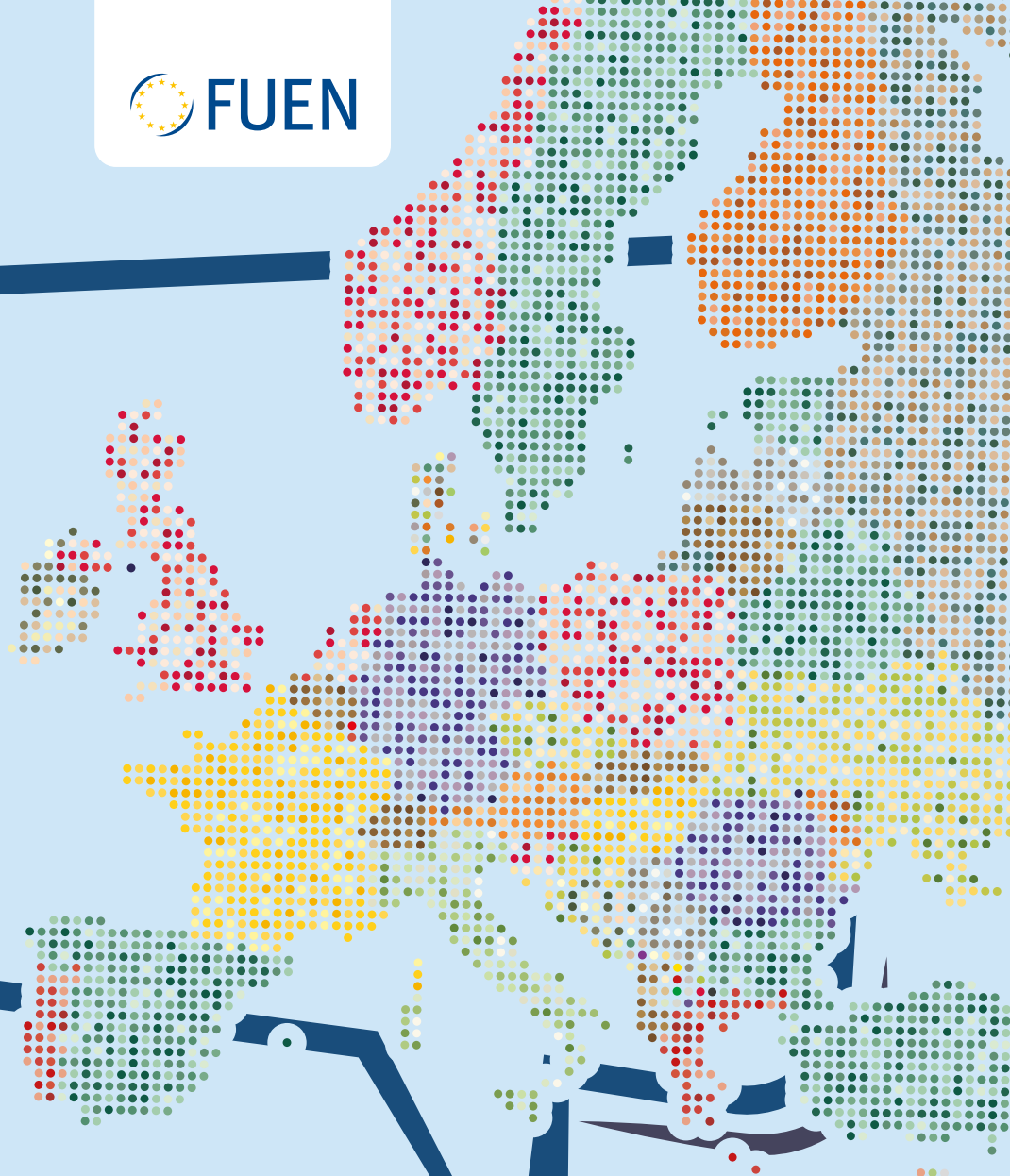




FUEN ACTIVITY REPORT

2025-2026

**THE VOICE
OF MINORITIES
IN A CHANGING EUROPE**





...the umbrella organisation of more than 120 minority organisations from 38 European countries



We run three offices in Flensburg, Berlin and Brussels.



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

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



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

THE VOICE OF MINORITIES IN A CHANGING EUROPE

Dear members, partners, and friends of the FUEN family,

2025–2026 marks a profound turning point for the Federal Union of European Nationalities.

Over the past year, our organisation has demonstrated remarkable resilience, political clarity, and structural renewal as we transitioned into a new chapter of leadership while steadfastly defending the rights, languages, and identities of Europe's autochthonous national minorities, nationalities, and language groups.

The 69th FUEN Congress in Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano marked the end of an impactful decade under outgoing President Loránt Vincze and the beginning of an ambitious new era. In South Tyrol, our Assembly of Delegates elected a new Presidium led by President Olivia Schubert. Bringing together leaders from across the geographic and linguistic breadth of our network, this new leadership team stepped forward with a clear mandate: to ensure FUEN remains a firm, proactive, and united advocate for all member organisations across Europe.

This period was defined by bold political action. While the Minority SafePack Initiative reached its judicial conclusion, its legacy powers our ongoing advocacy. We championed the Joint Declaration of Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano against unjustified geoblocking and elevated our demands directly to the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the European Parliament. Simultaneously, our specialized Working Groups, alongside flagship initiatives like the Minority Monitor, Women of Minorities, and our preparations for EUROPEADA 2028, continued to deliver practical support and empower our communities on the ground.

As Europe navigates complex geopolitical shifts, the protection of minority rights must remain an unwavering pillar of European democracy. Representing more than 120 minority organisations across 38 countries, FUEN enters the coming period with clear vision, renewed strength, and an unwavering commitment to equality and human dignity.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our member organisations, partners, sponsors, and dedicated team across our offices in Flensburg, Berlin, and Brussels. As we look forward to the 70th FUEN Congress in Helsinki/Helsingfors, Finland, we invite you to explore this Activity Report and join us in shaping the future of minority protection in Europe.

→ FUEN CONGRESS 2025

The 69th FUEN Congress, held from 23–26 October 2025 in Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano, was both a showcase of successful minority protection and a turning point in the history of the organisation. Hosted by the South Tyrolean People's Party (SVP), the Congress brought together more than 200 representatives of autochthonous national minorities, nationalities and language groups from over 30 European countries.

A MODEL OF AUTONOMY AND COEXISTENCE

South Tyrol provided a particularly meaningful setting: its system of autonomy and the peaceful coexistence of its German-, Italian- and Ladin-speaking communities demonstrate how effective minority protection can benefit an entire region.

Opening the Congress, South Tyrol's Governor Arno Kompatscher described diversity as an asset for Europe and emphasised that a well-functioning autonomy model works not only for minorities, but for society as a whole. South Tyrolean Deputy Governor Daniel Alfreider, at the time also FUEN Vice President, underlined the importance of solidarity and bridge-building between regions, cultures and languages. Representatives of the German-speaking Community of Belgium and the German Federal Government likewise stressed that minority protection is a fundamental measure of the strength of European democracy.

The Congress programme also placed the host region's German- and Ladin-speaking communities in the spotlight. Through political discussions, personal perspectives, video presentations and cultural performances, participants gained an insight into South Tyrol's autonomy and multilingual institutional system.



A HEARTFELT GOODBYE

In his final opening address as FUEN President, Loránt Vincze reflected on nine years at the head of the organisation and twelve years in its leadership. His speech focused particularly on the Minority SafePack Initiative, whose long legal journey had ended with the June 2025 judgment of the European Court of Justice. Although the initiative did not achieve the legislative outcome FUEN had sought, it united minority communities, mobilised more than one million European citizens and raised the visibility of minority rights across the continent. Returning to South Tyrol, where the initiative had been launched more than a decade earlier, brought this defining chapter of FUEN's recent history symbolically full circle. At the same time, the outgoing President urged FUEN and its members to continue pressing the European institutions for concrete action.

TACKLING GEOBLOCKING FOR LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

A major policy milestone and a practical continuation of the Minority SafePack's objectives was the Joint Declaration of Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano on geoblocking. Signed by the German-speaking Community of Belgium, the Autonomous Province of Bozen–South Tyrol and FUEN, the declaration called for lawful cross-border access to audiovisual content in minority languages and an end to unjustified restrictions based on nationality or place of residence. The signatories committed themselves to working with European institutions and relevant stakeholders to reform the EU Geo-Blocking Regulation so that it better reflects Europe's linguistic and cultural diversity. For many minority communities, access to television, films and other media from neighbouring countries is indispensable for maintaining their language and cultural ties.





HONOURING A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO MINORITY RIGHTS

A highlight of the opening evening was the presentation of the FUEN Prize 2025 to Univ.-Prof. Elisabeth Sándor-Szalay. The award recognised her lifelong commitment to human and minority rights and her twelve years of service as Hungary's Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights responsible for the rights of national minorities. In her laudatio, Olivia Schubert, at that point still FUEN Vice President, praised the laureate's persistence, empathy and ability to build bridges between minority communities, public authorities and European institutions. The prize was accompanied by Simone Bruhn's artwork *Two Bridges*, symbolising connection, stability and peaceful coexistence. The evening continued with a presentation by the South Tyrolean hosts and the traditional Minority Market, celebrating the cultural diversity of the FUEN family.

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

The second day of the Congress focused heavily on internal collaboration and legislative goals. FUEN's Working Groups gathered to provide space for the German, Slavic, Turkic, Hungarian and non-kin-state minority communities to exchange experiences, discuss current projects and coordinate their future work.





A NEW LEADERSHIP FOR 2025-2028

During the Assembly of Delegates, FUEN's highest decision-making body, outgoing FUEN President Loránt Vincze reflected on his nine years of leadership, noting that the organisation has experienced significant growth, increased importance, and achieved a stable financial situation.

The Assembly opened a new chapter for FUEN. Olivia Schubert, representing the National Self-Government of Germans in Hungary, was elected President for the 2025-2028 term, receiving 180 of the 260 valid votes. Bahne Bahnsen, Sterica Fudulea, Nabi Ibraimtzik, Dr Hartmut Leipner, Harald Stauder and Dr Balázs Tárnok were elected as Vice Presidents. Together with the permanent representative of the Youth of European Nationalities, the new Presidium reflects the geographical and linguistic diversity of FUEN's membership. Delegates also elected the new members of the European Dialogue Forum and confirmed the organisation's auditors.

In her first address as FUEN President, Olivia Schubert thanked the delegates for their trust and paid tribute to the outgoing Presidium for guiding the organisation through years of growth and significant challenges. She pledged that FUEN would remain united and continue representing the interests of its member organisations at every political level.



CHARTING THE FUTURE

The delegates successfully debated and adopted multiple resolutions addressing critical political, linguistic, and human-rights issues affecting minority communities across the continent. These included the freedom of association and cultural self-identification of Turkish communities in Greece, linguistic choice in the Spanish justice system, Breton education and the reunification of Brittany, the rights of the Macedonian minority in Albania, the return of the Meskhetian Turks, and support for the Greenlandic Inuit and the Kanaky people. Further resolutions focused on strengthening democracy through minority protection and safeguarding the Crimean Tatars and other national minorities in Ukraine.

The Assembly approved new members and membership-status changes, further broadening FUEN's network. It also selected Helsinki/Helsingfors as the venue of the 70th FUEN Congress in 2026, hosted by the Swedish Assembly of Finland (Folktinget), while the 2027 Congress will take place in the Slovenian part of Istria, hosted by the Italian Union. Participants also received an update on preparations for EUROPEADA 2028 in Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

The Congress concluded with a cultural programme dedicated to South Tyrol's German and Ladin heritage.

After a decade shaped by major campaigns, institutional development and growing political visibility, the gathering in South Tyrol marked not only a change in leadership, but the beginning of a new chapter for Europe's largest minority umbrella organisation.





→ FUEN ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES 2025–2026

FUEN PRESIDENT OLIVIA SCHUBERT AT UN FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES IN GENEVA

From 26 to 28 November 2025, FUEN President Olivia Schubert represented the organisation at the 18th Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues in Geneva. At the civil society dialogue with UN Special Rapporteur Prof. Nicolas Levrat, she highlighted the lack of minimum protection standards for national minorities, the absence of clear EU competences and the reluctance of the European Commission to address traditional minorities in a structured manner. In FUEN's official statement, Schubert emphasised minorities' contributions to education, culture and public life and presented five recommendations: formalised coordination between the UN, EU and Council of Europe; the development of a global treaty on minority rights; a permanent UN Forum on Minority Issues; regular dialogue between the Special Rapporteur and civil society; and stronger attention to minority women and young people. She also held talks with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the European Centre for Minority Issues and civil society partners.



FUEN URGES UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR TO ADVOCATE FOR A COHERENT EU MINORITY PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

On 20 January 2026, FUEN President Olivia Schubert and European Dialogue Forum Spokesperson Jens A. Christiansen met UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Nicolas Levrat in Brussels during his assessment visit to the European Union institutions. FUEN drew attention to the absence of a unified EU framework for national minorities and the lack of a designated interlocutor for them within the European Commission. The delegation called for either a Commissioner responsible for minority issues or an interdepartmental coordination mechanism. Other priorities included combating geoblocking, preserving access to audiovisual content in minority languages and establishing permanent coordination between the EU, the UN and the Council of Europe. FUEN also proposed an inter-institutional working group coordinated by the Special Rapporteur to exchange good practices and develop responses to persistent minority-rights challenges. The Special Rapporteur's End-of-Mission Statement reflects several concerns raised during his meeting with FUEN. His findings will contribute to the report to be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in 2027.



FUEN STRENGTHENS EXCHANGE IN THE GERMAN-DANISH BORDER REGION

From 23 to 26 March 2026, FUEN President Olivia Schubert, Vice President Bahne Bahnsen and Secretary General Éva Péntzes visited Schleswig-Holstein and the German-Danish border region. Meetings with political stakeholders, research institutions and FUEN member organisations addressed the practical challenges faced by minorities and their organisations. The delegation exchanged views with the European Centre for Minority Issues, the Minority Competence Network, representatives of the Danish minority, Schleswig-Holstein's State Chancellery, the South Schleswig Voters' Association, North Frisian organisations and the German minority in Denmark. Key topics included geoblocking, access to minority-language media, the use of minority languages before courts, youth participation, language revitalisation and EU trademark law. The visit demonstrated that many apparently local concerns require coordinated European responses.

FUEN ATTENDS THE SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL NGOS

FUEN participated in the Spring General Assembly of the Council of Europe's Conference of International NGOs, held in a hybrid format from 14 to 17 April 2026. Former FUEN Vice President and European Dialogue Forum member Gösta Toft, together with Melek Kirmacı and Deniz Servantie from the Secretariat of the Working Group of Turkic Minorities, represented FUEN. The discussions addressed the growing pressure on civil society organisations and a CINGO report on restrictions affecting NGOs in Greece. FUEN drew particular attention to the continuing failure to implement European Court of Human Rights judgments concerning Turkish minority associations in Western Thrace and to similar registration barriers faced by Macedonian minority organisations. FUEN representatives stressed that restrictions on freedom of association and the non-execution of judgments cannot be justified through geopolitical arguments and called for stronger action by the Committee of Ministers.





“MINORITY RIGHTS MUST NOT BE DEPENDENT ON THE POLITICAL CLIMATE”

Addressing the General Assembly of the South Tyrolean Institute for Ethnic Groups in Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano on 21 April 2026, FUEN President Olivia Schubert warned that minority rights are particularly vulnerable during periods of geopolitical crisis. In such circumstances, minorities are increasingly viewed through a security perspective, while language rights may be questioned in the name of national unity. Schubert called for consistent legal and institutional safeguards that do not depend on changing political conditions. She urged the European Commission to create an institutional point of contact for national minorities and emphasised the need for closer cooperation with the United Nations and the Council of Europe. The rejection of the Minority SafePack Initiative, she stressed, was a setback rather than a defeat: its objectives would continue to be pursued through alternative political and legal channels.



PHOTO: PHILIPPE BUISSIN /
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FUEN PRESENTS MINORITY MONITOR AND WOMEN OF MINORITIES TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 30 April 2026, FUEN President Olivia Schubert and Vice President Dr Hartmut Leipner presented the flagship projects Minority Monitor and Women of Minorities to the European Parliament's Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages in Strasbourg. Minority Monitor collects and maps rights violations, discrimination, hate speech and positive practices, transforming local experiences into evidence for policymakers. Women of Minorities addresses the intersectional barriers faced by women belonging to national and linguistic minorities and advocates structural solutions to strengthen their political and public participation. The presentation reinforced the strong cooperation between FUEN and the Minority Intergroup. Members of the European Parliament expressed support for FUEN's work and discussed the need to include dedicated financing for minority projects in the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework. The Intergroup agreed to raise the matter with the European Commission.



FUEN PRESIDIUM PRESENTS PRIORITIES AT BUNDESTAG PARLIAMENTARY BREAKFAST

On 23 April 2026, the new FUEN Presidium presented its priorities to Members of the German Bundestag during a Parliamentary Breakfast hosted by MP Knut Abraham at the Paul-Löbe-Haus in Berlin. Under the theme “Autochthonous minorities in tomorrow’s Europe”, FUEN engaged with representatives from across the political spectrum. The delegation called for clear political support for the European Convention on Human Rights and its institutional structures. It also urged decision-makers to translate the political legacy of the Minority SafePack Initiative into concrete responsibility, including action against geoblocking and restrictions on minority-language audiovisual content. FUEN further highlighted the importance of systematically involving young people in decision-making and called for long-term institutional stability and multiannual funding models for minority organisations instead of reliance on short-term project financing.



FUEN ADVOCATES STRONGER MINORITY-RIGHTS PROTECTION AT THE PACE SPRING SESSION

Between 20 and 22 April 2026, a delegation of FUEN’s European Dialogue Forum visited the Council of Europe during the spring session of its Parliamentary Assembly. In a meeting with PACE President Petra Bayr, the delegation requested that the protection of national minorities remain high on the Assembly’s political agenda. It called for greater political attention to the monitoring findings of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. To establish a more permanent dialogue, the delegation proposed the creation of a Minority Intergroup within PACE. Meetings with the Permanent Representatives of Germany, Denmark and Austria, as well as several national PACE delegations, addressed models of minority protection, the relevance of the Bonn-Copenhagen Declarations and the challenges created by artificial intelligence for minority languages.



FUEN PRESENTS MUTE HATE SPEECH AND THE RENEWED MINORITY MONITOR AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

During the Council of Europe's No Hate Speech Week, held from 17 to 19 June 2026 in Strasbourg, former FUEN Vice President Gösta Toft presented two of FUEN's central instruments for combating intolerance and documenting discrimination. The Mute Hate Speech campaign uses the universal language and visibility of football to challenge hate speech, including through its strong presence at EUROPEADA 2024, where its message was supported by around 900 players. The renewed Minority Monitor complements this awareness-raising work with an interactive mapping tool that illustrates the geographical and thematic distribution of discrimination and rights violations affecting minority communities. The event, organised alongside a Democracy Hackathon, brought civil society, public authorities, experts and young innovators together to develop practical responses to hate speech and strengthen democratic participation.



→ PARTNERSHIPS

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.

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), Eurac Research, Tom Lantos Institute (TLI), Coppieters Foundation. We participated in and organised many events involving these partners of ours.



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES



Gesellschaft für
bedrohte Völker



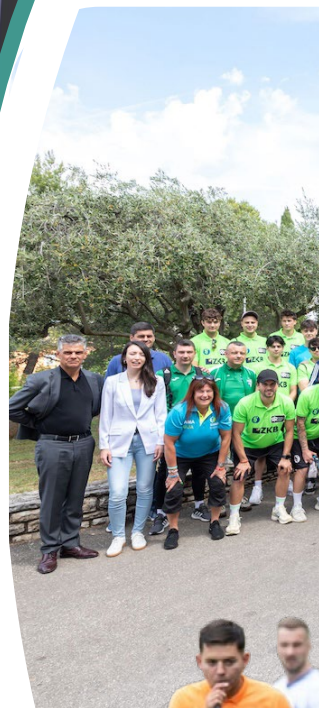
→ MINORITY MONITOR

During the reporting period, Minority Monitor further strengthened its role as FUEN's digital platform for documenting, analysing and raising awareness of issues affecting national minorities across Europe. Alongside the continuous monitoring of minority rights violations, discrimination and positive developments, the platform increasingly focused on providing in-depth analyses of key challenges identified by FUEN member organisations through the annual resolutions adopted at the FUEN Congress, transforming these priorities into accessible background articles and policy-oriented content.

A major milestone was the complete redesign of www.minoritymonitor.eu, introducing a modern visual identity, improved navigation and a more user-friendly presentation of cases, thematic articles and country-specific developments. The renewed platform enhances both public accessibility and its value as a resource for minority organisations, researchers and decision-makers.

Throughout the year, Minority Monitor continued to publish new case studies and thematic analyses covering issues such as minority identity, language rights, education, political participation and indigenous peoples' rights. Among the new contributions are articles on the situation of the Turkish minority in Greece, the Macedonian minority in Albania and the Crimean Tatars, with additional analyses – including the state of minority education for the Turkish minority in Greece – scheduled for publication as part of the platform's continued expansion.

The project also gained greater European visibility through its presentation at the European Parliament's Intergrup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages, where Minority Monitor was showcased as one of FUEN's flagship initiatives supporting evidence-based advocacy, monitoring and the promotion of minority rights across Europe.





→ EUROPEADA 2028

The EUROPEADA, the Football Championship of European Minorities, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2028 (having held five tournaments so far), has grown into a major sporting event for Europe's minority communities, with record numbers of participating men's and women's teams at its last edition, held in 2024 in the German-Danish border region.

The sixth edition of EUROPEADA is set to take place in the summer of 2028 in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region in northeastern Italy. The hosts are FUEN member organisations representing the Slovenian and Friulian communities in Italy – the Council of Slovenian Organisations, the Slovenian Cultural and Economic Union, and the Friulian Philological Society. The men's and women's matches will be played in 13 different locations across the region, spanning from the Alps to the Adriatic Sea. The opening ceremony is planned to take place in Trieste/Trst/Triest, while the final matches will be held in Gurize/Gorizia/Gorica/Görz.

The EUROPEADA expert group worked on a long-term strategy to safeguard the tournament's sporting, cultural, and community spirit. After an online meeting in March 2025, representatives from European minority teams met in Novi Sad to refine the guidelines together with the EUROPEADA 2028 hosts. They focused on key areas such as the tournament system, logistics, culture, media, and partnerships, with final guidelines planned for presentation at the FUEN Congress 2026.

FUEN together with local organisers is already working with the new guidelines and will present further news at the congress in Helsinki/Helsingfors, where the new logo and homepage of the tournament will be presented as well.

The registrations for the EUROPEADA 2028 are expected to start in spring 2027.

In summer 2026, many teams shared updates on their preparation tournaments. One of these events carried special significance: the Tournament of Slavic Minorities Ivan Budinčević, organised for the first time in Pula by the Serbs in Croatia and dedicated to a great friend of EUROPEADA and FUEN who passed away last year. The tournament was won by "Žile" – the Slovenes in Italy – with the hosts and the Bulgarians from Romania also taking part.



→ WOMEN OF MINORITIES

The Women of Minorities project continued to strengthen the visibility, participation and networking of minority women across Europe through policy dialogue, advocacy and awareness-raising activities. The main milestone of the reporting period was the third thematic meeting, held in Budapest on 1-3 December 2025 in cooperation with the National Self-Government of Germans in Hungary (LdU), bringing together representatives of FUEN member organisations, public institutions, academia and civil society to discuss equal political participation and representation of minority women.

The conference focused on structural barriers that limit women's access to political and representative positions, including care responsibilities, stereotypes, violence, lack of visibility and unequal access to decision-making. Alongside identifying these challenges, participants exchanged good practices on leadership, mentoring and institutional change, reinforcing the importance of stronger networks and practical support mechanisms for minority women across Europe.

A significant achievement during the reporting period was the strengthening of cooperation with the Council of Europe. Representatives of the Council of Europe contributed to the Budapest conference as keynote speakers and experts, bringing a broader European perspective on minority rights, gender equality and democratic participation. The dialogue established during the event laid the foundations for closer cooperation in future project activities and confirmed the shared commitment to advancing the political participation of minority women.



The outcomes of the conference were compiled in the report *Empowering Minority Women in Europe*, published in 2026, providing practical recommendations for strengthening women's participation within minority organisations and public life. The project also expanded its *Their Stories* video series with new portraits highlighting the experiences and achievements of minority women from different European communities, while interviews and conference results were disseminated through the project website, FUEN communication channels and social media.



Women of Minorities managed to further increase its visibility at European level, including through its presentation to the European Parliament's Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages. By combining research, advocacy, personal stories and institutional partnerships, Women of Minorities further established itself as one of FUEN's flagship initiatives promoting equality, diversity and the active participation of minority women.





35 YEARS OF AGDM

FUEN warmly congratulates its Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) on its 35th anniversary!

Since 1991, the AGDM has brought together German minority organisations from across Europe and Central Asia. For three and a half decades, it has provided a common platform for exchange, cooperation and political dialogue, while giving a strong voice to the concerns of the German minorities.

Over the years, the AGDM has become an important part of the FUEN family and a reliable partner in our common commitment to minority rights, language, culture and identity.

We thank everyone who has contributed to the work of the AGDM over the past 35 years and wish the Working Group continued success for the years ahead.

Happy 35th anniversary, dear AGDM!



30 YEARS OF AGSM

FUEN warmly congratulates its Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM) on its 30th anniversary!

What began in 1996 today connects organisations of Slavic minorities from across Europe. For three decades, its seminars have been a reliable meeting place and a shared voice.

We thank everyone who has contributed to this and wish the AGSM every success in the years ahead.
Happy anniversary!

→ WORKING GROUPS

→ WORKING GROUP OF GERMAN MINORITIES (AGDM)

The FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) brings together organisations of German minority communities from across Europe and Central Asia. Active since 1991, the AGDM serves as the only common representation of these communities, working to ensure that their concerns and perspectives are heard in political debates in Germany and across Europe. It advocates for the preservation of language, culture and identity and fosters cooperation and dialogue between minority communities and political decision-makers.

34TH AGDM ANNUAL MEETING: A COMMUNITY OF SHARED FATE WITH RESPONSIBILITY

With a view to the AGDM's 35th anniversary in 2026, the 34th Annual Meeting on 6 and 7 November 2025 in Berlin focused on continuity and renewal. 29 representatives of German minorities from 16 countries discussed current challenges, funding structures, youth work and the future of the Working Group.

The meeting was opened by outgoing AGDM Spokesperson Bernard Gaida, Dr Bernd Fabritius, Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities, and FUEN President Olivia Schubert. Gaida described the German minorities as a community



which, despite differing realities of life, is connected “by an invisible bond”, and recalled Germany’s historical responsibility to support them. Fabritius praised the AGDM as an expression of identity, cohesion and bridge-building; Schubert emphasised the importance of European cooperation within the Working Group.

In addition to internal consultations, political talks were at the centre of the meeting. With MP Klaus-Peter Willsch, Chair of the Group of Expellees, Resettlers and German Minorities of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the German Bundestag, participants discussed budget issues, funding structures and cultural projects. Vice-President of the German Bundestag Andrea Lindholz then received the group for an exchange on educational work, youth work and public visibility.

A special moment of the meeting was the change of leadership at the head of the Working Group. Bernard Gaida, who had led the AGDM for nine years, was formally thanked for his many years of service. Benjamin Józsa, Executive Director of the Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania, was then elected as the new AGDM Spokesperson. After his election, Józsa made clear where he wants to place a particular focus in the coming years: “The greatest priority is to convince politicians that minorities are not only recipients of funding, but an opportunity for Germany.”

The very next day, Józsa joined the AGDM delegation in a meeting with the Parliamentary Group on Minorities in the German Bundestag. The conclusion and, at the same time, one of the highlights of the Annual Meeting was the discussion

with Federal Minister of the Interior Alexander Dobrindt. He underlined Germany’s historical and cultural ties with the German minorities, thanked the AGDM for its commitment and announced that he would recommend to his fellow cabinet members that they actively seek contact with German minorities on the ground during trips abroad. At the same time, he made clear: “Where democracy suffers, minorities are the first to suffer.”

The Annual Meeting showed that the German minorities are not static communities, but networks with responsibility and a perspective for the future. Józsa summed this up at the end: “We are not a dusty folklore association, but a major opportunity in our countries. We are a community of shared fate that takes responsibility: for its origins, for its future and for Europe.”

4TH AGDM YOUTH CONFERENCE: STRONG STRUCTURES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Closely connected to the Annual Meeting was the 4th AGDM Youth Conference, which took place in Berlin on 5 and 6 November 2025. Youth representatives of the German minorities from Europe and Central Asia exchanged views on their work, further developed project ideas and discussed new forms of international cooperation. The conference was opened by AGDM Youth Coordinator Sebastian Arion; FUEN President Olivia Schubert and FUEN Secretary General Éva Péntzes also welcomed



the participants. A central demand remained the establishment of a coordination office for youth projects in every country. Arion summed up the importance of youth work: "Strong youth means a strong future for the German minorities in Europe and Central Asia."

In addition to internal consultations, practical and historical questions were also at the centre of the conference. A workshop on social media and AI showed how digital tools can increase the reach of youth organisations and help them address new target groups. Together with Bernard Gaida, the group also visited the Documentation Centre for Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation and the special exhibition "The Trek: Photographs of Displacement 1945". At the open networking meeting in the FUEN office, the participants had the opportunity to exchange views with AGDM partner organisations.

AGDM FUTURE WORKSHOP: STRATEGIC DIRECTION UNTIL 2030

Following the Annual Meeting and the Youth Conference in Berlin, the AGDM took the next step in its strategic development in 2026. On 11 and 12 May, the Working Group held its Future Workshop in Budapest. 27 representatives of German minorities from 15 countries discussed the future direction of the AGDM and its strategic priorities until 2030.

The Future Workshop was led by Melanie Hörenz, a moderator for solution-oriented work and change processes. The participants were welcomed by Angelika Pfizterer, Director of the Hungarian-German Cultural and Information Centre, FUEN Secretary General Éva Péntzes and AGDM Spokesperson Benjamin Józsa. In several working phases, the participants addressed the strengths of the AGDM, current challenges and strategic opportunities. On this basis, they developed a shared vision for the future and formulated goals for the coming years.



The central fields of action included youth work, language and identity in the digital age, political advocacy, organisational development, and press and public relations work. The Future Workshop thus marked the start of a process through which the AGDM is reorganising its work in the year of its 35th anniversary and aligning it for the coming years.

REMEMBRANCE, RECOGNITION AND VISIBILITY

In addition to strategic development in the anniversary year, 2026 also showed the full breadth of the AGDM's work: remembrance culture, the recognition of deserving personalities and public visibility shaped the work of the Working Group just as much as its internal consultations.

On 19 January, Hungary and Germany commemorated the beginning of the deportation and expulsion of the Hungarian Germans 80 years ago. At the central commemorative event in Munich, German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier,



Hungary's then President Dr Tamás Sulyok and FUEN President Olivia Schubert delivered speeches. Schubert said: "For us, Germans in Hungary, remembrance means more than looking back. It is an act of dignity."

With great sadness, the AGDM mourned the loss of Dr Ondrej Pöss, who passed away on 20 April 2026. As long-standing Chair of the Carpathian German Association in Slovakia and founder of the Museum of Carpathian German Culture, he shaped Carpathian German cultural and remembrance work for decades.

Hinrich Jürgensen was also honoured. On 15 June 2026, after 19 years as Chairman of the Federation of Germans in Northern Schleswig, he was officially recognised for his many years of service at a reception on the Knivsberg. Among those attending the reception were FUEN President Olivia Schubert, FUEN Secretary General Éva Péntzes and AGDM Spokesperson Benjamin Józsa.





In addition, the AGDM was represented with an information stand at the Open Day of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) on 20 and 21 June 2026 in Berlin. FUEN Secretary General Éva Péntzes and AGDM Spokesperson Benjamin Józsa, together with the team, presented the German minorities in Europe and Central Asia as well as the work of the AGDM and FUEN to visitors. A quiz offered many visitors an accessible introduction to the topic; Federal Minister of the Interior Alexander Dobrindt, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior Christoph de Vries and the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities, Dr Bernd Fabritius, also visited the stand.

These examples represent only a selection of the AGDM's work in its anniversary year. Beyond these activities, the Working Group remained in continuous exchange with its member organisations as well as with political partners and institutions in Germany and Europe.



→ **WORKING GROUP OF SLAVIC MINORITIES (AGSM)**

The Working Group of Slavic Minorities is well-established within the FUEN network and has a long tradition of organising seminars for Slavic minorities in Europe.

AGSM was founded in 1996 and celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2026 – reason enough to unveil a new anniversary logo.



Thanks to the reliable support of the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany, the AGSM was able to continue developing and carrying out its activities during its anniversary year 2025/26. The AGSM held its regular working meeting at the 2025 FUEN Congress in Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano, South Tyrol. In addition to the working group's ongoing activities, the focus was on the FUEN Assembly of Delegates and the election of the new Presidium. Of particular importance to the AGSM was the election of Dr Hartmut Leipner from Domowina – Federation of Lusatian Sorbs – as representative of the Slavic language

group to the new FUEN Presidium, meaning that the AGSM is once again represented on FUEN's highest governing body.

AGSM sends out a newsletter at regular intervals, has a new, carefully designed website (agsm.fuen.org), and has published a brochure about its members, which is already available in eight languages. This year, the brochure will be translated into Ukrainian. These have been important steps towards strengthening the public profile and raising awareness of the concerns of Slavic minorities in Europe.



THE EUROPEAN CAPITALS OF CULTURE, NOVA GORICA (SLO) AND GORIZIA (ITA), ARE A CROSS-BORDER 'LABORATORY OF PEACE'

At the end of November 2025, the 28th Seminar of Slavic Minorities took place in Gorica/Gorizia, the 2025 European Capital of Culture, hosted by the Slovenian minority in Italy. Representatives of various Slavic minorities from several countries gathered there to discuss the importance of cultural diversity, the protection of minority rights and the role of cross-border cooperation in fostering peaceful coexistence. The seminar highlighted how historical experiences, shared cultural roots and current political challenges shape the identity of these communities. At the same time, it was emphasised that minorities can act as active bridge-builders between states and cultures. The event concluded with a call to further strengthen European support for minority policy and to raise the profile of the Gorica/Gorizia (Italy) and Nova Gorica (Slovenia) region as a symbol of dialogue and understanding. We would like to thank both host member organisations of the Slovenian community in Italy, SSO and SKGZ, for a fantastic seminar! Hvala lepa!

The anniversary year 2026 started very actively, with several meetings of the new FUEN Presidium, in which AGSM Spokesperson Dr Hartmut Leipner also took an active part.

At the same time, preparations were already underway for the 29th Seminar of Slavic Minorities, which took place in Albania for the first time in early June 2026 and also marked the 30th anniversary of the AGSM.



29TH SEMINAR OF SLAVIC MINORITIES



Around 40 representatives of Slavic minorities from across Europe gathered in Tirana to discuss the situation of the Macedonian community in Albania, focusing in particular on issues of language, education, cultural identity, political participation and institutional recognition. The AGSM was awarded the 'Ilinden' Prize in recognition of its commitment. Experts and an exhibition on the Macedonian mother tongue shed light on the situation on the local level, whilst a panel discussion emphasised that, although Albania had laid important foundations with the 2017 Minorities Act, its practical implementation remained crucial. Political representation, alignment with EU standards and challenges such as assimilation were identified as key issues. The seminar highlighted the importance of minority rights for democratic development and the EU integration process in the Western Balkans. In addition to expert presentations, the event provided an opportunity for internal AGSM work, dialogue with political institutions and the celebration of the 30th anniversary. Many thanks to our hosts at Ilinden-Tirana! Ви благодарам!

The hosts of the next Seminar in 2027 will be the Ukrainians in Hungary.

→ **WORKING GROUP OF TURKIC MINORITIES/ COMMUNITIES IN FUEN (TAG)**

TAG, which was established in 2013, brings together Turkic minorities and communities across a vast geographical area stretching from the Balkans to the Caucasus under the umbrella of FUEN. By uniting Turkic minorities and communities under the umbrella of FUEN, TAG aims to foster strong solidarity and cooperation amongst them, whilst seeking to articulate the issues and demands of Turkic minorities and communities at an international level and to make their voices heard by a wider audience.



The FUEN TAG Secretariat is currently run by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF), an umbrella organisation representing the Turkish Minority in Western Thrace, Greece. The Working Group Spokesperson is ABTTF President Halit Habip Oğlu.

TAG currently comprises 12 FUEN member organisations representing Turkic minorities and communities. TAG brings together the Western Thrace Turks, Turks from Rhodes, Kos and the Dodecanese Islands from Greece; the Meskhetian Turks, Karachay-Balkars and Kumyks from Russia; the Crimean Tatars from Ukraine; the Meskhetian Turks from Azerbaijan; the Turks from Kosovo; and the Tatars from Romania.

69TH FUEN CONGRESS



The 69th annual Congress of FUEN was held in the city of Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano in Italy's South Tyrol region from 23 to 26 October 2025.

Hosted by the South Tyrolean People's Party (SVP), which represents the German and Ladin minorities in Italy, the Congress was attended by members of the Working Group of

Turkic Minorities/Communities in FUEN (TAG), including the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF), the Rhodes, Kos and the Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association (ROISDER), the Public Organisation of Meskhetian Turks “VATAN”, the Kosovo Youth Union Association (KGBD) and the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People (QTMM). At the FUEN TAG consultation meeting held on the second day of the Congress, TAG Spokesperson Halit Habip Oğlu reported on TAG’s work and activities since the 11th Annual TAG Meeting held from 29 May to 1 June 2025. The meeting, which assessed recent developments in the Turkic minorities and communities that are members of TAG, also discussed the programme and organisation of the 12th Annual TAG Meeting in 2026.

7TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FUEN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

The 7th Annual Meeting of the FUEN Education Working Group was held from 10 to 13 November 2025 in the city of Komotini, in the Western Thrace region of Greece.

Representatives of the Western Thrace Turks, the Turks of Rhodes and Kos, the Turks of Bulgaria and the Crimean Tatars participated in the meeting, which was attended by teachers, educators, researchers and academics from different European countries and focused on the theme of “Minority Schooling Systems, Turkish Minority Education in Greece, Minority History Teaching”.



PRESENTATION OF THE TURKS OF KOSOVO AND NORTH MACEDONIA AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S INTERGROUP ON MINORITIES, LED BY FUEN TAG



At a meeting held on 30 April 2026 in Strasbourg by the European Parliament’s Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities, and Languages, the Turks of Kosovo and North Macedonia were introduced and the current challenges they face were highlighted, thanks to the initiative and support of the FUEN TAG Working Group.

The meeting, chaired by Intergroup Chair Loránt Vincze (EPP, Romania) and attended by MEPs, was joined by Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo and Spokesperson for the Democratic Turkish Party of Kosovo (KDTP) Sevgi Buş Kika, Vice President of the Turkish Democratic Party of North Macedonia (TDP) Şeval Nuredin and Deniz Servantie from the TAG Secretariat.

In the first part of the meeting, presentations were made on the projects and activities of FUEN aimed at protecting minority rights, while the second part featured presentations on the Turks of Kosovo and North Macedonia.

→ **WORKING GROUP OF HUNGARIAN COMMUNITIES IN FUEN (MAGYAR KÖZÖSSÉGEK MUNKACSOPORT – MKM)**

FUEN's newest working group was established at the 2023 FUEN Annual Congress in Pécs/Fünfkirchen/Pecuh in Hungary. Here, the representatives of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia (KMKSZ), the Hungarian Alliance from Slovakia, the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK) and the Hungarian Self-Governing National Community of Pomurje (MMÖNK) decided to establish a working group which advocates for the interests and concerns of the Hungarian minorities, represents their interests within FUEN and is the platform for exchanging the experiences of the members. At the 2024 FUEN Congress the Hungarian Civic Force (MPE) from Romania became the seventh member of the working group.

Member of the European Parliament Loránt Vincze (RMDSZ), a Hungarian from Romania, is the Speaker of the Working Group of Hungarian Communities.



FUEN CONGRESS 2025

Representatives of FUEN's Hungarian member organisations met on 24 October 2025 in Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano as part of the FUEN Congress. At the meeting, the first Speaker of the Working Group, KMKSZ President László Brenzovics, asked outgoing FUEN President Loránt Vincze to become the new leader of MKM, a role he gladly accepted. The main topic of the meeting was the preparation for the FUEN Assembly of Delegates. The members decided to support the candidacy of Dr Balázs Tárnok (Hungarian Alliance from Slovakia) to become FUEN Vice President.



MKM ANNUAL MEETING IN BRATISLAVA

On 15-17 May 2026, the Working Group of Hungarian Communities in FUEN (MKM) held its third annual working meeting in Bratislava/Pozsony, Slovakia. At their initiative, a meeting was held on Friday evening with Hungarian organisations from Slovakia, at which representatives from Csemadok, the Forum Institute, Selye János University in Komárno, the Faculty of Central European Studies at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Pro Civis, and the Network of Hungarian College Associations in Slovakia presented their activities. The MKM's goal is to play an active role in shaping relations between Hungarian organisations and institutions across the border. Following the meeting, Hungary's Ambassador to Slovakia, Dr Csaba Balogh, greeted the participants.



The Saturday working session was opened by Loránt Vincze, Member of the European Parliament and Speaker of the working group, who provided an update on the most important national policy developments of recent times, while László Gubik, President of the Hungarian Alliance, welcomed the representatives of the seven member organisations as host at the party's headquarters in Bratislava. Dr Balázs Tárnok, Vice President of FUEN, presented the work of the presidency of the European

umbrella organisation for minority protection to date. All seven member organisations were present at the meeting, also attended by Réka Brendus, Head of Department at the State Secretariat for National Policy, as well as Domokos Vékás and Áron Léphaft from the Office of the National Assembly.

The MKM adopted a statement in which the participants welcome and note with confidence the new Hungarian government's commitment to continuity in national policy. They state that they regard the preservation, strengthening, and further development of the national policy achievements of recent decades as a priority, as these achievements constitute an important pillar for the survival and growth of Hungarian communities abroad. In addition, they emphasize the role of forums for Hungarian-Hungarian relations; they highlight and acknowledge with gratitude the consistent financial support provided to FUEN by the governments of Hungary and Germany; and they underscore the role of FUEN and the Minority Intergroup in advocating for interests at the European level, in which they continue to count on the support of the HUNINEU Foundation. At the same time, they recommend involving the youth organisations of member organisations in the activities of the MKM.

In the statement, they deem it unacceptable that the Beneš Decrees, based on the principle of collective guilt, continue to serve as a reference point in 21st-century Europe, and they call on the Slovak government to resolve the situation once and for all. They also expressed deep concern regarding the Russian aggression and war in Ukraine, particularly the attacks against the Hungarian community in Subcarpathia, as well as the hardships of war afflicting the Hungarian community.

MKM WEBSITE

The English-Hungarian bilingual website mkm.fuen.org is now fully functional, presenting news, photo galleries and detailed information about the six communities and the seven member organisations of MKM.

→ **NON-KIN-STATE WORKING GROUP (NKS)**

The FUEN Non-Kin-State Working Group (NKS) was established by FUEN in 2017 to give minorities without a kin-state the opportunity to discuss their specific concerns and challenges, develop joint solutions and formulate strategies for the preservation of their minority languages and cultures. This working group currently comprises 43 organisations from 19 different countries.

During the 2025 FUEN Congress in Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy, Bahne Bahnsen was re-elected as Spokesperson for NKS.

In 2025, the NKS brochure was translated into German and is available online on the nks.fuen.org website. There are plans to translate the brochure into French in 2026.



10TH NKS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year, the working group met at its 10th Annual Conference from 2 to 5 July in Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Fryslân/Friesland (Netherlands), where around 20 representatives of national minorities without a kin-state discussed common challenges, current developments and the future of small languages. The event was hosted by the FUEN member organisation De Fryske Beweging.

The focus was on the digital presence of minority languages, as well as questions regarding how minority languages can remain visible and usable – for example, in apps, the media, public administration, education, artificial intelligence and in the everyday lives of young people.

Bahne Bahnsen and Sjirk Eildert Bruinsma opened the conference, while FUEN President Olivia Schubert addressed participants via video message. Bahnsen emphasised the importance of the Frisian language as part of freedom and self-determination, whilst warning that, although technology can facilitate community, it cannot replace it.

The conference demonstrated how diverse the concept of digital visibility must be; in addition to public sessions, the meeting also served as a forum for internal exchange amongst NKS member organisations on current situations, projects and future directions.

The supporting programme also gave participants a deeper insight into Frisian history, culture and landscape, for example through guided tours of Leeuwarden, the De Sûkerei open-air museum in Damwâld and the sea dykes near Wierum. FUEN extends its warmest thanks to De Fryske Beweging for its organisation and hospitality.

The next meeting of the NKS Working Group is planned to take place as part of the 2026 FUEN Congress in Helsinki/Helsingfors, Finland.



→ **EDUCATION WORKING GROUP**

Together with families and communities, schools remain the foundation for the preservation and transmission of minority languages, cultures and identities. During the reporting period, the FUEN Working Group on Education continued to serve as a European platform for cooperation and exchange between minority organisations, educational institutions and experts, focusing on the future of minority education in Europe.



7TH ANNUAL MEETING

A central milestone was the 7th Annual Meeting of the Education Working Group, held from 10 to 13 November 2025 in Komotini, Western Thrace, Greece, bringing together 34 participants from eleven European countries. The



meeting focused on minority education at secondary and upper-secondary level, minority schooling systems and the teaching of minority history. Discussions highlighted common challenges across Europe, including demographic decline, teacher shortages, outdated teaching materials and the limited representation of minority perspectives in national curricula, while also showcasing successful practices from different minority communities.

The programme included dialogue with the regional education authorities in Western Thrace, providing participants with first-hand insight into the opportunities and challenges of bilingual minority education in the region. The outcomes of the meeting were compiled in two analytical publications, *Minority Education in Europe – Country Findings* and *Minority History Teaching in Europe*, which present comparative findings and recommendations for strengthening minority education policies across Europe.



ONLINE ACTIVITIES

The Working Group also continued to expand the educational resources available through edu.fuen.org.

In preparation for the 2026 Annual Meeting in Eupen, Belgium, the Working Group introduced a new approach to planning by organising an online consultation with its members. The initiative aimed to involve members more actively in shaping the programme, selecting thematic priorities and identifying practical outcomes, strengthening the collaborative character of the Working Group and encouraging greater ownership of its future activities. Preparations also began for the next thematic focus on vocational education and training (VET) and teacher exchange as tools for reinforcing minority education across Europe.



→ YOUTH OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES (YEN)

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is an umbrella organisation covering 42 youth organisations of autochthonous, national, ethnic and linguistic minorities throughout Europe. As a European organisation, YEN stands for preserving and developing language, culture and identity while supporting the rights of European minorities with a specific focus on young people and their interests.

International seminars, trainings and workshops but also cultural and social gatherings among young members of a minority group represent our activities. The seminars of YEN are held by minority youth organisations within the YEN network. All these workshops are run according to the principles of non-formal education, where participants' experiences contribute greatly towards the design and content of the workshop sessions.

As a self-organised and self-managed youth organisation, YEN maintains good cooperation relationships with other relevant European organisations such as FUEN, the European Youth Forum (YFJ), and various regional partner networks.

Our Board consists of 7 young people from various European minorities. Our organisational structure consists of various working groups, which have been reformed during 2026. Additionally, we started up a new Advisory Council during our General Assembly in 2026.



The YEN Office, located in Berlin, provides administrative and operational support, staffed by the Secretary General and a Project Manager. During the last year, the YEN Office has had two interns in the first half of the year and we expect to welcome at least one more intern in the second part of this year. Furthermore, the team underwent personnel changes as the former Project Manager stepped into the role of Secretary General, and a new Project Manager was welcomed to the team.



AUTUMN SEMINAR 2025

The annual YEN topic for 2025 – 'Minority Youth in the Spotlight' – concluded with the Autumn Seminar "Visibility through Creativity", hosted in September by Klub mladých Čechů in Daruvar, Croatia. Participants used art as a medium of expression, exploring theatrical performances, creative writing and body movement. Additionally, the third part in our series on "Visibility in Action" training took place in November in Hondarribia, Basque Country ("Creative Action in the Public Sphere"). We also fostered both internal and international networking opportunities during the YEN Networking Weekend in Berlin in December 2025.

EASTER SEMINAR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026

In 2026, we further increased our presence online and provided member organisations with more chances to connect virtually via quarterly Digital MO Couch events. During the Annual Easter Seminar and General Assembly in April 2026 in Montroulez, Brittany, participants focused on the topic "Get Involved! Minority Youth Shapes Democratic Participation".

Members were presented with various approaches to advocate their position and explore different tools that they can use to raise awareness around issues related to youth and minority rights. During the General Assembly, delegates passed several strategic decisions and elected a new Board for the upcoming mandate, headed by President Johanna Kézdi, German from Romania.

Continuing from last year's partnership with the Minority Competence Network (MKN), YEN together with MKN organised a project in June 2026 at Knivsberg, Denmark on the issue "Connecting Voices: European Minority Perspectives and the Struggle against Antigypsyism".



In 2025/2026, we've been keeping busy externally throughout Europe. Representing the voice of minority youth was at the heart of our work at events such as the FUEN Congress in Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano, YFJ General Assemblies in Kandersteg & Tromsø, and the European Youth Event in Strasbourg. During parliamentary breakfasts and meetings with European decision-makers we engaged in high-level political dialogue around topics important for young Europeans. At YEN we believe that you have a voice – now go make it heard! We seek your active participation and equip and empower you to take action and voice your opinion on issues affecting your community. At YEN we believe that young people aren't just the future, they're the present too!



→ FUEN EVENT CALENDAR 2025/2026

→ 2025

- 25.10.** FUEN Assembly of Delegates elects new leadership: Olivia Schubert becomes new FUEN President – Bozen/ Bulsan/Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy
- 05.–06.11.** 4th Youth Meeting of the FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) – Berlin, Germany
- 06.–07.11.** 34th Annual Meeting of the FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) – Berlin, Germany
- 10.–13.11.** 7th Annual Meeting of the FUEN Working Group on Education – Komotini, Western Thrace, Greece
- 18.11.** Exchange with Olya Tsuprykova, co-founder of the NGO “North Azovian Greeks”, on the situation of the North Azovian Greeks – Berlin, Germany
- 18.11.** FUEN attends the Symposium on the Protection of Regional and Minority Languages in EU Trademark Law – Brussels, Belgium
- 19.11.** FUEN Brussels meets the Frisian Council Section North – Brussels, Belgium
- 20.11.** FUEN Brussels holds working meeting with Minority Rights Group – Brussels, Belgium
- 20.–23.11.** 28th Seminar of the FUEN Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM) – Gorizia/Gorica, Italy, and Nova Gorica, Slovenia
- 25.11.** AGDM Spokesperson Benjamin Józsa attends the annual planning conference of the FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) at the German Federal Ministry of the Interior and holds exchange at the FUEN office – Berlin, Germany
- 26.11.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert takes part in civil society exchange with UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Prof. Nicolas Levrat – Geneva, Switzerland
- 26.–28.11.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert and representatives of the FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) attend the 18th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues – Geneva, Switzerland
- 01.–03.12.** Third thematic meeting of the FUEN “Women of Minorities” project – Budapest, Hungary
- 08.12.** First meeting of the newly elected FUEN Presidium – Berlin, Germany
- 09.–13.12.** Meeting of FUEN Working Group coordinators – Berlin, Germany
- 12.12.** FUEN calls on the EU to act over systematic ethnic-based land confiscations in Slovakia – Online
- 18.12.** European Parliament’s Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages holds exchange with UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Prof. Nicolas Levrat – Strasbourg, France

→ 2026

- 13.01.** First meeting of the newly elected European Dialogue Forum (EDF) – Online
- 17.01.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert and a FUEN delegation attend the 79th Vienna Croatsians’ Ball (Hrvatski bal / Wiener Kroatenball) – Vienna, Austria
- 19.01.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert takes part in commemoration marking the 80th anniversary of the deportation and expulsion of the Germans of Hungary – Munich, Germany
- 20.01.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert and EDF Spokesperson Jens A. Christiansen meet UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Prof. Nicolas Levrat – Brussels, Belgium
- 22.01.** FUEN Vice-President Dr Balázs Tárnok takes part in a meeting of the European Parliament’s Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages on the Beneš Decrees in Slovakia – Strasbourg, France

- **23.01.** Publication of FUEN call for the inclusion of the Ladin language at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games – Online
- **28.01.** FUEN takes part in commemoration at the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe Murdered under the Nazi Regime – Berlin, Germany
- **06.02.** FUEN marks Sámi National Day and sends best wishes to all Sámi people – Online
- **19.02.** Online meeting of the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) on the planned visit to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) – Online
- **21.02.** FUEN marks International Mother Language Day and highlights the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism – Online
- **24.02.** Meeting of the FUEN Presidium – Online
- **25.–27.02.** AGDM Spokesperson Benjamin Józsa holds meetings with political and institutional partners – Berlin and Potsdam, Germany
- **26.02.** FUEN Brussels meets Microsoft Open Innovation Center – Brussels, Belgium
- **02.03.** FUEN Vice-President Bahne Bahnsen and EDF member Gösta Toft take part in an exchange with guests from the Macedonian FORUM in North Macedonia at the Sankelmark Academy Centre – Sankelmark, Germany
- **03.03.** FUEN takes part in European Parliament event “Voices of Indigenous Peoples against Russia’s Repression” – Brussels, Belgium
- **04.03.** FUEN Brussels holds working meeting with Coppieters Foundation – Brussels, Belgium
- **10.03.** European Parliament’s Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages discusses Minority SafePack follow-up, geoblocking and minority rights with Michael McGrath, European Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, with FUEN priorities reflected in the exchange – Strasbourg, France
- **12.03.** FUEN Vice-President Sterica Fudulea visits FUEN Brussels office – Brussels, Belgium
- **13.03.** FUEN Brussels participates in coordination meeting of Brussels-based partners on the European Day of Languages in Brussels – Brussels, Belgium
- **16.03.** FUEN Vice-President Bahne Bahnsen takes part in Dialogforum Norden – Flensburg, Germany
- **19.03.** Exchange with Andrea Vándor, research associate at the Museum of European Cultures in Berlin – Berlin, Germany
- **20.03.** Publication of Women of Minorities video interview with Terezija Stoisits, Burgenland Croat from Austria – Online
- **23.–26.03.** FUEN delegation with President Olivia Schubert, Vice-President Bahne Bahnsen and Secretary General Éva Péntzes visits FUEN member organisations and partners in the German-Danish border region – Flensburg, Oeversee/ Sankelmark, Kiel, Bredstedt/Bräist, Germany, and Aabenraa/Apenrade, Denmark
- **24.03.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert, Vice-President Bahne Bahnsen and Secretary General Éva Péntzes take part in the General Assembly of the Minority Competence Network – Flensburg, Germany
- **26.03.** FUEN Brussels participates in Minority Rights Networks coordination meeting on the UN Minority Forum 2026 – Online
- **30.03.** FUEN Brussels meets the Welsh Government Office – Brussels, Belgium
- **31.03.–02.04.** EDF member Gösta Toft follows the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities online – Strasbourg, France / Online
- **08.04.** FUEN marks International Romani Day and sends greetings to its Roma member organisations and all Roma people – Online
- **14.04.** Thematic exchange with Brussels-based partners at the FUEN Brussels Office – Brussels, Belgium
- **14.–17.04.** EDF member Gösta Toft and representatives of the FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) take part in the April Session of the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe – Online
- **15.04.** Meeting of the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) – Online
- **16.04.** FUEN Brussels holds working meeting with MEP Anna-Maja Henriksson’s office – Brussels, Belgium
- **20.04.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert visits Eurac Research – Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy

- **20.-22.04.** FUEN / EDF advocacy visit to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) spring session – Strasbourg, France
- **21.04.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert attends the General Assembly of the South Tyrolean Institute for Ethnic Groups – Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy
- **21.04.** AGDM Spokesperson Benjamin Józsa, FUEN Secretary General Éva Péntzes and AGDM Coordinator Renata Trischler attend the Annual Reception of the Federation of Expellees (BdV) – Berlin, Germany
- **21.-22.04.** Representatives of German minorities meet at the FUEN office / AGDM Coordination Office around the 2026 annual reception of the Federation of Expellees (BdV) – Berlin, Germany
- **23.04.** FUEN Parliamentary Breakfast in the German Bundestag – Berlin, Germany
- **23.04.** FUEN Presidium meeting – Berlin, Germany
- **23.04.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert meets representatives of the “Stiftung Verbundenheit mit den Deutschen im Ausland” to discuss closer cooperation between FUEN, AGDM and the Stiftung Verbundenheit – Berlin, Germany
- **23.04.** AGDM Spokesperson Benjamin Józsa and AGDM Coordinator Renata Trischler attend the exhibition opening “Heavy Fabric / Schwerer Stoff” – Berlin, Germany
- **29.04.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert holds exchange meetings with Kinga Jensen-Magyar from the Council of Europe’s Directorate General for Democracy and Human Dignity and MEP Rasmus Andresen – Strasbourg, France
- **30.04.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert and FUEN Vice-President Dr Hartmut Leipner present FUEN’s “Minority Monitor” and “Women of Minorities” projects to the European Parliament’s Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages – Strasbourg, France
- **30.04.** FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) introduces the Turks of Kosovo and North Macedonia to the European Parliament’s Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages – Strasbourg, France
- **06.05.** FUEN Brussels attends roundtable on geo-blocking at the European Parliament – Brussels, Belgium
- **08.05.** Publication of FUEN Presidium statement on regional and minority languages in EU trademark law – Online
- **11.-13.05.** Future Workshop of the FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) – Budapest, Hungary
- **11.-13.05.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert takes part in Soccerex Europe 2026 and presents EUROPEADA – Amsterdam, Netherlands
- **13.05.** FUEN Brussels holds working meeting with MEP Loránt Vincze’s office – Brussels, Belgium
- **13.-15.05.** AGDM Coordinator Renata Trischler takes part in a national conference on education in Croatia – Našice, Croatia
- **15.-17.05.** 3rd Annual Meeting of the FUEN Working Group of Hungarian Communities (MKM) – Bratislava, Slovakia
- **18.05.** Meeting of the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) – Online
- **19.05.** European Parliament’s Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages holds exchange of views with Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management – Strasbourg, France
- **20.05.** FUEN Secretary General Éva Péntzes attends the Parliamentary Breakfast of the Minority Council of Germany’s four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups with Stefan Seidler MdB – Berlin, Germany
- **20.05.** FUEN Secretary General Éva Péntzes welcomes Johannes Callsen, Commissioner for Minorities of the Minister-President of Schleswig-Holstein, and representatives of the Minority Council of Germany’s four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups at the FUEN office – Berlin, Germany
- **23.05.** FUEN marks Aromanian National Day and sends greetings to its Aromanian member organisations and all Aromanians – Online
- **26.05.** FUEN Presidium holds extraordinary meeting on membership fees and member issues – Online
- **27.05.** FUEN Vice-President Bahne Bahnsen takes part in the Minority Policy Breakfast of the SPD – Scheersberg, Germany

- 29.-31.05.** FUEN marks the Danish Annual Meeting 2026 of the Danish minority in South Schleswig and sends greetings to Sydslesvigs Forening and all participants – South Schleswig, Germany
- 01.06.** Meeting of the FUEN Presidium – Online
- 02.06.** FUEN Brussels holds working meeting with representatives of the FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) in Brussels – Brussels, Belgium
- 02.06.** FUEN Brussels attends RENEW event on minority languages at the European Parliament – Brussels, Belgium
- 03.06.** FUEN Brussels meets Sergi Ferrús, mayor of Pedreguer, Valencian Community – Brussels, Belgium
- 04.-07.06.** 29th Seminar of the FUEN Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM) – Tirana, Albania
- 05.06.** FUEN Brussels gives presentation to minority youth from Croatia during their visit to Brussels – Brussels, Belgium
- 05.06.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert takes part in the European Free Alliance General Assembly and meets EFA President – Gandia, Valencia, Spain
- 06.06.** FUEN Vice-President Harald Stauder takes part in the opening of the first football tournament of Slavic minorities "Ivan Budinčević" – Pula, Croatia
- 08.06.** FUEN Brussels meets EU Liaison Office Burgenland – Brussels, Belgium
- 12.06.** FUEN Brussels meets EU Representation Office of Carinthia – Brussels, Belgium
- 15.06.** FUEN President Olivia Schubert, FUEN Secretary General Éva Péntzes and AGDM Spokesperson Benjamin Józsa hold meetings with the Federation of Germans in Northern Schleswig (BDN) and "Der Nordschleswiger" and attend the reception in honour of outgoing BDN Chairman Hinrich Jürgensen – Northern Schleswig, Denmark
- 15.-16.06.** FUEN Brussels attends conference on AI and minority languages organised by Microsoft at the Council of Europe – Strasbourg, France
- 17.06.** FUEN Vice-President Bahne Bahnsen, Spokesperson of the FUEN Working Group Non-Kin-State (NKS), takes part in the ceremony marking 600 years of North Frisian freedoms – Boldixum/Föhr, Germany
- 17.-19.06.** EDF member Gösta Toft takes part in No Hate Speech Week at the Council of Europe – Strasbourg, France
- 20.06.** AGDM Spokesperson Benjamin Józsa and AGDM Coordinator Renata Trischler take part in the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Flight and Displacement – Berlin, Germany
- 20.-21.06.** FUEN and its Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) present their work at the Open Day of the German Federal Ministry of the Interior – Berlin, Germany
- 23.06.** FUEN Working Group on Education holds online planning and coordination meeting on minority education, future priorities and preparations for its 8th Annual Meeting in Eupen, Belgium – Online
- 01.07.** Publication of the two reports "Educational Situation of Minorities 2025 and Recent Developments" and "Minority History Teaching" by the FUEN Working Group on Education – Online
- 02.-05.07.** 10th Annual Meeting of the FUEN Working Group Non-Kin-State (NKS) – Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Fryslân/Friesland, Netherlands
- 07.07.** FUEN Brussels meets the Representation of the Free State of Saxony to the European Union – Brussels, Belgium
- 24.08.** FUEN Vice-President Bahne Bahnsen takes part in the 16th ECMI Summer School on National Minorities – Flensburg, Germany
- 01.09.** Meeting of the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) – Online
- 02.09.** Meeting of the FUEN Presidium – Online
- 17.-20.09.** 70th FUEN Congress – Helsinki/Helsingfors, Finland

→ BUILDING-UP THE FUEN

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Vice Chairwoman of the National Self-Government of Germans in Hungary/Landesselbstverwaltung der Ungarndeutschen, German minority in Hungary



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Bahne Bahnsen,

former chairman of the Frisian Association/Friisk Foriining, North Frisian in Germany



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