

A close-up photograph of a round chocolate cake. The top edge is decorated with a thick border of white frosting piped into a series of overlapping swirls. In the center of the cake's surface is a circular speedometer with a black face and white markings. The speedometer has numbers at 25, 50, 75, 100, 150, and 200. A white needle points to the 75 mark. The cake is set against a dark, blurred background.

75 YEARS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

2023-2024



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



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

FUEN IS...



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



...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



FUEN AT 75

Are you ready to celebrate with us? The Federal Union of European Nationalities turns 75 this year, and starting with our Annual and Anniversary Congress in Husum*Hüsem in Germany, we are going to celebrate this extraordinary achievement for the next year. Although turning 75 is a reason to celebrate in itself, we are aware that the real value in this is each and every year we worked for our communities, the autochthonous minorities, nationalities and language groups of Europe. This is why in the last year we worked even harder, to be able to say that we are bigger, stronger and more influential than before, so that we can not only celebrate our age, but our growth as well.

The period between the very successful 67th Annual Congress in Pécs*Fünfkirchen*Pecuh and the upcoming Husum congress was probably one of the busiest years in FUEN, highlighted by the biggest EUROPEADA ever, organised a mere two years after the last one; the largest meeting of researchers in the field of minority protection ever; welcoming new members and a new working group inside FUEN; lobbying for a strong minority representation in the European elections; increased lobby activity at international organisations and the continuation of our already well-known projects such as the Forum of European Minority Regions and Women of Minorities.

Thanks to the financial support we received we were also able to look ahead and plan for the next year, in which we will celebrate 75 years of FUEN the only way worth celebrating: with even more events, projects in the service of our Member Organisations and minorities in Europe.

FUEN EVENT CALENDAR 2023/2024

2023

- **14.09.** Meeting of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- **21.09.** Publication of the Minority Monitor case: situation of the Meskhetian Turks
- **21.-22.09.** Participation in the conference “300 Jahre Ansiedlung: Mit dem Wissen von heute über die Brücke der Vergangenheit Zukunft gestalten” – Budaörs/Wudersch, Hungary
- **26.09.** Event as part of the European Day of Languages, organised by FUEN and the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament – Brussels, Belgium
- **27.09.** Meeting with Johannes Callsen (CDU), Minority Commissioner of the German State of Schleswig-Holstein – Kiel, Germany
- **27.09.** Participation in the 75th anniversary celebration of the South Schleswig Voters' Association (SSW) – Kiel, Germany
- **04.-07.10.** Study visit to Finland to gain insights into the education system of the Finland-Swedes – Helsinki/Helsingfors, Finland
- **09.10.** Presidium meeting of the Minority Competence Network of Schleswig-Holstein/South Denmark (MKN) – Bredstedt, Germany
- **09.10.** Meeting of the “DialogForumNorden” – Bredstedt, Germany
- **18.10.** Parliamentary Breakfast in the German Bundestag, organised by the FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) – Berlin, Germany
- **19.10.** Meeting of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- **19.-22.10.** Annual meeting of the FUEN Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM) – Zagreb, Croatia
- **01.-04.11.** Annual Meeting of the FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) – Western Thrace, Greece
- **06.11.** FUEN Presidium meeting – Brussels, Belgium
- **12.-15.11.** Annual meeting of the FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) – Berlin, Germany
- **21.-22.11.** Workshop of the FUEN project “Women of Minorities” under the title “Gender equality standards as a tool to combat discrimination” – Vienna, Austria
- **23.11.** Meeting of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- **01.-03.12.** Forum of European Minority Regions – Opole/Oppehn & Katowice/Kattowitz, Poland
- **10.12.** Draw of the EUROPEADA 2024 groups – Haderslev/Hadersleben, Denmark
- **10.12.** Launch of the FUEN “Mute Hate Speech” campaign – Haderslev/Hadersleben, Denmark
- **12.-14.12.** Meeting of the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France

2024

- **01.01.** Publication of the FUEN Minority Calendar 2024 – Online
- **09.01.** Meeting of FUEN and YEN – Online
- **10.01.** Exchange with the European Committee of the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein on the plans for EUROPEADA 2024 – Kiel, Germany
- **17.01.** Participation in the online session “The Final Three for Human Rights” with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights candidates – Online
- **25.01.** Meeting of the FUEN project “Minorities in the Western Balkans” – Online
- **27.01.** Participation in the New Year’s reception of MEP Rasmus Andresen (Alliance 90/The Greens) – Flensburg, Germany
- **02.02.** Meeting with Kubanychbek Omuraliev, Secretary-General of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) – Fatih/Istanbul, Türkiye
- **08.02.** Meeting of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- **13.02.** Participation in the New Year’s reception of the SPD Schleswig-Holstein – Kiel, Germany
- **14.02.** Meeting of the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) – Online
- **15.02.** Publication of the Minority Monitor case: Minority Commissioner’s office in Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **20.02.** Meeting with Knut Abraham (CDU), Member of the German Bundestag – Berlin, Germany
- **21.02.** Meeting with Kathrin Michel (SPD), Member of the German Bundestag – Berlin, Germany
- **22.02.** Meeting with Christoph de Vries (CDU), Member of the German Bundestag – Berlin, Germany
- **23.-24.02.** Annual meeting of the FUEN Working Group of Hungarian Communities (MKM) – Lendava/Lendva, Slovenia
- **27.02.** FUEN Presidium meeting – Online
- **28.02.** Presidium meeting of the Minority Competence Network of Schleswig-Holstein/South Denmark (MKN) – Sankemark, Germany
- **29.02.** Ninth legislative term closing event of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- **04.-05.03.** FUEN conference of 40 experts in the field of minority protection – Brussels, Belgium
- **06.03.** Participation in the event “100 days to UEFA EURO 2024™”, organised by the German Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI) – Berlin, Germany
- **06.-07.03.** Participation in the 9th European Congress of Local Governments – Mikołajki, Poland
- **18.03.** Meeting of the “DialogueForumNorden” – Sankemark, Germany
- **18.03.** General meeting of the Minority Competence Network of Schleswig-Holstein/South Denmark (MKN) – Sankemark, Germany
- **21.03.** Participation in the Spring Festival of the German-speaking Community of Belgium – Berlin, Germany
- **26.-28.03.** Participation in the 46th session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- **30.03.** Meeting of the FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) – Online

- **08.-11.04.** Annual meeting of the FUEN Education Working Group – Helsinki/Helsingfors, Finland
- **09.04.** Visit by Bernd Posselt, spokesman for the Sudeten German ethnic group and Federal Chairman of the Sudeten German Landsmannschaft, at the FUEN office – Berlin, Germany
- **09.04.** Participation in the annual reception of the “Bund der Vertriebenen” (BdV) – Berlin, Germany
- **10.04.** Visit by representatives of German minorities at the FUEN office – Berlin, Germany
- **10.04.** Visit by a group of Ladin teachers at the FUEN office – Brussels, Belgium
- **10.04.** Meeting with Natalie Pawlik (SPD), Member of the German Bundestag and Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities – Berlin, Germany
- **15.04.** Visit by a school class from Sønderjylland (Denmark) at the FUEN headquarters – Flensburg, Germany
- **16.04.** FUEN Presidium meeting – Online
- **18.04.** Publication of the FUEN EU Elections Manifesto – Online
- **18.04.** Meeting with representatives of NGOs working on minority, youth and gender issues in Tajikistan at the FUEN office – Brussels, Belgium
- **22.-23.04.** Participation of Turkic organisations that are members of the FUEN in the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) – Vienna, Austria
- **23.-26.04.** Annual meeting of the FUEN Non-Kin-State Working Group – Lübbenau/Lubnjow, Germany
- **26.-28.04.** Participation in the conference “Kultureinrichtungen im Dialog” by the “Kulturstiftung der deutschen Vertriebenen” – Stuttgart, Germany
- **29.04.** Meeting with Petra Loibl, Commissioner of the Bavarian State Government for Resettlers and Expellees – Munich, Germany
- **07.05.** Publication of the FUEN EU Elections Checkstones – Online
- **08.05.** Visit by Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and former Prime Minister of the German-speaking Community in Belgium, at the FUEN headquarters – Flensburg, Germany
- **08.-12.05.** Working visit of the FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) to Romania and Bulgaria
- **15.05.** Participation in the themed evening “Flucht, Vertreibung und Beheimatung im Spiegel der Zeit”, organised by the Representation of the Free State of Saxony to the Federal Government of Germany – Berlin, Germany
- **16.05.** Meeting of FUEN Working Group of Hungarian Communities (MKM) – Oradea*Nagyvárad, Romania
- **16.05.** Meeting with representatives of the German-speaking ethnic group in Slovenia – Berlin, Germany
- **16.05.** Meeting with representatives of the Division 601 of the Directorate-General for Culture and Society of the German Federal Foreign Office – Berlin, Germany
- **17.05.** Participation in a “Minority Policy Breakfast”, organised by the SPD parliamentary group in Schleswig-Holstein – Kiel, Germany
- **17.-19.05.** Participation in the 74th Sudeten German Day at which FUEN was honoured with the Sudeten German Human Rights Award – Augsburg, Germany
- **22.-23.05.** Participation in the European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism (ECSPM) symposium “Plurilinguaging in Multilingual Educational Spaces” – Online

- **23.-26.05.** Participation in the Festival of Democracy to mark 75 years of the German Basic Law – Berlin, Germany
- **28.05.** Visit by a student group from Flensburg at the FUEN office – Brussels, Belgium
- **29.-31.05.** Working visit by the spokesman of the FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG), Halit Habip Oğlu, to Ankara – Ankara, Türkiye
- **06.-09.06.** European Parliament elections in which FUEN President Loránt Vincze once again won a seat as an MEP
- **11.06.** Coordination meeting with representatives of ten institutions and organisations working on minority-related issues at the FUEN office – Brussels, Belgium
- **11.-13.06.** 5th anniversary conference “Heimatvertriebene und Heimatverbliebene – Zwei Seiten der gleichen Medaille”, organised by the FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) and the “Kulturstiftung der deutschen Vertriebenen” – Berlin, Germany
- **14.06.** Parliamentary Breakfast in the German Bundestag, organised by the FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) – Berlin, Germany
- **20.06.** Participation in the 10th Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Flight and Expulsion, organised by the German Federal Government – Berlin, Germany
- **23.06.** Participation in the summer reception of the city of Flensburg – Flensburg, Germany
- **26.-28.06.** Meeting of the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- **28.06.-07.07.** EUROPEADA 2024, the European Football Championship of the autochthonous national minorities – Northern and Southern Schleswig, Denmark & Germany
- **28.06.** Visit by Johannes Callsen (CDU), Minority Commissioner of the German State of Schleswig-Holstein at the FUEN headquarters – Flensburg, Germany
- **29.06.** FUEN Presidium meeting – Harsleev/Harreslev, Germany
- **01.07.** Open Day at FUEN headquarters – Flensburg, Germany
- **03.07.** Participation in the Culture Day as part of EUROPEADA 2024 – Knivsbjerg/Knivsberg, Denmark
- **04.07.** Meeting with Lars Harms, German politician from the South Schleswig Voters’ Association (SSW) and member of the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein – Kiel, Germany
- **04.07.** Open Day at FUEN headquarters – Flensburg, Germany
- **10.07.** Meeting with the NGO “Plataforma per la Llengua” (Pro-Language Platform) – Online
- **18.-21.07.** 40th anniversary celebration of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) – Carinthia, Austria
- **19.-22.09.** 68th FUEN Congress – Husum/Hüsem, Germany



EUROPEADA 2024

Football is the game where 22 people run after a ball and Germany wins. Like all good jokes, this saying also has a pinch of truth to it, just maybe not this year. But we at FUEN have another definition, which is 100% true: for us, football is the game where all minorities of Europe win. Because for us, football is EUROPEADA, the European Football Championship of National Minorities.

EUROPEADA promotes diversity, empowerment, it is a platform for talent, it builds communities and gives increased visibility for minorities. It is also a strong reminder that we, the minorities, are an integral part of the society in our

homeland, and we are not defined only by what separates us from the majority, but also what unites us – like the love for football.

And this time, EUROPEADA was bigger than ever. Between 28 June and 7 July 2024, the German-Danish-Frisian border region welcomed 900 footballers, representatives of 24 minorities from 13 countries. Under the careful eyes of project manager Ruwen Möller's team, a grand total of 74 games were played across 14 venues in Germany and Denmark between the 24 men's and 9 women's teams, more than 120 accredited journalists covered the event. More than 200 volunteers in the event.

The games, some of them played in front of more than a thousand fans, were full of excitement and emotions, as new champions were crowned in both tournaments. In the women's final, Südtirol beat local Nordfraschlönj 11-1, thus recapturing the title lost in 2022 in Koroska/Carinthia. In the men's tournament the winners of the previous four editions, Südtirol already lost in the quarterfinals. Friül and Occitânia were the two teams meeting in the finals, won in a heated game by the team from Italy (2:0).







CULTURE DAY

EUROPEADA is not only about football, and the hosting minorities (the Germans in Denmark, the Danes in Germany, the Frisian minority and the Sinti and Roma in Schleswig-Holstein) made sure that the Culture Day was one of the absolute highlights of the event. Teams presented their own cultural heritage and culinary art, while the cultural programme ranged from Sorbian folk songs sung by a choir in traditional attires to a Frisian rendering of a Die Toten Hosen song. The Culture Day was also the best opportunity for the teams to get together and celebrate their diversity.



POLITICAL MEETING POINT

The EUROPEADA was also a meeting point for politicians: Minister-President of Schleswig-Holstein Daniel Günther, Minority Commissioner Johannes Callsen, Danish Minister of Economic Affairs Stephanie Lose and FUEN President Loránt Vincze were present at the opening, and Vice Chancellor of Germany and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck sent a heartfelt video message. President of the State Parliament, Kristina Herbst and the Mayor of Flensburg, Fabian Geyer were present at the awards ceremony.



MUTE HATE

Once again, the event proved to be an ideal background to draw awareness on autochthonous minorities and language groups and was a perfect platform to send out our strong message. And the message of FUEN was very clear: Mute Hate! In partnership with UEFA and the German Football Federation, the campaign aims to point out the still-existing hate speech in the stadiums around Europe and urges fans to make their voice heard. As minority groups and individuals belonging to minorities are most often the targets of hate speech, not only in football, but in everyday life as well, the players and the fans of EUROPEADA were keen to amplify the message, which was visible at the tournament on socks, armbands, t-shirts, and our social media channels.

GETTING READY FOR EUROPEADA



Top scorers:

Hannah Bielak (Südtirol) in the women's competition with eight goals (of which 5 in the final alone)

Norbert Kriska (Slovaks in Hungary) in the men's competition with 14 goals.

FUEN's Fair Play prize

awarded to the Burgenlandkroaten. In their game against Team Koroska, after a serious injury of the opposing team's goalkeeper, they decided to end the match in the 82nd minute, even though they were down 0:1.

EUROPEADA means not only the tournament itself, but the various phases of preparation, as well.

A major step in this process was the official draw, which took place on 10 December 2023 at the Sydbank Park stadium in Haderslev/Hadersleben, Denmark. Around 130 guests attended the event, including 20 delegations of teams from all over Europe as well as numerous personalities from politics, sport and the media. The lottery balls were drawn by prominent guests: Mads Skau, Mayor of Haderslev/Hadersleben, and Stefan Seidler, SSW Member of Parliament, were at the draw for the women's tournament. Povl Davidsen, co-owner of Sønderjyske Fodbold football club, and Mads Buttgereit, assistant coach of the German national football team and ambassador for EUROPEADA, were responsible for the men's groups (photo).



On 6 March, at the invitation of the German Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community we celebrated 100 days to UEFA EURO 2024 with football legends Rudi Völler, Tournament Ambassador Celia Šašić, Tournament Director Philipp Lahm, interior minister Nancy Faeser, Bundestag member Stephan Mayer and many others. Our mission was to present Europeada 2024, the European Minority Football Championship, and our MUTE HATE campaign.

CONGRESS 2023

A GUEST IN THE CITY OF MANY MINORITIES: THE FUEN CONGRESS IN PÉCS/FÜNKIRCHEN/PEČUH, HUNGARY

There are eleven national minorities that call Pécs/Fünkirchen/Pečuh, Hungary their home, and the hosts of the 67th FUEN Congress, the Self-Government of Germans in Hungary (Landesselbstverwaltung der Ungarndeutschen – LdU) made sure that all representatives of the 50 member organisations present at the event also feel themselves at home in Pécs and Baranya county between 7-10 September 2023.

„Hungary has a prominent place in the history of FUEN, as the first FUEN Congress in a former communist country was held in Budapest in 1991, after the fall of the Iron Curtain. This 32-year old minority gathering was a real watershed in the history of our organisation, and a clear sign of FUEN’s new goals. It marked the beginning of FUEN’s opening to Eastern and Central Europe. In the decade since then, we have doubled the number of our member organisations and FUEN has become the largest European minority advocacy organisation. Without a doubt, we are now a dominant and leading organisation, a reliable partner for European and international organisations. Similar to 1991, we live again in turbulent, unpredictable times, that offers the opportunity to discuss about the role and the future of FUEN in Europe” – said FUEN President Loránt Vincze at the opening ceremony at the Kodály Centre.





FUEN Prize 2023 for Renate Schnack

“You are not only a role model for us, you are a role model for Europe” – with these words FUEN Vice-President Gösta Toft presented the FUEN Prize to Renate Schnack during the 67th FUEN Congress. The politician from Schleswig-Holstein and former minority representative received the award for her extraordinary commitment and great dedication to the autochthonous national minorities and language groups in Europe.

Since 2019, the FUEN Prize has been awarded once a year at a formal ceremony to individuals who are actively engaged in the field of minority protection and who work with dedication and commitment for the improvement and recognition of autochthonous and national minorities and language groups. The previous award winners were 2019 Hartmut Koschyk in 2019, Fernand de Varennes in 2021, and Gianclaudio Bressa in 2022.

The FUEN Prize is a work of art entitled „Two Bridges“.

This is symbolic of one of the FUEN's guiding principles: minorities are bridge builders. The object, made of cast resin, gold leaf and wood, was produced by the Flensburg artist Simone Bruhn, who belongs to the Danish minority. It is intended to symbolise peaceful coexistence in Europe and is a sign of the interplay between tradition and modernity.

The topic of Minority Protection in the EU Neighborhood was on the agenda of the congress's first day. The Balkans can give a lot to Europe, and this is true not only for sports, science or good food, but also for minority rights, which protection is stronger in some countries in the region than in the rest of Europe – as Dr. Valentin Inzko, former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina put it. Strengthening the role of minorities in democratic processes was also on the table, where Dr. Paul Videsott pointed out digitisation, especially automatic translation of minority languages as a major new field of work for minorities.



Day two was all about cultural diversity and the efforts needed to maintain it. There are 13 officially recognised nationalities in Hungary, and the day started with the presentation by 11 of their self-governments – the ones of the Germans, Croats, Slovaks, Romanians, Roma, Bulgarians, Rusins, Slovenes, Poles, Serbs, Greeks, Ukrainians and Armenians in Hungary presented themselves and the country's Law on Nationalities, which offers cultural autonomy to all recognized autochthonous groups. Despite the good framework in place, the nationalities have their own challenges. Even though more and more citizens assume their cultural ties, numbers of



Welcome to the FUEN family!

The Assembly of Delegates admitted five new members to FUEN:

- ▶ The Cultural Institute of Brittany (Skol Uhel Ar Vro – Institut Culturel de Bretagne) from France
- ▶ The Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse from Switzerland
- ▶ The National Self-Government of Rusyns in Hungary (Вседержавное Русинське Самосправованя – Országos Ruszin Önkormányzat).
- ▶ The Humanitarian Society of German Minority "St. Gerhard" from Serbia
- ▶ The Friulian Philological Society (Societât Filologjiche Furlane „Graziadio Isaia Ascoli) from Italy (as a supporting member organisation of FUEN).



speakers of minority languages is decreasing due to language loss and assimilation. Migration – even within the country – also causes problems, as the local educational and cultural institutions can only cover a certain geographical area.

The excursions following the debate took the participants from theory to practice at various minority educational institutions in Hungary, where they had the opportunity to talk to the school management, teachers and students.

Day three of the FUEN Congress is traditionally dedicated to the more than 100 member organisations: the Assembly of Delegates, member organisations assess the previous year and pass resolutions on the most urgent issues.

The FUEN Congress Main Resolution 2023, adopted by the Assembly of Delegates, is divided into two parts: it appeals to the need for intensive consultations with national minorities and to the protection of national minorities in Ukraine.



FORUM OF THE EUROPEAN MINORITY REGIONS

Minority languages and the labour market – an advantage or a strain – was the question of the FUEN's 7th Forum of the European Minority Regions. Focusing on the advantages of a bilingual labour market, the Forum took place on 1-3 December 2023 in Opole/OppeIn and Katowice/Kattowitz, Poland.

It is easier to find a job, change jobs and be promoted in your job if you speak a minority language, according to Antonio di Paolo, professor in economics at the University of Barcelona, Spain. The local language and culture are an added value that can make a region more attractive to foreign investment. Bi- or trilingual regions tend to be more prosperous than monolingual ones. But while it is an advantage to know a minority language at a personal or company level, organisations promoting the minority languages and culture might see it as a drawback since those knowing it are lured to the private sector by higher salaries.

The Forum in 2023 dealt with the advantage of minority languages for people and companies. The value of languages is determined by supply and demand, and since most people claim they speak English, its added value is smaller than that of other languages such as German in Poland, Hungarian in Slovakia or Romania, Catalan in Spain or Swedish in Finland. It is no longer considered a merit to know English, it is more or less a prerequisite, something taken for granted.



It is up to the state to promote the use of minority languages in the public sphere. This is vital for smaller communities, since it gives the language the prestige which serves as an incentive for the members of the community to use it. Bengt-Arne Wickström, Professor in economics at the Andrassy University in Budapest pointed out that even though the percentage of the population that speaks a certain language might be small, the absolute number of minority language speakers can be significant, especially in large urban areas.



Find out more at
forum.fuen.org!

The loss of qualified staff that minority organisations face was also discussed. How can these organisations maintain their bilingual staff despite lower salaries than in the private sector? What incentives other than enumeration can be used by NGOs? The discrimination in the labour market due to a minority background was also a topic of the Forum.

The second day of the Forum of the European Minority Regions brought a change of scenery, as the event moved to Katowice, where the multilingual cross-border labour market was on the agenda. Beside the effects cross-border labour opportunities can have on autochthonous minorities, the situation of Ukrainian war refugees on the Polish labour market was also presented.

112 participants from more than 20 countries took part in the Forum, which is slowly turning into a well-known brand when it comes to minorities and their economic added value.

FUEN's 8th Forum of the Minority Regions – Digitalisation – Challenges and opportunities for minorities is organised in San Sebastián/Donostia in the Basque Country o 27-28 November 2024.

How often do you find information on the web when you look for it in your language? How often do you find that the information in your minority language does not correspond with that in the majority language?

One aim of the Forum in San Sebastián, organised in collaboration with the Basque language industry cluster Langune, is to describe the digital reality by analysing how public authorities, commercial actors and others build their language presence on the web. The role of artificial intelligence, the language industry, the risks, but also the opportunities offered by digitalisation for minority languages will all be discussed at this year's Forum.

EUROPE'S NATIONAL MINORITIES: WAYS FORWARD FOR MINORITY PROTECTION

‘Ewald Ammende’ International Expert Conference organized by FUEN

40 researchers, members of the academia, minority and human rights experts from across Europe met in Brussels on 4-5 March 2024 to identify the outstanding gaps in the European minority protection regime and put forward meaningful solutions for its improvement. FUEN President Loránt Vincze urged the expert community to identify new paths towards a European legal framework for the protection and promotion of minorities, as the European Commission has so far refused to initiate respective legislation.

The experts reached a consensus that a long-term legal and policy strategy is needed for improving the protection of national minorities on the European and global levels. Such a strategy should focus mainly on the European Union and the Council of Europe institutions and instruments for them to strengthen their reach and impact – as well as counter the trend towards their diminished stature and role, as evidenced recently by the European Court of Human Rights (case of Valiullina and others v. Latvia). A long-term legal and policy strategy shall consider how to reform these institutions to avoid them becoming obsolete or irrelevant and guarantee a dialogue between them and minorities’ experts and civil society. The recommendations shall also strengthen the empathy, trust, and dialogue within the minority communities as well as between minorities and majorities, and minorities and states. Special measures shall be ensured for the use of minority languages in public sphere and education.

Most experts agreed that a new global treaty for the protection of minorities and improvement of the universal human rights framework developed in tandem by experts and minorities’ civil society would be ideal for the minority communities. Acknowledging the international reality and the lack of effective tools in EU minority protection, priority should be given to the European level solutions.



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

The long table was richly laid in the House of European History in Brussels – 65 dictionaries in minority languages were ready there on 26 September 2023, the European Day of Languages to be handed over to the museum in a solemn ceremony. The action was organised by the Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament and FUEN. Numerous minorities and language groups had participated after an appeal with dictionaries and some were also present in person at the handover.

“Linguistic diversity needs better understanding and is a central part of our continent’s heritage,” said Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament, in his welcome address. “The European Day of Languages is an excellent opportunity to celebrate all languages, including lesser-used and minority languages.”



According to official EU figures, in addition to the 24 official languages of the European Union, there are more than 60 regional or minority languages whose number of speakers is put at 40 million citizens. This means that around seven percent of the EU population speaks a minority or regional language. It is precisely those communities that speak a less common language and do not have their own state that are most at risk, FUEN President Loránt Vincze said. “They need our support and deserve more attention from the European Union. This was one of the main points of the Minority SafePack Initiative, which was supported by a large majority in the European Parliament. We definitely need to do more to protect our own heritage.”

Following the dictionary ceremony, a panel discussion on “Minority Languages as Part of the European Linguistic and Cultural Landscape: Role of Minority NGOs in preserving diversity in Europe” took place at the FUEN Brussels office.

Paul Videsott, professor at the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano and Scientific Director of the Institute for Ethnic Groups in South Tyrol,

presented a report comparing nationality statistics and minority protection measures in different countries. The bottom line: two thirds of the minority communities in the EU have lost population in the last forty years. Out of 29 examples of growing minorities in the EU, 22 (76%) have a standard language. Of 17 minorities living in a region in the EU with a dedicated autonomy, 12 (70%) are growing in numbers. “Fortunately, we do not need to find completely new solutions for the protection of minority languages, because the best practices have already been found. Autonomy agreements, written



language use and special measures to strengthen languages – these are the key elements for preserving linguistic diversity,” said Mr. Videsott.

Fernand de Varennes made it clear that in view of dramatically declining numbers of speakers, time is running out. “We must finally wake up!” appealed the UN Special Rapporteur on Minorities, pointing out that many governments were taking the air out of the use of minority languages in various areas such as education and public administration.

WOMEN OF MINORITIES

Women of Minorities is a flagship initiative of FUEN. Its primary goal is to provide tailored solutions to foster the resilience of women from diverse backgrounds, enabling them to pursue their rights to equality and non-discrimination. The project aims to inform, inspire, and impact. It is a vision and a mission, open to everyone committed to advancing equality.



The first in-person event of the FUEN's Women of Minorities project took place in November 2023, hosted by the Croatian Center Vienna, focused on the main issues raised at the online meeting in July: equality standards as tools to prevent intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination. The event brought together a total of 21 participants. Eleven different FUEN MOs were represented, six of which were not previously involved in the project, as well as two international speakers and members of the host organisation. As a result of the workshop held as part of the event, a guide for the introduction of equality standards for the FUEN was drawn up.

Following the invitation to the MOs to nominate role models for the envisaged Women of Minorities video series, 20 successful women from minorities were proposed and 10 were shortlisted. It was decided that the first video would feature Ms

Anna N. Schlegel from Catalonia, Spain – “the most influential woman in technologies”. The video launched in 2024 on the new Women of Minorities project website: www.womenofminorities.eu

Upcoming for the next period are a conference and production of two additional videos from the series, one of which will feature the EUROPEADA women football teams.

MINORITY MONITOR

Launched at the 2019 anniversary Congress in Bratislava, the Minority Monitor (MiMo) was established to provide a common platform for autochthonous national minorities and language communities in Europe to make violations and disregard of their rights visible to the public. In cooperation with stakeholders from different minority sectors, the multi-partner project aims to identify and analyse the different challenges faced by the various minorities in Europe, and to monitor developments in the different areas of minority rights. Eventually, it will contribute to finding effective solutions providing targeted examples of good practices.

The MiMo website started the year 2024 with introducing the positive case of the successfully transferred model of the Schleswig-Holstein Minority Commissioner to Bjeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina. In line with the FUEN Mute Hate Speech Campaign, a call for submission of hate-cases was launched at the end of May 2024. In less than a month 40 cases have been collected and processed. The cases submitted by 8 organisations from 7 EU states cover the period 2015-2023. Most of them are hate-speech cases in verbal, written, and visual form (pictures, graffiti) but there are also cases of vandalism, attacks on symbols, physical attack on persons and hate-crimes. Due to the high number of cases and the importance of the topic, a new page will be built on the MiMo website with a separate map of the hate-cases. The collection of data continues on a rolling basis.

WORKING GROUPS

Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM)

► Important talks in the German Bundestag

On 18 October 2023, the AGDM and Stefan Seidler, Member of the Bundestag for the Südschleswigsche Wählerverband (SSW), hosted a parliamentary breakfast at the German Bundestag. The aim of the meeting was to familiarise MPs from various parliamentary groups with the work of German minorities abroad and to gain their support against the planned cuts to funding in the federal budget. The representatives of the AGDM emphasised the importance of the German minorities as custodians of the German language, culture and traditions in their respective home countries. The creation of funding opportunities to strengthen the identity of the German minorities was also discussed. The EU's role as an important player was also emphasised, particularly with regard to the question of how the member states deal with their minorities.

Another parliamentary breakfast took place on 14 June 2024 – also at the invitation of the AGDM, but this



time under the patronage of Natalie Pawlik, Member of the German Bundestag and Federal Government Commissioner for Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities. The exchange once again centred on the importance of future financial support for German minorities from the Federal Republic of Germany. In her opening statement, SPD politician Natalie Pawlik referred to the fate of the German minorities in the aftermath of the war, which continues to have an impact today, and emphasised their role as bridge builders between different cultures and countries. The representatives of the German minorities expressed their concern about future funding and pleaded for long-term financial support. At the end of the meeting, individual members of parliament from various parties pledged their support and highlighted the importance of the concerns of the German minorities.



32nd Annual Conference of the AGDM: a strong signal to federal politicians

The 32nd Annual Conference of the AGDM, which took place in Berlin from 12 to 15 November 2023, sent a clear signal to federal policymakers. Participants from 17 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia discussed key topics relating to the concerns of the German minorities living in these regions. One focus was on the Federal Republic of Germany's support for German minorities, as these same German minorities are coming under increasing pressure due to funding cuts and financial challenges. Despite their role as bridge builders between Germany and their home countries and their importance for German peace and foreign policy, these communities are facing considerable difficulties.



The conference was opened by Natalie Pawlik, Member of the German Bundestag and Federal Government Commissioner for Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities. She emphasised the importance of minority policy for peace through the promotion of diversity and cultural richness. In the course of the subsequent conference, numerous political discussions took place, including with Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, MP, and Christoph de Vries, MP, who both emphasised Germany's historical responsibility for German

minorities abroad. Further expert discussions were held with the HI7 department of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Homeland and with the Foundation for Connections with Germans Abroad, among others.

The AGDM Youth also discussed joint projects with the organisation „djo - German Youth in Europe“. The conference ended with a political networking event in cooperation with the Parliamentary Group on Minorities of the German Bundestag.

AGDM Youth focuses on networking and exchange

The youth representatives of the AGDM met on 20 March 2024. Under the leadership of Youth Coordinator Hanna Klein, the AGDM's plans for youth work in 2024 were presented and discussed. The meeting offered the young people the opportunity to exchange information about the activities of the youth organisations of the German minorities in different countries and learn from each other.

AGDM's commitment to young people is reflected not only in words, but also in concrete measures. By organising online meet-ups, education and cultural events, a vibrant community is being created that actively represents the interests of its members. The future of German minorities lies in the hands of their youth – and the AGDM is determined to give them the tools and resources they need to succeed.

► „Cultural institutions in dialogue“

In cooperation with the Cultural Foundation of German Expellees, the AGDM has founded the „MedienArbeitsGemeinschaft“ (MAG) network. The aim of this network is to connect the media landscape of the German minorities, ethnic groups and cultural institutions in order to publicise the life, culture, concerns and successes of these ethnic groups both within the minorities and in the majority societies as well as in Germany.

AGDM spokesperson Bernard Gaida presented the new initiative at the „Cultural Institutions in Dialogue“ conference, which took place in Stuttgart from 26 to 28 April 2024.



► **Together for the European idea: 5th anniversary conference „Expellees and those who have stayed at home – two sides of the same coin“ in Berlin**

From 11 to 13 June 2024, the 5th anniversary conference „Expellees and those who stayed at home – two sides of the same coin: cultural mediators, knowledge brokers and bearers of the European idea“ took place in Berlin. The event was organised by the Cultural Foundation of German Expellees in cooperation with the AGDM.

The ceremonial opening of the three-day conference took place on the afternoon of 11 June at the Pfefferberg Theatre in Berlin.

The opening was marked by the world premiere of the theatre play „Expellees and those who stayed at home – two sides of the same coin“ by Katharina Martin-Virolainen.

The second day was characterised by various panel discussions. Topics such as the possible contribution of the Landsmannschaften and German minorities to the reconstruction of Ukraine, minority protection legislation as a criterion for EU accession, the promotion of cross-border cooperation between media and press

organisations and the possibilities for strengthening the joint young talent network of the Cultural Foundation and the AGDM were discussed.

Another highlight of the conference was the ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the Cultural Foundation. Overall, the symposium emphasised the central role of displaced persons and those who have remained in their homeland as mediators of culture and knowledge as well as their importance for European integration and understanding.

Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM)

The Working Group of Slavic Minorities is a well-established working group within the FUEN network, whose seminars on Slavic minorities in Europe have a long tradition. In 2017, the coordination of the AGSM was taken over by the FUEN Coordination Office in 2017. Since, the AGSM has been sending out a newsletter at regular intervals, it has a new, well-designed website (agsm.fuen.org) and has published a brochure about its members, which is already available in six languages (German, English, Lower Sorbian, Slovenian, Croatian, Macedonian). In 2024, it will also be translated into Slovak. In 2023-2024 AGSM continued to develop and carry out its activities.

As part of the FUEN Congress 2023 in Pécs/Fünfkirchen/Pečuh, the AGSM was able to meet at a working session at the Croatian Education Centre in Pécs. The visit to the Croatian minority on site was very successful. The members also presented their situations and discussed further AGSM activities.

At the end of October 2023, the 26th Seminar of the Slavic Minorities in Europe took place at the Serbian minority in Zagreb, Croatia. A total of 50 people from 13 different minorities and 12 countries took part.



The programme included exchanges with political representatives at local and national level and numerous panel discussions on minority rights in theory and practice – and all this in a very special place: the historic assembly hall in Zagreb City Hall. The AGSM delegation was welcomed by SNV Secretary General Aleksandar Milošević, FUEN Vice President Olivia Schubert, Marta Kiš and Rada Borić, members of the City Assembly and representative of the Mayor, delegate of the Vice President of the Croatian Government Nemanja Relić and Vice President of the Croatian Parliament Furio Radin. The participants also visited the rural regions of Kordun and Banija, the latter still marked by the severe earthquake in 2020: there is still a lack of basic infrastructure such as water, electricity and medical care.



The last part of the seminar dealt with the current situation of the Slavic minorities and the activities of the past year, as well as future AGSM activities. It was noted that the Slavic minorities have also been very active within FUEN in recent years and that many events have been hosted by them.

Dr Hartmut Leipner from the Lusatian Sorbs Association (Domowina) in Germany was unanimously elected as the new AGSM speaker. He succeeds Dr Angelika Mlinar, a Carinthian Slovene, who had to relinquish the office for professional reasons.

A total of eleven Slavic teams took part in EUROPEADA 2024; two women (Carinthian Slovenes and Lusatian Sorbians) and nine men (in addition to the two, Serbs from Croatia, Slovaks and Czechs from Romania, Burgenland Croats from Austria, Slovaks in Hungary, Bulgarians in Romania, Slovenes in Italy and Pomaks from Bulgaria). For many, it was a success in terms of the perception of their minorities. Team Koroška / Carinthia achieved 3rd place in the men's tournament.



Working Group of Turkic Minorities/ Communities (TAG)

The TAG, established in 2013, unites the Turkic minorities and communities under the umbrella of FUEN and promotes solidarity and cooperation among them in a vast geographical area ranging from the Balkans to the Caucasus. The FUEN TAG Secretariat is currently being run by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF), an umbrella organisation representing the Turkish community in Western Thrace, Greece. The Speaker of the Working Group is Halit Habip Oğlu, President of ABTTF. The TAG has currently 12 FUEN member organisations.

FUEN TAG Annual Meeting

The 9th Annual Meeting of FUEN TAG was held in Western Thrace, Greece, hosted by the Turkish community in Western Thrace on 1-4 November 2023. Representatives from ten Turkic organisations from eight different European countries attended the meetings which were organised jointly by ABTTF, FEP Party and WTMUGA, which together represent the Turkish community in Western Thrace. During the meeting, representatives of the Western Thrace Turks,



Meskhetian Turks, Kosovo Turks, Bulgarian Turks, Crimean Tatars, Romanian Tatars, Ukrainian Gagauz, and Moldavian Gagauz conveyed the issues of the Turkic minorities and communities they belong to and the activities of the organisations they represent. The meeting, where FUEN TAG's 2024 activities were discussed, ended with the constitution of the 2024 activity programme and common road map with the contributions of the participating organisations. The 10th FUEN TAG Annual Meeting is expected to take place in Autumn 2024 in Ankara.

FUEN TAG online meeting

FUEN TAG held its first online meeting in 2024 on 30 March 2024, where the developments in the first three months of 2024 and the activities of 2024 were assessed. The developments regarding the working visits to be made by FUEN TAG in 2024 and the upcoming annual meeting in Ankara were discussed.

► Presentation on educational issues of the Turkish minorities in Greece in the European Parliament

The educational issues of Western Thrace Turks and Turks from Rhodes and Kos that are part of the Turkish community in Greece were conveyed at a meeting of the Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages at the European Parliament (EP) on 23 November 2023 in Strasbourg. During the meeting, the current issues pertaining to education of the Turkish minorities in Greece were presented by ABTTF and ROISDER.

► Working visits

FUEN TAG Speaker Halit Habip Oğlu paid a working visit to Ankara, the capital of Türkiye, on 25-29 December 2023. He met Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye Yasin Ekrem Serim and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director of EU Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay and informed regarding the



activities of TAG. The Speaker also held meetings with the members of the Turkish Delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Spokesman Halit Habip Oğlu met with the Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) Kubanychbek Omuraliev in his office on 2 February 2024.

The TAG delegation paid a working visit to Romania and Bulgaria on 8-12 May 2024, meeting Turkic communities in Constanța and Shumen. The FUEN TAG delegation visited the capital of Türkiye, Ankara on 29-31 May 2024. Meetings were held with high level officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, YTB (Turks Abroad and Related Communities of the Republic of Türkiye), TİKA (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency), Yunus Emre Institute and TÜRKSOY.

► Attending meetings

TAG attended the 6th Annual Meeting of the Education Working Group of FUEN held in Helsinki, the capital of Finland, on 9-10 April 2024.

ABTTF, WTMUGAT and VATAN, Turkic FUEN member organisations attended the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) held in Vienna, Austria, on 22-23 April 2024. The organisations pointed out that the rule of law has been systematically violated in Greece in the recent period, and the issues faced in the return process of Meskhetian Turks were presented.



Working Group of Hungarian Communities (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. KMKSZ president László Brenzovics was elected as Speaker of the Working Group of Hungarian Communities. FUEN's fourth language group is the smallest in terms of membership – six – but represents one of the largest minorities in Europe.

The first annual meeting of the Working Group of Hungarian Communities took place on 23–24 February 2024 in Lendava/Lendva, Slovenia, hosted by MMÖNK. At the meeting, member organisations assessed the situation of their communities and agreed to prepare a joint statement on the stakes of the upcoming European elections. They also discussed the possibilities offered by the Hungarian EU presidency. The MKM visited the Consulate General of Hungary in Lendava, and in Domonkosfa they visited the country house and took part in a traditional event of the local community.

The representatives of the organisations met again in Oradea/Nagyvárad, Romania on May 16 at the invitation



of the RMDSZ. In the presence of the press, they signed a statement regarding the importance of a strong Hungarian and strong minority representation in the European Parliament. They called on all Hungarians to support candidates who fight for minority rights in the EU.

In the European Elections, the RMDSZ obtained its best results in 20 years, with 6.5%, a total number of almost 580.000 votes. Unfortunately, the Magyar Szövetség from Slovakia did not manage to pass the 5% threshold. On the other hand, the representatives of the Hungarians in Serbia and in Ukraine will represent their communities in the European Parliament as members of the Fidesz-KDNP group. This way, the group's member organisations will have four representatives in the European Parliament.

The lobbying at the Hungarian EU presidency also proved to be successful: the topic of minority protection, together with the preservation of Europe's cultural heritage, was included in the programme of the Presidency.

Non-Kin-State Working Group in FUEN – NKS

The Non-Kin-State Working Group was established by FUEN in 2017 to give minorities without a mother state the opportunity to discuss their specific concerns and challenges, find solutions and develop joint strategies for the preservation of their small languages and cultures. It currently comprises 40 organisations from 19 different countries.

After the annual meeting at the Catalan community in Altafulla, Spain, in June 2023, the members of the NKS WG met for another working group meeting on 8 September as part of the annual FUEN Congress in Pécs/Pečuh, Hungary. During the working group meeting, the members of the WG visited the Gandhi High School of the Roma minority. The members of the Non-Kin-State Working Group were particularly enthusiastic about the visit and the exchange

with the pupils, and new starting points for the working group's activities were identified.

From 2024, Ilona Tomić took over the coordination of the working group and thus the work on the Non-Kin-State brochure, maintenance of the website and the organisation of the annual conference 2024.

The first edition of the Non-Kin-State brochure was published in March 2024. It can also be found on the Non-Kin-State website and is available for download. A second edition is already being prepared, which will include further contributions from member organisations.

The annual meeting of the NKS WG took place from 23-26 April 2024. The FUEN member organisation "Domowina – Bund Lausitzer Sorben e. V." hosted the annual meeting. In the working group sessions, around 35 participants from a total of 9 countries and 11 minorities exchanged views on the topics of tourism and structural change in Lusatia. Sorbian experts from the Lusatian region presented examples of creative Sorbian cultural tourism offers and how tourism in the region can promote Sorbian culture.

The second day of the annual meeting focused on the topic of structural change and included an excursion to the Welzow opencast mine, followed by a discussion with people from the region.

There will be another meeting of the working group in the second half of 2024. The working group will hold another internal meeting during the FUEN Congress 2024 in Husum, Germany.



Working Group on Education

Together with the family and the community, the school is the cornerstone for the teaching and preservation of minority languages and cultures. This realisation gave rise to the idea of the Working Group on Education, which was founded during the FUEN Congress 2017 in Cluj, Romania. The aim of the working group is to create a benevolent and supportive framework in which FUEN member organisations can exchange views on educational issues. Within a network that grows year after year, our members and partners can meet, be inspired by best practices, inform and educate themselves, in short: empower themselves, find the strength and leverage to advance the cause of their minorities.



At Mattlidens skola, during the last annual meeting in Helsinki, 10 April 2024

In September 2023, the Education WG held a meeting during the FUEN Congress in Pécs. The working session gave the group an insight into the premises and tasks of the German Methodological Centre (UMZ), a central educational institution of the German minority in Hungary. The meeting during the congress has the advantage of reaching other interested parties for the activities of the Education WG and giving them an understanding of its field of work.

In October 2023, a three-person FUEN delegation traveled to Helsinki to gain insights into the Swedish education system in Finland and to establish contacts for further cooperation. It was an opportunity to meet various experts from politics and education, to learn a lot about the challenges and achievements of the Swedes in Finland and to prepare the next annual meeting of the Education WG.



Gösta Toft, Bérengère Vogel and Johan Häggman in Helsinki, 5 April 2023

Subsequently, the annual meeting of the Education WG took place from 8 to 11 April 2024 in Helsinki/Helsingfors (Finland) and brought together 21 participants from 12 European countries. The participants were invited to expert lectures at the premises of the Svenska Folkskolans Vänner foundation and familiarised themselves with the situation of Swedes. The participants were able to gain practical experience by visiting Mattlidens skola, a school for the Swedish minority.



Conference room, on the premises of the Svenska Folkskolans Vänner foundation. Annual meeting in Helsinki, 9.04.2024

Finland is known for the quality and efficiency of its education system. This is evidenced by the consistently excellent results of pupils in the PISA tests. The situation of the Swedish minority in Finland is also enviable, as the Swedish language has been recognised as a national language along with Finnish, which means that every Swedish-speaking child can start school in their mother tongue. So it is not surprising that this meeting attracted many of our members who are looking for inspiration and best practices that they can implement in their respective minorities.



At Mattlidens skola, during the last annual meeting in Helsinki, 10.04.2024

In May, the Education WG Coordinator took part in an online symposium organised by the European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism (ECSPM). The symposium, entitled Plurilinguaging in multilingual educational spaces, made it clear that both pupils and their families benefit from the inclusion of multilingualism in the school setting. All of the issues raised at this symposium are directly applicable to minorities. They have a great interest in promoting multilingual skills in order to be able to emphasise their language and culture.

For the coming year, the Working Group on Education is considering several projects: publishing a brochure on the activities of the working group since its foundation, producing a film on the everyday life of pupils in minority schools or the creation of a concept for a teacher exchange that would include both training modules and school visits.

European Dialogue Forum – EDF

The European Dialogue Forum (EDF) of the FUEN managed to raise awareness of various high-level political stakeholders on the national and European level about the need to improve the existing legal and policy protection frameworks for national minorities in Europe. The strengthening of the dialogue with the Council of Europe and the European Parliament on the mechanisms for an efficient minority protection and functionable consultative channels with minorities were



two priorities. With its projects, the EDF has contributed to the FUEN's efforts of mainstreaming general and specific minority-related topics in the agenda of the European policymakers; enhancing minorities' effective participation in the context of the 2024 elections to the European Parliament; and strengthening cooperation between the FUEN and its network of partners, including international organizations, experts, and NGOs. The EDF has held the following high-level visits and meetings:





Council of Europe: Meeting with Deputy Secretary General Mr. Bjørn Berge and Head of the Anti-Discrimination Department Mr. Schokkenbroek of the Council of Europe at the organisation's headquarters in December 2023.

European Parliament: Joint Meeting on minorities' political participation, with the Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament and with the engagement of the minority members of the National Assembly of France during the EP's session in December 2023 in Strasbourg.

Elections to the European Parliament: Upon the joint agreement by the EDF members, the FUEN developed the Election Manifesto and the Election Checkstones urging political parties and candidates to include minority-related topics in their electoral programs and create the necessary conditions for the minority candidates to stand and be elected for office. Both documents were shared with a broad network of the FUEN's political partners, experts and NGOs in Brussels and all over the European Union.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE): The EDF delegation held consultations with politicians from six member states (Germany, Denmark, Ukraine, Spain, Sweden and Hungary) on the integration of the minority-related issues into the PACE agenda; on the way to significantly improve the existing monitoring system and on the more meaningful engagement of minorities' civil society into the monitoring process.

EDF's priorities for the upcoming months: to re-establish contact with the recently elected members of the European Parliament and urge the European Parliament to re-establish its Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages and to continue dialogue with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Youth of European Nationalities (YEN)



YEN JEV

Youth of European Nationalities
Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is a European umbrella organisation of 41 youth organisations of autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups from all over Europe. YEN supports the preservation and development of the language, culture, and identity as well as the rights of European minorities with a special focus on young people and their interests.

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

YEN understands itself as a self-organised and self-managed youth organisation and values and enjoys strong cooperation with FUEN.

The Board of YEN consists of 7 young representatives of different European minorities. The work of the Board is supported by three Working Groups dealing with the topics of Minority Rights and Politics, Communication, and Member Integration. The Office, located in Berlin, is currently staffed with the Secretary General and two Project Managers.

YEN finished 2023 with an Autumn Seminar in Palić, Serbia - hosted by VIFÓ, a youth organisation of the Hungarian minority. YEN finalised its yearly

topic "Keeping Traditions Alive. Since 2023!" at the seminar with a look at "Traditions in Transition" and how change can be vital to keeping minority communities alive.

In 2024 YEN's yearly topic is "ACTivism" – aiming to reflect on and support minority youth activism.



At their Easter Seminar in Bautzen, Budišin (Germany) – hosted by PAWK, a youth organisation of the Sorbian community – participants looked at minority-, youth-, and human rights and asked if they are fulfilled in their communities. In the first half of the year, YEN implemented two of three capacity-building events focusing on activist skills, the third will follow at the end of 2024. YEN is

looking forward to its Autumn Seminar, which will take place in November 2024 in Pécs, Hungary, hosted by YEN member organisation the Diverse Youth Network, and

youth organisations for national, ethnic, or linguistic minorities in Europe – we are proud of our journey” – states the organisation.

In July youth who are currently active in YEN, alumni, partners, and friends celebrated the YENiversary with a networking weekend in Bleiburg/Pliberk (hosted by the Slovene Info Centre). YEN revealed its new Logo,

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

where participants will learn about advocacy work to create a greater impact for their activism.

Apart from this, 2024 marks the 40th anniversary of the Youth of European Nationalities, founded on the 16th April 1984 at Knivsberg, Denmark. “From our humble beginnings to our current status as the largest network of

participated in workshops offered by current and former YENies, and discussed why youth should continue to be active in minority communities and how they can better support marginalized youth within minority communities. They reflected on the future of the organisation, danced and sang together and celebrated the network and everyone active in it.

Here’s to another 40 years of inspiring collaboration, cultural diversity, and young minority members shaping their communities and their world!

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BUILDING-UP THE FUEN

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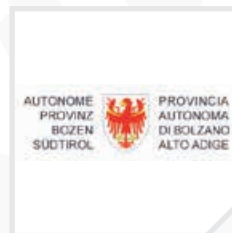
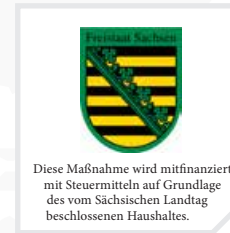


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