




PACT

between minority and majority



MINORITY
SAFEPAK
INITIATIVE



We live in Europe for centuries. We are autochthonous and traditional people, many of us saw borders shifted and live today in minority. It is not a choice, but it is the reality for us. **We have chosen to continue to live in our homeland.**

Our ancestors created a unique cultural wealth, they spoke their own languages, and followed their own traditions and customs. **We aim to preserve and develop our identity, our cultures, and our languages.**

We speak our mother tongue, and we want to be able to use it in everyday life and in the administration. **We wish that our children were able to learn in their mother tongue in schools and to pass it to the next generations.**




Different norms and different standards are applied by the states in the field of minority protection: some don't recognize and disregard the aim of minorities, while others actively promote and protect them. **We believe that the situation of European minorities can not be considered solely the internal affair of the states.**

We are one hundred million Europeans, fifty million in the EU, members of autochthonous national minorities, nationalities, ethnic communities, regional and linguistic groups. Our objective is to strengthen the Council of Europe's legal instruments and sanction mechanism. In the EU our goal is to create a EU legal framework on the protection of national minorities and language groups. **We have a dream about a society where all languages and communities are equal, respected and cherished.**

However, our determination and strength is not enough. We need the majority societies, we need our states and regions, and we need Europe to provide us the tools, which can support us to protect and to develop our cultures and our languages.

Under the umbrella of the Federal Union of European Nationalities 1,128,385 European citizens already joined our cause and started a movement for minority rights. By signing the *Minority SafePack Initiative* they asked the EU to improve the protection of persons belonging to national and linguistic minorities and strengthen cultural and linguistic diversity in the EU. The signatures of so many European citizens are an empowerment to make our voice heard in the EU institutions, national parliaments and governments, which should not be ignored.

Today, we need much more than that. **We need a pact between minorities and majorities to create favorable conditions for linguistic and cultural diversity to thrive, to preserve and promote the identity of the minority communities, to stop their assimilation, to make them feel entirely at home on the territory where they have been living traditionally, to have a say in decisions that affect their lives, and to exercise autonomously their cultural, educational and linguistic rights.**

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- I **We ask you to join our movement for minority rights.** We make Europe richer! We offer our cultural heritage, our languages and our traditions to Europe and to the majority societies.
 - II **Listen to us without prejudices.** As national minorities and language groups we have the same aspirations as the majority: we want our countries and regions to prosper. No matter our mother tongue or traditions we contribute together to our societies and economies. We all want to live in a better region, a better country and a better Europe.
 - III **Help us in becoming EU citizens with equal rights** in the use of our language, mother tongue education and the preservation of culture. Minorities are not a threat for the cohesion of Europe or for the states, instead, in all their diversity they are enriching both society and the state and play a crucial role as bridge builders between nations.
 - IV **We need to work together on a local, regional and European agenda.** Minority rights will not be achieved without majority support. It is our common struggle. In order to succeed we, decision makers, organizations, volunteers, partners and influencers need to work together.
 - V **We aim to put minority rights on the European agenda.** The upcoming European elections offer the right platform for a debate on autochthonous minority rights. We invite European parties and candidates to include in their objectives solutions to our concerns. The citizens belonging to minority communities will support parties and candidates that are committed to our agenda.
 - VI **Be part of history in the making.** The Minority SafePack Initiative can be one of the most important achievements in the history of the EU, and together, we are the ones who can make it happen.



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