FUEN

2021

ENABLING STRONG CONNECTIONS

FUEN IS

THE UMBRELLA ORGANISATION OF MORE THAN 100 MINORITY ORGANISATIONS FROM 35 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

A MUTUAL SUPPORT COMMUNITY AND THE MAIN ADVOCATE OF MINORITY RIGHTS IN EUROPE

THE LARGEST AND MOST REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION OF EUROPE'S AUTOCHTHONOUS NATIONAL MINORITIES, NATIONALITIES AND LANGUAGE GROUPS

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

WE RUN THREE OFFICES: IN FLENSBURG, BERLIN AND BRUSSELS

A YEAR OF IMPROVISATION AND NEW POSSIBILITIES

At the end of 2020, one of our longtime partners sent us a greeting, which said: thank you for spending all 3650 days of 2020 with us! The year marked by lockdowns, worries and loneliness indeed seemed to last an eternity. Unfortunately, in 2021 the pandemic is still setting the pace in everyday life, but progress in vaccination and a decline in incidence since early summer have allowed for more personal encounters.

What everybody first thought to be a short stepback proved to be a lingering problem and since then it has become the new normal. Because of that, the last year felt way too long, during which we had to learn that there might be circumstances in which even the best planned projects could not be completed. We also learned that not doing an event might take up more resources, time and effort than doing it. We were also forced to figure out how to remain relevant even in extraordinary times, how to deliver on our promise to serve the interests of national minorities and language groups from all over Europe, even without meetings, travel and face-to-face contact.

But the last year seemed to be so long not just because of the restrictions and the long hours spent in home office, but also because a lot of things happened – in fact, the year was one of the most succesful in the 71-year old history of FUEN, especially thanks to the very important steps taken by the Minority SafePack Initiative, but also to our ability to come up with new formats and projects to adapt to the new circumstances.

2021 started with a decision which made the FUEN reconsider its own role and objectives, as the European Commission said no to the protection and promotion of national minorities in the EU, and in general it proved to be a long way to go back to normal, building up to the moment of the 2021 FUEN Annual Congress, where we can (hopefully) meet again in large numbers. It was also a year with a record number of FUEN projects, both new ones and continuations or recalibrations of older ones and an increased activity in the online sphere.

We know that the next period is not going to be easy, since the coronavirus is still a factor, but with new opportunities ahead of us, we feel ready for them and no matter the circumstances, we will keep doing what we are meant to do: to represent the interests of minority communities.

FUEN EVENT CALENDAR 2021

2020

- **6 MAY** FUEN Presidium Meeting - Online
- **16 MAY** Coordination meeting on the funding of minorities with the Goethe Institute - AGDM
- **20-21 MAY** AGDM Working Meeting - Online
- **25 MAY** Meeting of Committees of Statues, Online
- **26 MAY** Meeting with MdB Sylvia Lehmann (SPD), Berlin
- **26-27 MAY** UN European Regional Forum on “Hate Speech” Social Media and Minorities - Online

- **5-6 JUNE** "Ostana Prize 2020", awarded by Chambra d'Òc - Online
- **9 JUNE** Meeting of Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities, Prof. Bernd Fabritius and AGDM Member Organisations - Online
- **15 JUNE** Meeting with Helge Lindh, MdB (SPD) - Berlin
- **17 JUNE** Meeting of AGDM Jugend - Online
- **18 JUNE** NESET Webinar Series on Language Education and Multilingualism - Online
- **22 JUNE** Meeting of Dialog Forum Norden - Online
- **22 JUNE** Founding meeting of the Minority-Competence-Network Schleswig-Holstein/Süddänemark, Oeversee
- **23 JUNE** Webinar of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe “What lessons from Covid-19 should be taken for the topic of education and the digital era?” - Online
- **23 JUNE** Meeting with new Director of European Centre for Minority Issues - Online
- **24 JUNE** EURAC Webinar on “COVID 19 and its impact on Roma” - Online
- **24 JUNE** Meeting of the Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM) - Online
- **25 JUNE** NESET Webinar Series on Language Education and Multilingualism - Online
- **30 JUNE** MSPI Presentation in Ministry of Interior - Berlin

- **1 JULY** Meeting with MdB Simone Barrientos (Die Linke), Berlin
- **1 JULY** NESET Webinar Series on Language Education and Multilingualism - Online
- **3 JULY** FUEN Presidium meeting - Online
- **8 JULY** Meeting of the Working Group of Non-Kin-State Minorities - Online
- **8 JULY** NESET Webinar Series on Language Education and Multilingualism - Online

- **10-11 JULY** Build Yourself! Module 1 - Online
- **28 JULY** Meeting on the new regulations on ECIs - Online
- **29 JULY** Meeting with Ukraine Cultural Foundation - Online
- **5 AUGUST** Commemoration of AGDM on the occasion of 70 years of the Charter of German Expellees - Berlin
- **6 AUGUST** Meeting with Undersecretary of State of the Prime Minister of Italy Guiseppe Conte, Riccardo Fraccaro - Rome
- **31 AUGUST** Meeting with Milorad Pupovac, Member of Sabor and former President of Serb National Council in Croatia - Online

- **1 SEPTEMBER** 2020 European Forum Alpbach “Minority Rights in the EU” - Online
- **1 SEPTEMBER** FUEN Presidium Meeting - Online
- **4-5 SEPTEMBER** Build Yourself! Module 2 - Online
- **7 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with MdB Dr. Reinhard Brandl (CSU) - Berlin
- **8 SEPTEMBER** Visit to the Hungarian Embassy in Berlin - Berlin
- **8 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with MdB Peter Heldt (FDP) - Berlin
- **9 SEPTEMBER** Panel discussion “A Multicultural Society - a Chance or a Threat?” by the Economic Forum - Karpacz, Poland
- **10-11 SEPTEMBER** Conference of the Cultural Foundation of German Expellees “Cultural Institutions in Dialogue” – AGDM - Königswinter
- **14 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with MdBs Astrid Damerow und Petra Nicolaisen (CDU) - Berlin
- **14 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with MdB Dr. Klaus-Peter Schulze (CDU) - Berlin
- **16 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with MdB Sandra Bubendorfer-Licht (FDP) - Berlin
- **16 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with MdB Barrientos (Die Linke) - Berlin
- **17 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with Deutsches Kulturforum östliches Europa - Potsdam
- **20 SEPTEMBER** 32nd Estonian Forum of National Minorities organised by the Estonian Union of National Minorities - Online
- **21 SEPTEMBER** European Regional Forum on "Hate Speech", Social Media and Minorities
- **23 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with Minority Council of the four autochthonous national minorities of Germany - Berlin
- **24 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with MdB Petra Pau (Die Linke) - Berlin
- **25 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with MdB Prof. Neumann (FDP) - Berlin
- **25 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with the Italian and Hungarian National Communities Deputy Group of the National Assembly of Slovenia - Ljubljana
- **28 SEPTEMBER** Meeting of Dialog Forum Norden - Flensburg
- **29 SEPTEMBER** Meeting with MdB Eckhard Pols (CDU/CSU) – AGDM - Berlin
- **30 SEPTEMBER** Session of European Affairs Committee of the Schleswig-Holstein Landtag - Kiel

- **1 OCTOBER** Meeting of the Working Group of Non-Kinstate Minorities - Online
- **1-3 OCTOBER** Conference “Homeland Expellees and Homeland Remainers - Two Sides of the Same Medal” - AGDM - Dresden
- **2 -3 OCTOBER** Build Yourself! Module 3 - Online
- **7 OCTOBER** Meeting with Ukrainian Culture Foundation - Online
- **13 OCTOBER** Townhall Debate “What is Europe doing for us minorities?” by MEP Rasmus Andresen - Online
- **15 OCTOBER** Public Hearing in the European Parliament on the MSPI - Brussels
- **16 OCTOBER** Citizens’ Forum “ Having a say on Europe” - Flensburg
- **19 OCTOBER** FUEN Presidium Meeting - Online
- **24 OCTOBER** Assembly of Delegates - Online
- **26-27 OCTOBER** Conference “ Minority Protection and Ethnic Group Rights in Central and Central Eastern Europe “ - Online
- **26 OCTOBER** Meeting with MdB Axel Müller (CDU) - Berlin
- **31 OCTOBER** AGDM Youth Training Series “Generation Zukunft“ - Online

- **6-7 NOVEMBER** Build Yourself! Module - Online
- **11 NOVEMBER** Meeting of AGDM Youth - Online
- **12 NOVEMBER** Land Action Plan “SH against Racism” - Online
- **12-14 NOVEMBER** Conference ”Legal protection of minority Hungarians in the Carpathian-basin 2020” by KisebbségiJogvédőIntézet - Online
- **13 NOVEMBER** Conference “Minority SafePack as a tool for advocating for national minorities”by Eustrat - Budapest
- **13 NOVEMBER** European Congress of Ethnic Groups Carinthia - Online
- **14 NOVEMBER** AGDM Youth Training Series “Generation Zukunft“ - Online
- **19 NOVEMBER** Meeting with MdB Frau Sylvia Lehmann (SPD) - Berlin
- **19 NOVEMBER** Annual Seminar of the Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM) - Online
- **26-27 NOVEMBER** 4th European Conference Devoted to Minority and Local Media by Heror Media Pont - Online

- **3 DECEMBER** Annual Meeting of the Working Group of Non-Kin-State Minorities - Online
- **3-4 DECEMBER** UN Special Session on COVID-19 - Online
- **5 DECEMBER** AGDM Youth Training Series “Generation Zukunft“ - Online
- **7-9 DECEMBER** ECPSM Symposium - Online
- **8 DECEMBER** Meeting with Minority Secretariat of the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups of Germany - Online
- **9-10 DECEMBER** 22nd EU-NGO Forum on Human Rights - Online
- **9 DECEMBER** Event of Minority-Competence-Network - Online

- **9 DECEMBER** FUEN Presidium Meeting - Online
- **10 DECEMBER** Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Education - Online
- **12 DECEMBER** AGDM Youth Training Series “Generation Zukunft“ - Online
- **14 DECEMBER** Plenary debate in the European Parliament on MSPI - Brussels
- **17 DECEMBER** Annual Meeting of the Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) - Online
- **22 DECEMBER** Annual Meeting of Working Group of Turkish Minorities/ Communities (TAG) - Online
- **28 DECEMBER** Launch of the AGDM online travelling exhibition

2021

- **14 JANUARY** Communication of the European Commission on the MSPI - Online
- **16 JANUARY** FUEN Closed Meeting - Online
- **21 JANUARY** Reaction of the MSPI Citizens Committee on the Commission Communication - Online
- **25 JANUARY** Meeting with GIZ/NALAS - Online
- **27 JANUARY** Meeting with the Commissioner for Minorities of the Minister President of Schleswig-Holstein, Mr Johannes Callsen and the Chairman of the Lia Rumantscha, Mr Johannes Flury
- **30 JANUARY** Seminar Heilgenhof: Central questions of shaping the future for autochthonous minorities in Europe - Online

- **16 FEBRUARY** Meeting with MdB Astrid Damerow (CDU) - Berlin
- **17 FEBRUARY** Conference of the Federal Foreign Office and the Intermediary Organisations, AGDM - Online
- **18 FEBRUARY** Meeting of the Working Group on Education - Online
- **25 FEBRUARY** Conference “Minority Protection and Ethnic Group Rights in Central and Central Eastern Europe” - Online

- **1 MARCH** Meeting with OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Kairat Abdrakhmanov – Den Haag, The Netherlands
- **15-16 MARCH** UNESCO Office Almaty Regional Consultations for the preparation of the Global Action Plan of the IDIL - Online
- **15 MARCH** Meeting with German Youth in Europe (DJO) – AGDM - Online
- **18 MARCH** Meeting with MdB FIlizPolat (Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen) - Berlin
- **22 MARCH** Meeting of Dialog Forum Norden - Online
- **24 MARCH** The Citizens’ Committee of the Minority SafePack ECI requests the General Court of the European Union to annul the Commission’s decision on the initiative - Online
- **25 MARCH** Conference “Minority Protection and Ethnic Group Rights in Central and Central Eastern Europe” - Online
- **25 MARCH** 1st Thematic Seminar of Working Group of Turkish Minorities/ Communities (TAG) - Online
- **31 MARCH** AGDM Youth Meeting - Online

- **8 APRIL** Event on the occasion of the International Roma Day by Minority-Competence-Network - Online
- **9 APRIL** Meeting with European Roma Network - Online
- **10 APRIL** 1st Module of the AGDM Academy: „GEN Z - Generation Zukunft“ -Online
- **12 APRIL** Meeting with Ravan Hasanov, Head of Baku international Multiculturalism Centre - Online
- **17 APRIL** 2nd Module of the AGDM Academy: „GEN Z - Generation Zukunft“ - Online
- **23 APRIL** FUEN Presidium Meeting - Online
- **26-29 APRIL** Session of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe - Online
- **27 APRIL** Meeting of the Council of Sorbs - Online
- **28 APRIL** Meeting of Presidium of the Minority-Competence-Network - Online
- **29 APRIL** Conference “Minority Protection and Ethnic Group Rights in Central and Central Eastern Europe” - Online

- **4 MAY** Meeting of CDU/CSU Group Expellees, Resettlers and German Minorities - AGDM - Berlin
- **5 MAY** Meeting of the Interior and Home Affairs Committee of the Bundestag - Berlin
- **6 MAY** Meeting of the partners for the Western Balkan-project GIZ/NALAS – Online
- **8 MAY** 3rd Module of the AGDM Academy: „GEN Z - Generation Zukunft“ - Online
- **11 MAY** Meeting of European Dialogue Forum - Online
- **14-15 MAY** Build Yourself! Module 1 - Online
- **17 MAY** Coordination meeting with the Goethe-Institute - AGDM - Online
- **17 MAY** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Foreign Cultural and Educational Policy in the Bundestag - Berlin
- **18 MAY** Meeting with MdB Dietmar Nietan (SPD) - AGDM - Berlin
- **18 MAY** Meeting with ECMI Director - Online
- **22 MAY** 4th Module of the AGDM Academy: „GEN Z - Generation Zukunft“ - Online
- **25 MAY** Civil Dialogue Week of CERV Programme by European Commission - Online
- **26 MAY** Sankelmark Academy Information event on “Conference on the Future of Europe” - Online
- **26 MAY** Sankelmark Europe Talk on the occasion of the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Oeversee - Online
- **27 MAY** Meeting of the Working Group of Non-Kin-State Minorities - Online
- **29 MAY** 5th Module of the AGDM Academy: „GEN Z - Generation Zukunft“ - Online

- **4 JUNE** Meeting with ENTAN - Flensburg
- **9 JUNE** FUEN BundesTalks - Berlin/Online
- **19 JUNE** Europeada Talks – team meeting of EUROPEADA 2022 teams - Online
- **22 JUNE** FUEN Webinar “National Minorities in Censuses“ - Online
- **30 JUNE** Minority Talks by FUEN: “Insights – German Secondary School for North Schleswig in Aabenraa” - Online

MINORITY SAFEPACK INITIATIVE

FUEN's most important project in the last eight years finally came to an end. And although this is not the end we wished for, we have undoubtedly managed to make big steps for the protection of minority rights in the EU. Over the past eight years, we have created value: we have brought together national and linguistic minorities across Europe who have set common goals. The level of cooperation we achieved is unparalleled so far. We have laid the foundations on which we can now build together. We have put the issue of national minorities on the agenda of European politics and drawn attention to everything that national communities can give to Europe, but also to our problems and expectations. A great number of member states and regions stood by us.

Today, the issue of autochthonous minorities is better known than it was a decade ago. We are proud of these achievements, and we are determined to build on them. We know that we are right, we want the best for our minority communities, we want the best for the member states, we want the best for Europe, and the results of our work of almost a decade, cannot be taken away from us by this decision.

FUEN 1949–2019

MINORITY SAFEPACK INITIATIVE

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. ONE MILLION SIGNATURES FOR DIVERSITY IN EUROPE

The Minority SafePack Initiative presented in a Public Hearing in the European Parliament

The proposals of the Minority SafePack Initiative on how EU Law could promote minority rights and linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe were presented with an overwhelmingly positive feedback in the Public Hearing organised in Brussels, in the European Parliament on 15 October 2020.

Members of the Citizens' Committee presented the legislative proposals at the hearing, that brought together MEPs from the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee (LIBE), the Culture and Education Committee (CULT) and the Committee on Petitions (PETI), as well as other participating committees. The European Commission was also represented at the meeting.

MEPs and representatives of the Council of Europe, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Council also took the floor to express their preoccupation with minority rights and their support for the initiative.

> *I do hope that our proposals will make history and our European Citizens' Initiative will be the first the Commission will propose legislation on. We tried to be as ambitious as possible, and we hope that the Commission together with the Parliament and the Council will be even more ambitious than we are when it comes to new legislation that has impact on minorities in Europe.*
>
> **Hans Heinrich Hansen, Representative of the Citizens' Committee and Honorary President of FUEN**

European Citizens' Initiative "Minority SafePack"

Bundestag resolution calls on the European Commission to implement the MSPI

On 27 November, the German Bundestag unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the Minority SafePack Initiative (MSPI). The motion for the resolution entitled “Call on the European Commission to implement the Citizens’ Initiative “Minority SafePack” (MSPI)” was introduced by the parliamentary groups CDU/CSU and SPD.

The document states that unfortunately, the promotion and protection of minorities in Europe is not a matter of course. “It is therefore appropriate and necessary for the German Bundestag and the Federal Government to support a first comprehensive anchoring of rights for the protection and strengthening of national minorities at European Union level,” says the resolution.

“It is of crucial importance that the European Commission, the European Parliament as well as the Council of the European Union deal with the protection of minorities on an institutional level and that rights to protect national minorities are anchored in the legal framework of the European Union”, says the Resolution, which calls the Minority SafePack Initiative “one of the most relevant and certainly the most successful initiative of autochthonous national minorities in recent years.”

The Bundestag calls on the Federal Government to take every reasonable opportunity to promote the protection and promotion of national minorities in the spirit of the cause of MSPI in Europe and to take every relevant initiative, including the provision of sufficient financial resources, to establish the protection of minorities as a European matter.

The Second Chamber of The Netherlands, the Parliament of Hungary, the Landtag of Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony and Brandenburg, the Parliament of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano-South Tyrol, the Tyrol-Alto Adige-Trentino Euroregion, the Parliaments of the Basque Country and Navarra and the Frisian Parliament have also supported the MSPI.

Plenary Debate and Resolution in the European Parliament on the MSPI

On 14 December, the Minority SafePack Initiative was debated in the European Parliament. Out of the 30 MEPs to take the floor at the plenary, only a handful were not supportive of the European Citizens' Initiative. Many MEPs congratulated the initiators of the MSPI, with co-president of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages, Francois Alfonsi highlighting FUEN's role in the successful campaign and in bringing this important issue in the European institutions.

The European Parliament held a plenary debate on the matter and adopted a resolution supporting the Minority SafePack Initiative. The motion for the resolution was drafted by the FUEN President Loránt Vincze as Member of the European Parliament, and the draft compromise version has been signed by four European political groups (EPP, Renew, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL). A large majority – with 524 out of 694 votes – adopted the resolution on 17 December 2020. Thus, the MSPI became the first European Citizens' Initiative to have a plenary debate and a resolution adopted by the European Parliament.

According to the resolution, the European Parliament "expresses its support for the European Citizens' Initiative 'Minority SafePack – one million signatures for diversity in Europe'; calls on the Commission to act on it and to propose legal acts based on the Treaties."

The European Commission's decision

On 14 January 2021, the European Commission decided to ignore the voice of more than one million EU citizens and that of the European Parliament. The Commission announced that it will not propose legal acts for the protection of national and linguistic minorities under the Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative.

With its decision, the European Commission has turned its back on national and linguistic minorities, signatory citizens, the call of the European Parliament to "propose legal acts" as well as a large number of supporting national and regional governments and legislative bodies from all across Europe.

In its letter to the European Commission, the Citizens' Committee of the Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative expressed its strong disappointment in the EC's communication on the MSPI.

"We were astonished to see the full rejection of the European Commission, which apparently gave more importance to making a list of current actions and projects, which often are not even linked to the goals of the ECI, so as to dismiss the proposals as unneeded, instead of studying the initiative closely and addressing the initiators' concerns", says the letter, which points out that the arguments offered by the Commission to justify its lack of follow-up are not valid in many areas.

This disappointment was echoed in several of Europe's national and linguistic minority communities but also by many of our supporters. More than a hundred reactions came from international institutions and political bodies, including the Frisian Parliament, the Government of Navarra, the Presidents of the Valencian, Navarrese, Galician, Basque and Balearic autonomous parliaments, the Landtag of South Tyrol, the Regional Council of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, the Landtag and the Minister-President of Schleswig-Holstein, State Secretary Stephan Mayer, the Minister-President of Brandenburg, Denmark's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hungarian Parliament, the Minority Intergroup of the European Parliament, members of the CULT and PETI committees in the EP and other MEPs, members of the Committee of Regions, MPs. All counties in Hungary adopted statements of support, the Romanian counties where Hungarians are a majority and the mayors of the towns in the area adopted a joint statement. The political parties, civil and social organisations of the Hungarian national minority in Slovakia also issued a joint statement in support of the MSPI.

The fight is not over

On 24 March 2021, the Citizens' Committee of the "Minority SafePack – One million signatures for diversity in Europe" European Citizens' Initiative (MSPI) filed at the General Court of the European Union a request for the annulment of the European Commission's decision on the initiative.

The submission was based on a careful legal examination of the Commission's response by the Citizens' Committee, the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), the coordinator of the European signature collection campaign and their legal representatives. They concluded that the communication is deeply flawed by the fact that in it, the European Commission infringed its legal obligation to state reasons and committed manifest errors of assessment.

The request points out that the Commission has failed to correctly interpret the initiative. The measures brought forward by the Commission are manifestly inappropriate having regard to the objectives of the Minority SafePack Initiative. There are also sufficient grounds to believe that the Commission has not complied with its obligation to state reasons, which constitutes a gross procedural error. Furthermore, the Commission did not address the oral submissions the initiators made at the meeting with the Commission and at the public hearing held in the European Parliament. The Commission also failed to address the detailed written explanations and clarifications on the scope of the MSPI provided by the initiators.

ASSEMBLY 2020
OF DELEGATES
Delegiertenversammlung
Собрание Делегатов

FUEN ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES 2020

Due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the FUEN Assembly of Delegates 2020 was organised to be remote participation. More than 200 delegates were connected in the online system, on the 24th of October.

The Vice Presidents of FUEN presented their Activity Report at the Assembly of Delegates. Gösta Toft talked about the Minority SafePack Initiative's progress and the need for more rights for minorities in Europe, especially in the field of education.

The year and a half which passed since our last congress has been a rollercoaster ride with many ups and downs, with the coronavirus pandemic repeatedly interfering with almost all of our plans. However, I think it shows the power and the flexibility of our organisation, the professionalism and creativity of our team, that while we could not surpass the pandemic yet, we were able to compensate for the events which did not take place physically and offer meaningful services for our member organisations. In this situation lacking any kind of stability, through our resilience, perseverance and inventiveness FUEN managed to remain efficient and relevant. What we have to do now is to build upon our rediscovered values and make our communities prosper.

Vincze Loránt, FUEN President

Vladimir Ham presented the German Working Group (AGDM), its traveling exhibition "Between Two Worlds", and also the visits to member organisations, saying that many minorities have not only political but also existential problems.

Angelika Mlinar presented the activity of the Slavic Working Group (AGSM), and their brochure presenting all Slavic minorities in FUEN.

Halit Habip Oglu talked about the Turkic Working Group (TAG), saying that due to the pandemic, FUEN met extraordinary challenges, and the working group also had to face these challenges.

Bahne Bahnsen presented the activity and the challenges of the Non-Kin-State Working Group.

Daniel Alfreider talked about the online survey on the educational opportunities of autochthonous minorities in Europe, in which they had input from 30 European countries. The results of the survey will be presented at the Education Working Group's Annual Meeting in December. The new President of YEN, Andor Barabás also introduced himself and the activity of the youth organisation.

According to FUEN Secretary General Éva Pénzes, the past year was a very active year for FUEN with 16 projects implemented, and more than 250 press releases published in English, German, Turkish, Russian and Hungarian.

The FUEN Assembly of Delegates adopted a Resolution on ensuring the protection and safeguarding of autochthonous national minorities and language communities and their cultural heritage in times of crisis and on the provision of essential information in minority languages related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Amendments to the FUEN Statutes were voted at the Assembly.

From Bratislava * Pressburg * Pozsony to Trieste * Trst

The wait is finally over! After the FUEN 70 Year Anniversary Congress in 2019 and 2020' Assembly with remote participation, the largest gathering of Europe's autochthonous national minorities and language groups will finally take place between 9-12 September 2021 in Trieste *Trst, the capital of the autonomous region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, in Italy.

"You will surely be charmed by the hospitality and beauty of our places and people, you will be able to take home unforgettable memories" – guarantees Walter Bandelj, President of the host organisation of the congress, the Confederation of Slovene Organisations. We were never so eager to benefit from the hospitality of our hosts! Details on the FUEN 2021 Annual Congress: **congress2021.fuen.org**

In the first part of 2021 FUEN made extra efforts to stay in contact with its member organisations despite the travel bans imposed in all over Europe. FUEN President Loránt Vincze made more than 110 phone calls during these months to reach all member organisation leaders and discuss the current state of their minority communities with them.

MINORITY PROTECTION AND ETHNIC GROUP RIGHTS IN CENTRAL AND CENTRAL EASTERN EUROPE

The international online conference series “Minority Protection and Ethnic Group Rights in Central and Central Eastern Europe” was launched in October 2020. Organised by the FUEN and the Cultural Foundation of German Expellees for Science and Research (Kulturstiftung der Deutschen Vertriebenen für Wisssenschaft und Forschung), it meets the demand to have a symposium where numerous German and European representatives from science and politics as well as from the ranks of national minorities and ethnic groups can exchange ideas. The expert conference is intended to contribute to gaining an overview of the extent, to which the existing agreements of the Council of Europe on the one hand and possible new legal protection elements within the framework of the EU on the other hand, can contribute to improving the level of minority protection in the European context.

The launching conference in October provided an overall picture of minority protection and ethnic group rights in Germany, Poland, Romania and Slovenia from the theoretical and practical perspectives of academia, politics and national minorities. In 2021, the countries Austria-Italy-Czech Republic; Slovakia-Hungary-Croatia and Estonia-Ukraine-Bulgaria were in focus on three separate online conference days in February, March and April.

The conferences offered simultaneous translation in English and German and were streamed live on our YouTube channel.

MINORITY TALKS WITH FUEN

The end of June 2021 brought a brand new FUEN project, entitled Minority Talks with FUEN. With this initiative we created a platform, in which we present short films, documentaries and contributions that deal with various aspects of the topic of autochthonous and national minorities as well as language communities in Europe. Each film is followed by a discussion, in which the topic of the film is taken up and discussed in the context of the current situation of the minority in question.

The first three episodes, aired on the last Wednesdays of June, July and August, presented the documentaries from our short film-series “Insights”, which deals with the topic of education and educational systems of the national minorities in the German-Danish border region. The short film project called “Insights – Educational institutions of the minorities in the German-Danish borderland” was started in the second half of 2020 by FUEN’s Education Working Group. Three films were shot: at the Frisian-Danish Primary and Community School in Risum-Lindholm, at the German Secondary School for North Schleswig in Aabenraa (Denmark) and at the A. P. Møller Skolen in Schleswig.

The episodes of Minority Talks with FUEN are premiered on our Facebook, and afterwards they also become available on our YouTube channel.

FUEN BUNDES-TALKS

The autochthonous minorities hardly play a role in the public discourse on social diversity. The same applies to the election campaign and the reporting in the run-up to the 2021 Bundestag elections in Germany. For this reason, the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) organises the FUEN BundesTalks on various minority policy issues. During the summer of 2021, FUEN discussed with Bundestag candidates from various parties about the design and goals of federal policy in the field of national minorities. The FUEN BundesTalks are intended to support members of national minorities in their election decisions.

The first debate on 9 June 2021 focused on Bundestag candidates from Schleswig-Holstein and the minority policy goals of their parties for the next legislative period - especially against the background that autochthonous minorities are largely a blind spot in the federal policy election programmes of the established parties!

The SSW's first participation in a federal election since 1961 could mean that a minority party will soon be represented in the Bundestag, and the candidacy was also one of the topics of the debate, along with the Minority SafePack Initiative.

Ms Petra Nicolaisen, Member of the Bundestag (CDU), Mr Sönke Rix, Member of the Bundestag (SPD), Ms Katrine Hoop, (Die Linke), Ms Marlene Langholz-Kaiser, (Bündnis 90/ die Grünen) and Mr Stefan Seidler (leading candidate SSW), who was connected online, accepted the invitation. The event, which took place in the Schleswig-Holstein Representation in Berlin, was moderated by FUEN Vice-President Angelika Mlinar and Gösta Nissen, Head of the Minority Secretariat of the four autochthonous national minorities in Germany and was broadcasted live on FUEN's YouTube channel.

CORONA MONITOR

Do You Speak Corona? X Minority Monitor

Since last year, we have been working hard on a project aiming to help minorities in the COVID-19 context.

The Corona Monitor project, as part of the Minority Monitor, focuses on the situation in which communities find themselves amid worldwide Covid pandemic and on the use of minority languages under the COVID-19 outbreak.

The cases presented on the Corona Monitor Website are based on the „Do you speak Corona?“ study, an online survey that was conducted between March 31 and June 30, 2020 with the scope of analysing, to what extent communication in mother tongue is assured by different stakeholders in the Member States of the European Union, as well as among the members of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN).

The Minority Monitor was established by FUEN, 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.

The multi-partner project aims to identify and analyse the different challenges faced by the various minorities in Europe, to monitor developments in the different areas of minority rights and eventually, to contribute to finding effective solutions.

minoritymonitor.eu

The online questionnaire focused on the availability of information related to COVID-19 in general, healthcare information related to the outbreak, the existence of an emergency hotline operated in minority language and the availability of online education in mother tongue. The survey was completed for 43 minority communities and language groups in 25 European countries and the final results were published in July 2020. Case studies made by FUEN were also included in the report and were also published on FUEN's website.

In 2021, additional case studies were published and put on the map by Minority Monitor.

THE MOST IMPORTANT FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

- Key general Information on the coronavirus outbreak was available in mother tongue of minority communities and language groups in slightly more than one third - 34.9% - of the cases. 20.9% received partial information, meanwhile 44.2% lack all communication on mother tongue.

- Key health related information in minority languages is available in slightly more than one third of the cases (35%). Partial information is available in 25.5% of the cases, meanwhile 39.5% have no access in their mother tongue to the health related information of the aspects of the coronavirus outbreak.

- The availability of the emergency hotlines in minority languages remained limited during the pandemic, as 69.8% of the cases had no access to them. In only 20.9% of the cases, have hotlines been set up and in 9.3% of the cases minority communities or linguistic groups had partial access to mother tongue emergency facilities.

- In 51.2% of all cases analysed, online education was organised in mother tongue during the coronavirus outbreak. In 18.6% of the cases, online education in mother tongue was at least partially available, meanwhile in 10 cases, representing 23.3%, no access to online education was assured. In 3 cases, representing 6.9%, mother tongue education was not available before the coronavirus outbreak either.

Since its publishing, the survey results became a point of reference and were cited on many occasions by international institutions. The survey was made by the Federal Union of European Nationalities with the support of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages in the European Parliament.

“NATIONAL MINORITIES IN CENSUSES” WEBINAR

2021 and 2022 are crucial from the perspective of minority communities: in thirty-nine European countries, censuses will take place. The size and share of the nationality or minority is important for minority rights, and the composition of nationalities in the population is relevant for policymaking and is often a prerequisite for the recognition.

Censuses are relevant not only for the moment when they are conducted, but they also constitute an important database for the future, for the upcoming years. In many states, the results of the censuses are the base for the application of minority laws, including education rights, language rights and funding for minority organisations. For our communities it is very important that these censuses are conducted professionally, and that the members of minority communities have a chance to declare their identity and to be counted.

Having this in mind, at the request of its Member Organisations, on 22 June 2021, FUEN organised a webinar entitled "National Minorities in Censuses". At the webinar, Univ. Prof. Dr. Paul Videsott from the South Tyrollean Institute of Ethnic Groups gave an overview on the types and best practices of national minority censuses in Europe, saying that censuses should provide data on the minority language competences of the population and the feelings of belonging to a minority. One of the problems is that more and more states opt for a register based or a combined counting of the population, and thus minority identity meters are not included in censuses.

Case studies from Romania, Poland, South Tyrol – Italy, Slovakia and the Czech Republic were presented by experts and minority representatives. The webinar showed that there are serious problems in some communities that should be solved and whose solutions we need to work on together.

FORUM OF THE REGIONS WEBSITE

FUEN's annual "Forum of the Minority Regions" brings together European minority regions and is a venue for cooperation. A networks enhances the political weight of the individual regions speaking with one voice strengthens their position when influencing the policies of the European Union. The Forum is also the setting for exchanging and discussing differences in the protection and promotion of minority rights. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity to learn from both best and worst practices.

At the end of 2020, FUEN launched a booklet and a website (forum.fuen.org) dedicated to the past four editions of the Forum. The website also serves to announce the coming editions of the Forum.

EUROPEADA TALKS

Although the EUROPEADA has officially been moved to 2022, the organisers of the European Football Championship of Minorities took the opportunity to have a special meeting of the teams involved in the cup on the date the EUROPEADA was supposed to kick off in 2021. On the 19th of June 2021, delegation leaders met in an online training to discuss their teams' situation and get answers to their questions about EUROPEADA. At the online meeting the location of the event hosted by the Slovenes in Austria was presented, and we have to say, Carinthia still looks like the place to be in June 2022!

It was announced that until now not one team out of the 24 mens and 7 women teams enlisted for the 2020 event has withdrawn from the tournament, and the venues of the event have also not changed.

In the discussion rounds, the delegation leaders presented their teams and the challenges they had to face during the pandemic. It turned out that some of the teams had only recently started to train and play again, and they agreed that it would have been a stretch to organise the EUROPEADA this year, with teams that were not allowed to play for an extended period of time.

All teams are looking forward to meet in June 2022, and FUEN is strongly committed to have the EUROPEADA in Carinthia next year. The EUROPEADA is not only about football, but about exchange, networking and coming together, and 2022 offers us the chance to accomplish all that.

BUILD YOURSELF!

After a trio of successful capacity-building trainings organised for its member organisations at the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020, FUEN's Build Yourself! relaunched in July 2020 with online trainings.

The first in a line of three online trainings took place on 10-11 July, focusing on Organisational and Communication Management. The trainers shared their knowledge and illustrated the advantages and disadvantages of the platforms available on the market both in external communication and in organisational work.

The second online training, held on 2-3 October, focused on Offline and Online Networking. During the two days of the interactive training, best practices by which to solidify oneself for physical meetings by enhancing ones image and having ones narrative, reflect ones capabilities and competence represented, and participants were introduced to the networking mindset and they received useful tips and tricks on strategy and execution.

On 6-7 November a group of participants from FUEN member organisations had the chance to get up to date with new trends in branding and its use in recruiting new members. Tips about political branding and political marketing were shared, as well as ideas on how to tell a brand story, that people will love.

In 2021 three additional online trainings were organised in the Build Yourself! programme: on 14-15 May on Project Management in the Cultural Sector Using New Media (in English), on 11-12 June on Ways of Motivation in Working with the Youth (in German) and on 18-19 June on NGO Management in the Time of Corona (in German).

BUILD YOURSELF

FUEN PHOTO CALENDAR

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

When taking into account the things that define a minority, a language group, a nationality, one can think of many things – and it is no wonder, as our identity is defined not only by our past, but also by our present, and hopefully by our future too. Our traditions, arts, sport, personalities, events and our common goals all define who we are and who we want to be. Having this in mind, starting with 2021 the FUEN Calendars present each year one of these defining elements of the minorities.

For 2021, we chose folk costumes as the theme. These are not regular garments, as the centuries made them bearers of added meanings – for the ones who know the meaning of the ornaments, the colours, the elements, one look is enough to get the story of the person wearing it.

For 2022, we decided to not to look in the past, but in the present, and chose contemporary paintings as the subject of the calendar. Once again, we are very pleased with the results, and we hope that you will find just as much pleasure in the beautiful artworks created by minority artists as we had in selecting them.

MINORITY COMPETENCE NETWORK SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN/SOUTH DENMARK

In Sankelmark, the supporting association for the “Minority Competence Network Schleswig-Holstein/South Denmark” was founded in 2020. The aim is to promote understanding for autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups as well as their language and culture and to support the exchange of information and experience between the minorities and ethnic groups in relation to the majority population – primarily in Europe.

The founding members of the network are the Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN), the Friesenrat Sektion Nord, Sydslesvigsk Forening (SSF), the Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein, the European Academy Schleswig-Holstein, the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) and the FUEN.

WESTERN BALKANS

An online orientation meeting for the partners involved in the Western Balkans project took place on the 6th of May 2021. The Western Balkans project, started in 2016, aims to transfer successful minority protection models from Schleswig-Holstein to the countries of the Western Balkans. It is implemented by the Federal State Program (BLP), GIZ Regional Office north, the Social Rights for Vulnerable Groups II (SORI II), the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) and the Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South East Europe (NALAS), funded by the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

At the orientation meeting the assessment report was discussed on the transfer of the model of Minority Commissioner to Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the model of the Dialogue Forum Norden to Tetovo, North Macedonia, implemented by the name of Social Dialogue Forum.

WORKING GROUPS

Working Group of German Minorities – AGDM

AGDM CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

During the last year we have all faced many challenges. However, the Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) was able to adapt relatively quickly to the unfamiliar situation and has successfully implemented its activities into the digital world. In addition to the digitalisation of the AGDM travelling exhibition “In Two Worlds”, working meetings and other meetings took place on online platforms during the past year.

Last year, the AGDM coordination office also grew by one staff member who supports the AGDM Youth Coordinator and thus strengthens the AGDM’s youth work. In addition, a training series for AGDM Youth was launched in autumn 2020 and has successfully continued in spring 2021.

In 2021, the AGDM will be able to look back on 30 years of work for the German minorities in Europe and Central Asia. Since its foundation in 1991, it has been able to establish itself as a strong voice for the interests of the German minorities. The AGDM is looking forward to celebrating this anniversary together with all its member organisations.

VISIT THE AGDM EXHIBITION “IN TWO WORLDS” ONLINE!

The travel plans of the AGDM travelling exhibition “In Two Worlds - German Minorities Introduce Themselves” have been disrupted by the Corona pandemic in 2020, so the AGDM has decided to switch to digital channels. Since December 2020, the AGDM exhibition “In Two Worlds - 25 German Stories. German minorities introduce themselves” can be visited online at in2welten-agdm.fuen.org. The digital exhibition enables a virtual discovery tour through 25 countries where Germans live and where a lot of information on language, religions, traditions and cultural heritage is being presented in an appealing way.

TRAINING SERIES “GENERATION FUTURE”

The AGDM training series “Gen-Z: Generation Zukunft” was launched in 2020. Its aim is to support youth representatives in organisations of German minorities in Europe and Central Asia and to provide them with important knowledge for the future of their organisations. In autumn 2020, four modules on relevant youth work topics such as management, leadership and empowerment took place, with an average of more than 25 participants. Since there has been a lot of positive feedback on the training series, its continuation as “AGDM Academy - Generation Future” was implemented in spring 2021. Five modules on further important youth work topics took place from April to May.

ONLINE AGDM YOUTH CONFERENCE

On 11 November 2020, youth representatives from 14 countries exchanged information about the current situation in their countries, their work as well as their future plans for the youth of the German minority in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The long-planned AGDM youth meeting now took place in the form of an online working session. The meeting was chaired by Patrik Lompart, the current AGDM Youth Coordinator.

29TH ONLINE AGDM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On 17 December 2020, the 29th AGDM Annual Conference took place in an online format, attended by more than 40 representatives and youth representatives of German minorities from 18 countries in Europe and Central Asia. The participants also included the Federal Government Commissioner for Resettlers Issues and National Minorities, Prof. Dr. Bernd Fabritius, the FUEN Vice-President responsible for the German minorities, Vladimir Ham, and FUEN Secretary General, Éva Pénzes. For the Working Group of German Minorities, the year 2020 was marked by increased contact and exchange with member organisations from all over Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Working Group of Slavic Minorities – AGSM

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

Since 2019, the AGSM has been sending out a newsletter at regular intervals, it has a new, thoroughly designed homepage (www.agsm.fuen.org), and has published a AGSM brochure about its members. These were important steps to increase public presence and awareness of the concerns of Slavic minorities in Europe.

Thanks to stable funding from the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community of the Federal Republic of Germany, the AGSM was able to develop and adapt its activities in 2020, despite the difficult situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meetings of the AGSM that took place in an online format were well attended by the members. With the printed version of the AGSM brochure and the translation of the AGSM web portal in English, the public presence could be further developed. Although the contemporary events did not allow us to have physical meetings, the AGSM speaker Angelika Mlinar and coordinator, Matic Germovšek Ž. were much in contact with the member organisations to discuss their concerns, challenges but also the future plans of the Slavic minorities.

At the end of the year, when the areas of the Serbian and Czech minorities in Croatia were hit by the severe earthquake, a strong solidarity community of FUEN and AGSM has been shown. Through fundraising activities, numerous AGSM and FUEN member organisations helped the two minorities in need. We all sincerely hope that soon it will be possible to have physical meetings again and that AGSM will be able to meet in its regular activities.

Working Group Education

The youngest Working Group of the FUEN, dedicated to Education continues to ensure the sustainability of the educational work of minorities. Having the preponderant role education plays in the preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity in mind, the working group did its best to pursue its goal creatively within the limited frame given by the pandemic.

ANNUAL MEETING 2020

The second annual meeting of the working group under the guidance of FUEN Vice President Daniel Alfreider, took place online with 37 participants from 16 European countries, among those representatives of minorities as well as experts from institutes, competence centres and educational institutions. The core topic was the online survey "Educational situation of autochthonous national minorities in Europe" which was filled out by 54 minority representatives from 30 countries. The preliminary results were presented and discussed to jointly define strategies, next steps and recommendations for action.

The meeting also gave the participants the opportunity to report about the educational situation of their respective minorities, with a specific focus on the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

DOCUMENTARIES ON EDUCATION

As an alternative to the visits of minority schools in the German-Danish borderland, which were planned during the annual meeting of the working group in Flensburg, but could not be held in presence, three short movies were shot in these schools in Autumn 2020. These lively reports provide insight into the educational situation of the German minority in Denmark and the Danish and Frisian minorities in Germany and were presented during the annual meeting on 8 December 2020.

MINORITY TALKS WITH FUEN

The Working Group on Education was the first actor of FUEN's latest online project „Minority Talks with FUEN" which was launched in June 2021. Thematically focusing on minority education in the Danish-German borderland, three events were produced and broadcasted in a biweekly rhythm. Showing first the movie and having a follow-up discussion with politics and education experts from the region afterwards, these events were able to bring the educational situation of the German minority in Denmark and of the Danish and Frisian minorities in Germany, closer to a large audience of minority and majority populations over Europe and thus, hopefully share good practices.

Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities – TAG

Established in 2013, TAG unites Turkic minorities and communities under the umbrella of FUEN and promotes solidarity and cooperation among Turkic minorities and communities in a vast geographical area ranging from the Balkans to the Caucasus.

The FUEN TAG Secretariat is currently being run by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF), which is an umbrella organisation representing the Turkish community in Western Thrace, Greece. The Speaker of the Working Group is Halit Hapib Oğlu, ABTTF President and FUEN Vice-President.

The TAG currently unites 11 organisations representing Turkic minorities and communities, with the Kumyks represented by The Regional Civic Organisation for Development of Kumyk Culture, Contribution to Kumyk Language, Preservation and Coordination of Kumyk projects "Qumuqlar", which became part of TAG in 2020 being its newest member.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, travel restrictions and measures to tackle COVID-19, the TAG unfortunately was prevented from carrying out its regular activities in the period 2020-2021.

FUEN TAG ANNUAL MEETING

The FUEN TAG meeting, which was initially planned to be held on 9-12 August 2020 in Cherkessk in the Karachay-Cherkess Republic and be hosted by the Social Organisation for Fostering and Development of the Karachay-Balkar Traditions (Bars El), was moved online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. All TAG member organisations and the Kardzhali Turkish Culture and Arts Association representing the Turkish minority in Bulgaria and the Ukrainian Gagauz Union, participated in the TAG annual meeting on 24 December. The participating organisations recorded important developments with respect to Turkic minorities and communities that they are representing in the countries where they live as well as the work carried out by their associations in this process.

1ST FUEN TAG THEMATIC SEMINAR

In accordance with the decision taken at the 6th Annual Meeting of FUEN TAG to meet regularly on the virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Turkic minorities and communities met in the first online thematic seminar on 25 March 2021.

Nadia Hadjieva, Member of the Board of the Bars-El "Turkish Communities and Karachay-Balkars in the Russian Federation" made a presentation on the studies of Bars-El/Elbrusoid for the preservation and development of the culture and language of the Karachay-Balkars.

2ND FUEN TAG THEMATIC SEMINAR

FUEN TAG organised its 2. thematic seminar on 23 June 2021 and gathered the Turkic minorities and communities living in a wide geographical area from the Balkans to the Caucasus on a virtual platform.

QTMM Representative and Crimean Tatar Community Coordinator, Elvin Kadirov, gave a presentation on the history, deportation and struggle of Crimean Tatars, which was the theme of the seminar. Noting that Crimean Tatars have lived on the Crimean Peninsula for thousands of years and are known as the indigenous people of Crimea, Kadirov said that on 18 May 1944, Crimean Tatars were exiled to Central Asia by the USSR for allegedly collaborating with Nazi Germany. Kadirov indicated that a total of 238,500 Crimean Tatars were exiled, and that 42.6 percent died during the exile, which is now known as a genocide for the Crimean Tatars that were exiled with inhumane treatment. Kadirov stated that with the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, Crimean Tatars returned to Crimea by their own means and acquired land, houses and property, but 33 years later they were forced from their homes after Russia invaded Crimea in 2014.

Non Kin-State Working Group

The Non-Kin-State Working Group was founded by the FUEN in 2017 to give minorities without a kin-state the opportunity to discuss their specific concerns and challenges, to find solutions, share best practice examples and to develop common strategies for the preservation and revitalisation of their small languages and cultures. Currently, it unites 24 member organisations. Speaker of the Working Group is FUEN Vice President, Bahne Bahnsen.

From July to December 2020, the working group has held two online working meetings, and its online annual meeting. In 2021, the working group has begun to prepare a non-kin-state minority database in cooperation with its member organisations that are contributing to the project and are submitting inputs. It also organised another working meeting.

ONLINE WORKING MEETING IN JULY

The main focus of the meeting on 8 July 2020, was the current situation of the minorities without a kin-state, reports of the participants regarding the situation of the minority and organization, planned activities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and also the challenges they faced and the successes they had.

The activities of many minority organisations were severely affected by the pandemic, with events, including congresses, conferences and festivals cancelled or postponed to autumn or even next year.

ONLINE WORKING MEETING IN OCTOBER

The online working meeting on the 1st of October 2020 served as a preparation stage for the annual meeting of the working group. The representatives of the Pomak minority in Greece were welcomed as new members of the working group. This meeting also provided an excellent opportunity to present an innovative project in the area of tourism, language, culture, history reservation of Frisian Heritage, the European Route of Frisians.

ONLINE MEETING IN MAY

The working group organised an online meeting on 27 May 2021, as a continuation of the annual meeting of 2020, with the topic of revitalisation of the Lower Sorbs/Wends language through an immersion program for adults. During the meeting the plans for the 2021 annual meeting were also discussed.

ANNUAL ONLINE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON 03.12.2020

Minority languages revitalisation was the topic of the annual meeting of the Non-Kin-State Working Group on 3 December 2020. Nordfriisk Instituut presented the situation of the North Frisian language. A representative of University of South Wales talked about the important role of modern technologies in the revitalisation of the Welsh language. The representatives of the Kumyk minority in Russia were welcomed as new members of the working group.

Youth of European Nationalities (YEN)

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

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

YEN understands itself as a self-organised and self-managed youth organisation.

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

YEN enjoys a strong cooperation with FUEN and the President of YEN is a member of the FUEN Presidium. In 2020, Andor Barabás was elected as president for the mandate 2020-2022.

„Think diverse! Minority youth in a Changing World" was our tagline in 2020. We focused on the role and reality of young people from national, ethnic and linguistic minorities in a changing world, in the light of current developments, challenges and opportunities. Striving for social inclusion, we looked beyond national, ethnic and linguistic minorities and cooperated with other youth organisations representing marginalised communities, to implement activities together and discuss the need for solidarity.

At a time when Europe faces populist, far-right, nationalist notions, it is even more important and relevant for minority youth to step up, defy these ideas and show a positive way of how we, with strong minority identities, can stand up for a diverse, inclusive, open-minded and peaceful Europe. For that reason, we need to make sure that human rights are protected and all social groups can access them. We want to build a Europe based on the solidarity of young people from various backgrounds.

Also, in 2020 YEN prepared the report "Minority Youth in Europe: A State of Play", which is based on YEN's work in the last years. It calls attention towards the long-standing challenges faced by minority youth and provides insights into issues that minority youth are facing in their daily lives and explains the mechanisms behind them. The report offers a perspective on minority youth not only to non-minority members, but also to minority organisations themselves, hopefully starting a broader dialogue on the topic of minority youth rights.

With COVID-19 we saw the limits of youth work when being restrained to the online world. Although we successfully adapted our activities and found new ways of being active during these times, we cannot wait to bring minority youth from all over Europe back together again for cultural exchange and united empowerment.

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

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FUEN IS THE NUMBER ONE ADVOCATE FOR MINORITY INTERESTS IN EUROPE

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

FUEN has participatory status at the Council of Europe and consultative status at the United Nations. FUEN demands that the Council of Europe's conventions, the recommendations of the OSCE and the UN conventions be taken seriously and updated to meet contemporary needs.

The FUEN is a regular attendant of the Minority Intergroup meetings in the European Parliament, of the PACE and the UN's annual Minority Forums, as well as the relevant institutions inside the OSCE.

The FUEN regularly submits relevant information and data about the situation of national minorities in Europe to all bodies involved in minority protection.

In his quality of co-chair of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament, the President of FUEN, MEP Loránt Vincze made numerous interventions and contributions to the cause of minorities. On 15 January, the Intergroup issued a letter to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Commissioner Věra Jourová regarding the dismissal of the MSPI. On 25 March, the Intergroup discussed the MSPI and the situation of minorities in Ukraine. On 1 June, they discussed ways of making minorities visible in the Conference on the Future of Europe.

On March 1 2021, Mr Vincze had a personal meeting in The Hague with OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities, Kairat Abdrakhmanov, and on May 3, an online meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on Minorities, Fernand de Varennes.

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.

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

Celebrating 20 Years
European Centre for Minority Issues

mercator network

npld 2020 our languages in europe

UNPO

ELEN
European Language Equality Network

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker

eurac research

YEN JEV
Youth of European Nationalities
Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen

BUILDING-UP THE FUEN

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