



FUEN AT 70

2018/2019



WHO WE ARE

- the largest and most representative umbrella organisation of Europe's autochthonous national minorities, nationalities and language groups
- the umbrella organisation of 103 organisations from 35 European countries
- 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
- we run three offices: in Flensburg, Berlin and Brussels

As FUEN is getting ready to celebrate its 70th anniversary, we are proud to affirm that we have a stronger, larger, more dynamic and more stable organization than ever, and that we are true agenda-setters in Europe regarding minority rights. This has been confirmed by the numerous guests attending FUEN's Annual Congress in Leeuwarden • Ljouwert, the heart of Fryslan in June 2018. The Congress was a good opportunity for us to formulate a common vision about our future, our role in a changing Europe and about the ways in which our goals can be achieved, but also to strengthen our bond with the leaders of the international organizations present at the event.



FUEN
AT 70



MINORITY SAFEPAK: THE ROAD AHEAD

Following the resounding success of the international campaign for the Minority SafePack European Citizen's Initiative, the congress was also a time for celebration. With 1,128,385 validated signed petitions and 11 Member States to pass the threshold, our initiative aiming for EU protection and promotion for autochthonous national minorities is the most important development of the last decades in the field of minority rights.

The support of the citizens also means a huge responsibility. Thus a strategy was needed to achieve our goal: to have a legislative framework for the protection of autochthonous minorities in the European Union.

1. Under the guidance of the FUEN an international team of experts is working on a series of documents and law proposals which will help to implement the demands formulated in the Minority SafePack Initiative. The FUEN and the Citizens' Committee will present the law proposals to the European Commission alongside the signed petition.

2. FUEN is also running an advocacy and lobby campaign in Europe in order to ensure the support of the majority. With the clear objective of getting the support of the states, regions and Europe, the Pact Between Minority and Majority is a tool to present our objectives to decision-makers, political parties, governments, candidates in order to convince them to join our cause.

3. Taking into consideration the general lack of action on behalf of the Commission regarding the four successful European Citizens' Initiatives that came before ours and also regarding minority issues in general, and their refusal of a personal meeting before the hand-in, the Citizens' Committee and the FUEN have decided to wait and only present the petition in 2019 to the newly formed European Commission.



OUR ACTIVITY



FUEN's most important projects were also continued during this time. The third seminar of the project "Minorities in the Caucasus - Dialogue for a Stable Future" took place in December in Tbilisi, Georgia. The seminar, entitled "Political Participation – Dialogue for a Stable Future" focused on the initiation of dialogue between national minorities and politics in the Caucasus, but also on the culture, language, opportunities and issues of the minorities living there. For the first time, the seminar was held in the Caucasus region so that the participants could get a direct picture of the situation and the concerns of minorities living there.



The Forum of European Minority Regions also had its third edition. A total of over 50 participants from 17 countries took part in the event entitled Shaping our Regions, held in December in Bolzano/Bozen, South Tyrol. 14 regions were represented, including, for the first time, the Basque Country, Wales, Catalonia and the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

FUEN`s five working groups – the „traditional” AGDM (Working Group of German Minorities), AGSM (Working Group of Slavic Minorities), TAG (Working Group of Turkic Minorities) and the recently formed Working Group of Minorities without a Kin-State and Education Working Group were as active as ever, and even more so, as AGDM`s flagship project, the travelling exhibition „Between Two Worlds” visited ten cities in 2018 before travelling further within Central and Eastern Europe and the states of the former Soviet Union to present the stories and history of the German minorities of Europe.



As FUEN continues to grow, we felt the need to get to know our strengths and possible weaknesses better, so an internal organizational audit has been done. Of course, FUEN's strength as the largest and most influential umbrella organization of its kind lies also in its 103 Member Organizations. This is why we have started our capacity-building program entitled Build Yourself, where we offer trainings in recruitment, fundraising, design, editing, communication, organizational and campaign management for our members. We are glad that over a half of our members are interested in these capacity-building trainings.

So here we are now, stronger than ever and still working on becoming better as we prepare to celebrate 70 years of FUEN at our 2019 Congress in Slovakia.



MSPI STRATEGY

After the resounding success of the signature campaign for the Minority SafePack Initiative – 1,128,385 validated signatures and 11 Member States where the threshold was passed – the movement for minority rights in Europe arrived to a new stage. A strategy in three steps was put in practice to maximize the potential for success.

Timing

After a long legal fight with the European Commission to accept our European Citizens' Initiative and the fact that we had no saying in choosing the timeframe for the signature collecting campaign, after the 4th of April 2018 it was finally our turn to choose the dates, as the rules of procedure regulations of the ECI does not specify a deadline in presenting the validated signatures to the EC. Our Citizens' Committee and the FUEN leaders had some serious reservations on the current Commission's willingness to take steps regarding the Minority SafePack Initiative, given their general lack of action regarding the four successful European Citizens' Initiatives that came before ours and also regarding minority issues in general.

FUEN President Loránt Vincze, Representative of the Citizens' Committee Hans Heinrich Hansen and Hunor Kelemen, the President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) had addressed a letter to the EC at the beginning of October, asking for a preliminary discussion before presenting the petition for the Initiative. They were looking for assurances that the Commission is willing to take steps in order to create a set of legal acts for the protection of national minorities based on the Minority SafePack Initiative. In his answer, while congratulating on collecting the signatures for the European Initiative, EC First Vice-President Frans Timmermans said he would „be happy to meet” the initiators only after they had submitted the initiative to the Commission. This refusal was the decisive factor in our decision to wait until the new Commission would be in place, following May 2019's European elections.

Lobby and advocacy campaign

Once the public support has been secured, getting as much political support as possible was the new objective. To achieve this goal the Pact Between Minority and Majority was created, a document asking representatives of the majority to help us create favourable 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 their cultural, educational and linguistic rights autonomously. With the clear objective of getting the support of the states, regions and Europe, the Pact is a tool to present our objectives to decision-makers, political parties, governments, candidates and to convince them to join our cause.

PACT
between minority and majority



Legislative proposals

Starting with October 2018 European experts with diverse areas of expertise met several times and formed working groups in order to develop detailed law proposals based on the nine points of the MSPI. The FUEN and the Citizens' Committee plans to present the legislative proposals to the European Commission alongside the validated signatures.

The documents prepared by the team of European legal experts include provisions regulating all areas of minority protection addressed by the initiative, as well as the motivation of the measures



proposed in the fields of education, culture, language rights, public administration, regional funds, media, Roma rights, state aid and the issues related to stateless minorities.

Implementing these proposals would be possible in several stages: some steps can be taken right away, while other actions will only be possible in the next multiannual financial framework, and some of the actions require an exhaustive political debate and amending of the EU treaties.

EVENT CALENDAR

2018

- **19-24 June** – FUEN annual Congress Leeuwarden, Netherlands
- **11 July** – OSCE, Addressing Potential of Ethnic Conflicts through Law and Good Practices, Berlin, Germany
- **26 July** – Bálványos Summer University, Baile Tusnad, Romania
- **25-26 August** – Day of open doors in the Federal Ministry of the Interior, AGDM represented with a stand, Berlin, Germany
- **26 August** – MSPI Forum, Satu Mare, Romania
- **29 August** – MSPI presentation, Tirgu Mures, Romania
- **30 August-1 September** – AGDM Future Workshop, Budapest, Hungary
- **2 September** – MSPI Forum, Tirgu Mures, Romania
- **06 September** – Meeting with ECMI and Coppieters Foundation, Brussels, Belgium
- **12 September** – Meetings with MEPs in European Parliament, Strasbourg, France
- **13 September** – Meeting of the Minority Intergroup, Strasbourg, France
- **13 September** – Anniversary celebration 20 years of ratification of The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Germany, Kiel
- **14-15 September** – Presidium meeting
- **17 September** – Dialog Forum Norden meeting
- **20 September** – European Economic and Social Committee plenary session, Brussels, Belgium
- **22 September** – Visit in Bolzano, Italy
- **25 September** – Conference organised by the Government of Navarra region in Spain on the occasion of celebrating European Day of Languages, Brussels, Belgium
- **26 September** – Meeting with the European Free Alliance, Brussels, Belgium
- **29 September** – SMK-MKP 20th anniversary, Dunajská Streda, Slovakia

- **05-06 October** – Education workshop by Tom Lantos Institute in cooperation with Dr Fernand de Vareennes, Brussels, Belgium
- **10 October** – MSPI Expert Meeting, Brussels, Belgium
- **11-13 October** – Visit in Transylvania, Romania
- **15 October** – ECAS Webinar on MSPI
- **16 October** – Meeting with OSCE representation, Kiev, Ukraine
- **16 October** – Meeting with members of parliament of Ukraine and member organizations of FUEN in Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine
- **17 October** – Meeting with ECMI representation, Kiev, Ukraine
- **18-21 October** – Annual meeting of the Slavic Working Group, Budapest, Hungary
- **22 October** – Meeting with Manfred Weber, EPP, Strasbourg, France
- **24 October** – MSPI Team Meeting, Berlin, Germany
- **26-28 October** – Fact Finding Mission in Belgrad, Serbia
- **29 October** – CODES Communication, cultural diversity and solidarity conference in University of Flensburg, Germany
- **01 November** – Attendance of Second Meeting of Committee 2020, Kiel, Germany
- **03 November** – German Day in Tingleff, Denmark
- **05-08 November** – Meeting of AGDM Working Group in Berlin
- **7 November** – European People’s Party 2018 Congress, Helsinki, Finland
- **15-19 November** – TAG Meeting, Comrat, Moldova
- **15-16 November** – Hungarian Diaspora Meeting and Hungarians Abroad, Budapest, Hungary
- **22 November** – International Symposium on the Turkish Identity in Rhodes and Kos 2018, Izmir, Turkey
- **23 November** – Meeting with President of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Izmir, Turkey
- **26-28 November** – Annual Meeting Non-Kin-State Working Group, Berlin, Germany
- **27 November** – Anniversary 30 Years of existence of the office of Commissioner for minorities of the State Schleswig-Holstein Kiel, Germany
- **29-30 November** – UN Forum on Minority Issues, Geneva, Switzerland
- **4-6 December** – UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues Fernand de Vareennes visit in Transylvania, Romania, co-organized by FUEN
- **10-12 December** – Minorities in the Caucasus, Tbilisi, Georgia
- **13-14 December** – Forum of Minority Regions, Bolzano, Italy
- **17 December** – Meeting with Commissioner for Minorities in Germany, Berlin, Germany

2019

- **9 January** – New Year reception of the government of the State Schleswig-Holstein, Plön, Germany
- **9 January** – Meetings of the FUEN with SSF and BDN Flensburg, Germany
- **10 January** – BDN New Years Meeting, Sankelmark, Germany
- **11 January** – Meeting with Minister President of the State Schleswig-Holstein Daniel Günther, Kiel, Germany
- **11-12 January** – Presidium Meeting, Flensburg, Germany
- **16 January** – KDNP Meeting, Mátészalka, Hungary
- **17 January** – Meeting with Serbo-Croatian speaking community in Slovenia, Flensburg, Germany
- **17-19 January** – Meetings in Budapest
- **18-27 January** – Visiting Green week, Berlin, Germany
- **19-20 January** – Croatian Ball in Vienna, Austria
- **23-26 January** – Meetings in Transylvania
- **27-31 January** – Joining Diversity Management for Sustainable Economic Development Project of ECMI in Ukraine, Chernivtsi, Ukraine
- **1 February** – Visit of Tibor Navracsics in Oradea, Romania
- **12 February** – UNPO Meeting
- **15 February** – AGDM Travelling exhibition opening event, Tartu, Estonia
- **20 February** – Attendance of Third Meeting of Committee 2020, Kiel, Germany
- **20 February** – Visit of the opening of the Exhibition „100 years Wolgarepublic“
- **21 February** – South Tyrol – Szeklerland conference, Sfantu Gheorghe, Romania
- **22-23 February** – RMDSZ Congress, Cluj, Romania
- **1 March** – Meeting with Wim van den Broucke about presentation of MSPI and Pact in the Belgian parliament, Brussels, Belgium
- **1 March** – Meeting with Ricarda Steinbach, new executive manager of Society for Threatened Peoples, Berlin, Germany
- **5 March** – Cooperation meeting with NPLD (Network for Linguistic Diversity), ELEN (European Languages Equality Network), UNPO (The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization), Coppieters foundation and Tom Lantos Institute, GfBV (Society for Threatened Peoples), MRG (Minority Rights Group International), Brussels, Belgium

- **11 March** – Meeting with Parliament State Secretary Stephan Mayer, Berlin, Germany
- **13-16 March** – FUEN visits as a part of Fact Finding Mission Pomak organization in Komotini, Greece
- **18 March** – Meeting with Flemish Minister of Culture, Brussels, Belgium
- **19 March** – Meeting with members of Irish Parliament Brussels, Belgium
- **20 March** – EPP Political Assembly, Brussels, Belgium
- **23 March** – 10 Year Anniversary of HÁRIT youth forum, Sfântu Gheorghe, Romania
- **25 March** – AGDM Travelling exhibition opening event, Prague, Czech Republic
- **26 March** – Meeting with ECMI in Flensburg, Germany
- **30 March** – Meeting at the plenary session of the Finnish Association in Sweden with Minister of culture and democracy, Amanda Lind, Stockholm, Sweden
- **02 April** – Visiting ECI Day 2019 (LV) Brussels, Belgium
- **04-07 April** – AGDM Meeting of Youth, Knivssberg, Denmark
- **05-06 April** – Meeting of the FUEN Presidium, Berlin, Germany
- **17 April** – Dialogue Session YEN Easter Seminar 2019, Sfântu Gheorghe, Romania
- **24 April** – Presentation of the MSPI for the joint committee of the Dutch house of representatives and the Ministry of Interior
- **6-7 May** – UN Regional Forum on Education, Language and the Human Rights of Minorities, Brussels, Belgium
- **6-8 May** – Annual meeting of the Education Working Group, Brussels, Belgium
- **7 May** – AGDM Travelling exhibition opening event, Munich, Germany
- **12-16 June** – FUEN Congress in Bratislava and Dunajská Streda



CONGRESS 2018 LEEUWARDEN

The Federal Union of European Nationalities' Annual Congress took place in Leeuwarden • Ljouwert, the Netherlands. Europe's largest umbrella organisation for national minorities and linguistic groups and its West Frisian member organisation, Ried fan de Fryske Beweging have prepared an unforgettable event in the European Capital of Culture 2018 between 20-24 June 2018. A colourful agenda, great cultural moments and meetings with the local community were prepared for the more than 200 participants coming from all parts of Europe, representing the 103 FUEN member organisations from 35 countries.



Celebrating the success of the Minority SafePack Initiative

The European Citizens' Initiative asking for EU protection and support for the autochthonous minorities gathered 1,128,385 validated statements of support and reached the national threshold in 11 Member States, which was a victory worth celebrating, but not the end of the process, so the strategy for the next period had to be thought out carefully in order to achieve the final goal. Members of the Citizens' Initiative, leaders of FUEN member organisations and representatives of other partners involved in the successful campaign of the Minority SafePack Initiative discussed the story of the initiative and the steps to follow next at FUEN's 63rd annual Congress in Leeuwarden/Ljouwert.



IMPORTANT GUESTS



**UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues,
Prof. Dr. FERNAND DE VARENNES:**

“The cause of minority protection is not entirely won yet, which is why FUEN’s Minority SafePack Initiative is a useful and necessary contribution in new thinking and approaches, especially from a grass roots approach. I would like to congratulate you on this success – and encourage you to continue to make sure progress follows since this is the first major step towards an eventual EU legislative framework.”

**BOB DEEN, Senior Advisor,
Office of High Commissioner
on National Minorities of the OSCE:**

“We want the whole Europe to see diversity as an asset, not as a threat.”





**SIETSKJE POEPJES, Regional Minister
responsible for Frisian Language and Culture:**

„The Minority SafePack Initiative turning into policy is not going to happen by itself. Together we can show the EU how important this issue is to us.”

**PAUL BEKKERS, Director of the Office of the
Secretary General of the OSCE:**

“Crisis management is important, but it should be exceptional. Early warning diplomacy, peaceful conflict resolutions, sustainable peace building should be the rule.”



MEP ANDOR DELI:

“Minority communities need an organisation such as FUEN to successfully represent their claims, and I am convinced that FUEN is on the verge of becoming a partner to the European Commission in this issue.”



COMMON VISION

“The Minority SafePack Initiative, apart from being a legal instrument, is also a proposal. It is the proposal made by the autochthonous national minorities to Europe. Today this initiative carries the clear, strong message of over one million European citizens: the issues of autochthonous national minorities cannot be swept under the rug.”

FUEN President LORÁNT VINCZE

MINORITIES IN CAUCASUS

The third seminar of the project “Minorities in the Caucasus. Dialogue for a Stable Future” took place on 10-12 December 2018 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The seminar, entitled “Political Participation – Dialogue for a Stable Future” focused on the initiation of dialogue between national minorities and politics in the Caucasus, but also on the culture, language, opportunities and problems of the minorities living there. For the first time, the seminar was held in the Caucasus region so that the participants could get a direct picture of the situation and the concerns of minorities living there. A thematic excursion enabled all participants to gain a deeper impression of the situation of minorities living in Georgia.



Representatives of several minorities attended the seminar: Azerbaijanis in Georgia; Germans and Meskhetian Turks in Russia, Qumuk Turks and Lezgins in Russia as well as Talyshs in Azerbaijan.



The seminar focused on the topic of integration and political participation of minorities. Numerous representatives of the political world and business were invited to discuss the situation and the concerns of minorities in the Caucasus. A dialogue at eye-level, which has been valued since the beginning of the project, made it possible to discuss these topics respectfully and constructively within the four moderated discussion rounds. In his concluding remarks, FUEN President Loránt Vincze noted that the talks were productive and positive: “This is how a dialogue should look like”.



FORUM OF THE EUROPEAN MINORITY REGIONS

The third Forum of European Minority Regions entitled “Shaping Our Regions” took place on 13-14 December 2018 in Bolzano, South Tyrol. Representatives of the regions from all over Europe, minority representatives as well as international and local science and politics experts discussed the role the regions play in the promotion and development of the peripheral areas within the regions and how the regional authorities could address and solve these challenges.

Over 50 participants from 17 countries took part in the Forum of European Minority Regions. 14 regions were represented, including, for the first time, the Basque Country, Wales, Catalonia and the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

The peripheral areas within the regions, which are often less connected due to their geographical location, also have to face lower economic and social development opportunities. In this context, the Forum of the Regions presented some best practices that can contribute to strengthening the development of minority regions. The positive role of bilingual and multilingual administrative and cooperation structures was also one of the Forum’s topics. A total of four panel discussions and three keynote speeches were organised.

The location of the forum was deliberately chosen as there are three minority groups in South Tyrol which have different demands in their way. The smallest, Ladin ethnic group, to which the Vice-President of the South Tyrolean Parliament and FUEN Vice-President Daniel Alfreider belongs, emphasizes, again and again, how important a good cooperation with their regions is. For many other small ethnic groups this could be seen as a best practice model of regional development.

PROJECTS



BUILD
YOUR SELF

Build Yourself!

The Federal Union of European Nationalities yearns to become a knowledge-based organization, and this implies the development of the people working in the organization. Learning is key, and we want to make FUEN and its member organizations better, more qualified and well-trained. This is why we have started our capacity-building program, where we offer regional and local trainings in different areas such as fundraising, corporate identity design, photo-video editing, campaign management, online communication, campaign communication, organizational management or recruiting.

Much to our satisfaction more than half of our member organizations want to take part in these trainings.

Minority Monitor

The European minority communities and language groups provide news, through their own channels, about the problems they face regarding their linguistic, educational and other issues. We know how difficult it is for the minority groups to share their cases with European media and various institutions and partners. The Minority Monitor aims to collect all relevant news about European minorities and to share them online.

The project is implemented by the FUEN, but all partner organisations and institutions will have the freedom to work independently with their own resources and methodology. As the database grows, the Minority Monitor will work as a unified European information centre, the news will be sent to all major media providers, and it will also become a strong resource for our European lobby.



MINORITY MONITOR

WORKING GROUPS

AGDM

The year 2018 was, in many regards, a year full of challenges for the Berlin-based coordination office of the Association of German Minorities. Already started AGDM projects were successfully continued in 2018, and the coordinator Renata Trischler, the whole FUEN team, the spokesperson of AGDM Bernard Gaida and the coordinator of the travelling exhibition Linn Löffler strengthened the coordination office. The role of the AGDM – to be a contact and service point for the German minorities in Berlin – was also strengthened. The year 2018 was marked by three important AGDM projects:



TRAVELLING EXHIBITION “IN ZWEI WELTEN” (IN TWO WORLDS)

The AGDM travelling exhibition “In two worlds. 25 German stories. German minorities introduce themselves” travelled in 2018 from the Saxon Ministry of the Interior in Dresden to Hermannstadt in Romania, to Slovakia to Kásmark and Bratislava, in Poland to five other stops (Oppeln, Breslau, Ratibor, Warsaw and Allenstein) and finally to Lithuania (Memel - Klaipeda) and Latvia (Ventspils). It is estimated that the 2018 exhibition was visited by about 10,000 people.

In 2019, the exhibition will travel further within Central and Eastern Europe and the states of the former Soviet Union.





FUTURE WORKSHOP

More contact, concrete measures and a more intensive exchange, both with regard to joint projects among the various organisations of the German minority and with regard to the AGDM Coordination Centre - these wishes were expressed by the majority of the representatives of the member organisations present during the working meeting held in Budapest between the 30th of August and the 1st of September 2018.

In August a detailed problem analysis was carried out in the form of a structured survey in which the majority of member organisations participated. Within interactive discussion rounds, many new ideas regarding cooperation were identified and initiated, and issues of fundamental importance for the future of the German minority were addressed.

The working meeting in Budapest made an important contribution to:

- 1) record the current status of the situation of the German minority in the respective country, and
- 2) identify the expectations of the member organisations towards the AGDM coordination office in Berlin.

The brochure “Strengthened into the Future - Recommendations for Action for the Association of German Minorities (AGDM)” was also published.

AGDM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Association of German Minorities (AGDM) took place in Berlin on the 5-8 November 2018. The conference was attended by 53 representatives and youth representatives of minority organisations from 19 European states and countries of the former Soviet Union. With support from the Office of the Federal Commissioner for Germans Abroad and National Minorities, Prof. Dr. Bernd Fabritius, numerous important rounds of discussions with decision-makers from political life in Germany took place.

The Federal Commissioner Prof. Dr. Fabritius particularly emphasized the importance of linking the AGDM member organizations and supported the idea of organizing an annual AGDM working meeting in countries where the German minority does not have many members. In the German Bundestag, a discussion with the CDU/CSU parliamentary group “Expellees, resettlers, German

minorities” led to the idea of establishing a discussion group called “German Minorities” in the Bundestag. The 2018 conference once again confirmed the good cooperation with the BKM (Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media), the BMI (Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Home Affairs), the Federal Foreign Office and the Institute for Foreign Relations (IfA) and brought it to a higher level.



AGSM

The 21st annual FUEN Seminar of the Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM) took place on the 18-21 October 2018 in Pilisszentkereszt / Mlynky, Hungary. It was organised by the FUEN in cooperation with the FUEN member organisation Celoštátna slovenská samošpráva v Maďarsku (CSSM) of the Slovak minority in Hungary.

More than 30 participants from 9 countries shared their views and discussed common solutions contributing to solve local problems and strengthening cooperation at a European level.

The Slovak minority in Hungary hosted the Seminar of Slavic Minorities for the second time after 2009. This was a good opportunity to present their community, their organization and the development of the last years. The seminar focused on the use of minority languages in public life as well as (language-enhancing) support measures that could lead to an improvement of the current situation. The system of minority self-government in Hungary, something that many minorities find very interesting, was also explained in detail and the participants had the opportunity to learn more about it.



For the first time, the AGSM organized meetings at the parliamentary level. The opening of the seminar took place in the Hungarian Parliament, in the presence of members of parliament and speakers of minorities in Hungary, as well as FUEN President Loránt Vincze and AGSM speaker Bernhard Ziesch. Nine out of thirteen speakers of the Hungarian Minorities-Committee were present. The AGSM was thus able to exchange experiences and ideas at the highest political level and make new political contacts. The next AGSM seminar will take place in Carinthia/Koroška in 2019.

ACTIVITIES SINCE JUNE 2018

STUDY VISIT TO SKOPJE/MACEDONIA, 30 AUGUST-1 SEPTEMBER 2018

FUEN Vice President Halit Habip Ođlu, paid a study visit to Skopje, capital of Macedonia, on 30 August -1 September 2018, to meet with Turkish community in Macedonia.



FUEN TAG 5TH ANNUAL MEETING, 15-18 NOVEMBER 2018, KOMRAT, ATU GAGAUZIA/ MOLDOVA

The 5th Annual Meeting of the TAG was hosted by the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia affiliated to Republic of Moldova. From Balkans to Caucasus, thirteen Turkish minorities or communities participated at the meeting held in Comrat, the capital of Gagauzia. With the aim to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation with the homeland Republic of Turkey, Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) participated at the meeting and informed the participants about the activities of YTB.



TAG

The Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) inside FUEN was established in 2013. It 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 Spokesperson of the Working Group is FUEN Vice-President Halit Habip Ođlu, the President of the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF), which also carries out the secretariat of the FUEN TAG. The Working Group holds annual meetings, pays study visits in order to meet representatives of the Turkic minorities and groups and organizes fact-finding missions to investigate their problems.

FUEN Vice President Halit Habip Ođlu had meetings with the leaders of Gagauzia and presented FUEN and FUEN TAG. The participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with Gagauzia and Gagauzian Turks and to introduce themselves. Western Thrace Turks, Rhodes-Kos Turks, Ahiska Turks, Karachay-Malkar Turks, Kosovo Turks, Turks of Bulgaria, Turks of Macedonia and Gagauzians from Ukraine informed about the developments in 2017-2018 period and raised their current problems they have experienced. At the annual meeting FUEN TAG's 2019 activities were discussed, the road map for 2019 was identified through discussions with participating organizations.

With the aim to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation with institutions and organizations representing the homeland Republic of Turkey, the FUEN TAG 2019 meeting will be held in Ankara, the capital of the homeland.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE TURKISH IDENTITY IN RHODES AND KOS 2018, İZMİR/TURKEY, 22-23 NOVEMBER 2018

The Rhodes, Kos and the Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association (ROISDER), a FUEN member, organized the symposium with the support of the FUEN TAG. At the symposium, FUEN President Loránt Vincze presented the current situation of minorities in Europe and FUEN Vice President Halit Habip Ođlu made one of the opening speeches. The topics of the symposium were minority rights in Europe and the minority rights of Turks in Greece. Furthermore, current problems of Rhodes and Kos Turks were discussed as well as their cultural identity, their past and presence.



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE “BILINGUAL EDUCATION: A MINORITY ISSUE – BILINGUALISM IN TURKISH/MUSLIM MINORITY EDUCATION AND DIFFERENT APPROACHES IN THE WORLD – PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS”, KOMOTINI/GREECE, 1-2 MARCH 2019



The workshop and conference on bilingual education was organized with the support of the FUEN TAG, Federation of Western Thrace Turks (ABTTF), Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association (WTMUGA) and the Culture and Education Foundation of Western Thrace Minority (PEKEM) in cooperation with the FUEN. Scholars, bilingual education experts, educators belonging to the Turkish community in Western Thrace and representatives of the civil society participated at the workshop and conference held in the city of Komotini. At the event, Prof. Dr. Fernand de Varennes, United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, made a keynote speech as the special guest.

Prior to the workshop and conference, guest academics and experts participated at the cultural programme organized by the host Western Thrace Turkish civil society organizations. As part of the cultural programme, the guests visited Komotini and Xanthi and Western Thrace Turkish villages and met with the representatives of the Turkish community in Western Thrace.

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 and to develop common strategies for the preservation of their endangered languages and cultures.

Between the 26-28 November 2018, representatives of 14 different minorities without a kin-state from 11 European countries gathered for the second annual meeting of the Non-Kin-State Working Group in Berlin. The urgent topic “Media and Digitisation” was addressed in best-practice lectures and discussion rounds, and particular attention was given to the culture, language and institutions of the German Sinti and Roma communities.

During the annual meeting, which took place at the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, the working group welcomed new members such as the Rhaeto-Romans from Switzerland, the Scanians from Sweden and Pomaks from Bulgaria. The group also sought dialogue with members of the German Bundestag to discuss the concerns of the minorities without a kin-state.



Non-Kin-State
in the FUEN





Education Working Group

In the age of globalisation, the protection of language and culture is an existential issue for the minorities in Europe. In the discussion about the preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity, hardly any other factor plays such an important role as the core topic of education. In order to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the educational work of minorities, FUEN established the Education Working Group in 2018.

In May 2018, 17 representatives from 13 FUEN member organisations met in the German-Danish border region for the first time to exchange experiences in the field of minority education and to discuss the working group's course. In another meeting during the FUEN Congress in June 2018 in Leeuwarden, Netherlands, plans, strategies and contents of the working group were concretised.

The aim of the Education Working Group is to bundle the competences of minorities in the field of education, to share best-practice-examples and to move ideas forward. As a basis for this, the working group wants to create a stable network between minorities and educational institutions, institutes and competence centres and initiate a steady dialogue.

SPEAKERS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

- Working Group of German Minorities: BERNARD GAIDA
- Working Group of Slavic Minorities: BERNHARD ZIESCH
- Working Group of Turkic Minorities: HABIP HAPIB OĞLU
- Non-Kin-State Working Group: DANIEL ALFREIDER

Youth of European Nationalities (YEN)

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is a European umbrella organisation of 39 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.

As a European network, YEN organises international seminars, trainings, congresses, workshops as well as cultural and social gatherings for young minority members. The main events are the 4 seminars taking place during winter, spring, summer and autumn, which are hosted by minority youth organisations as members to YEN all over Europe. YEN aims to increase awareness of minority issues and motivates young people to engage in political activities at local, regional, national and European level.





The Board of YEN consists of 7 young representatives of different European minorities. Also there are three Working Groups with 10 members each 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 Assistant and is located in Berlin.

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

During the 2018-2019 period, YEN pursued their newest project called “Minority Messengers”. With this project, YEN aims to strengthen public relations of minorities at the local level. Now the project started its second year, where young Minority Messengers will be educated to go to NGOs, youth clubs, schools etc. to talk about minorities in Europe, their identities as well as challenges and to collect data to build a database on the situation of minorities in Europe.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH
YEN OR IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS
PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO
office@yeni.org

FIND YEN ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM
@yeni.org
@yenjev1984
www.yeni.org

YOUTH OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES/
JUGEND EUROPÄISCHER VOLKSGRUPPEN
Milastrasse 2, 10437 Berlin, Germany
Mail: office@yeni.org
Tel.: +49 17631779414



EUROPEAN LOBBY WORK

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

PALAIS DE L'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 are taken seriously and updated to meet contemporary needs.

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

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

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.



Youth of European Nationalities
Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen

BUILDING-UP THE FUEN

PRESIDIUM



President Loránt Vincze,

Member of the European Parliament, International Secretary of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania/Romániai Magyar Demokrata Szövetség (RMDSZ), Hungarian Minority in Romania
lorant.vincze@fuen.org

Vice President Olga Martens,

Vice Chairwoman of Internationaler Verband der Deutschen Kultur (IVDK), German Minority in Russia
olga.martens@fuen.org



Vice President Daniel Alfreider,

Vice President of the South Tyrolean Landtag, Vice Chairman of the South Tyrolean People's Party, Südtiroler Volkspartei (SVP), Ladin Minority in Italy
daniel.alfreider@fuen.org

Vice President Dieter Paul Küssner,

former Chairman of Sydslesvigsk Forening (SSF), Danish Minority in Germany
dieter.kuessner@fuen.org



Vice President Bernhard Ziesch,

former Secretary General of Domowina, Federation of Lusatian Sorbs, Sorbian Minority in Germany
bernhard.ziesch@fuen.org

Vice President Halit Habipoglu,

President of Avrupa Bati Trakya Türk Federasyonu (ABTTF), Turkish Minority in Greece
halit.habipoglu@fuen.org



Vice President Gösta Toft,

former Secretary of the political party SP and Chairman of the Social Services in Nordschlesig, Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN), German Minority in Denmark
toft@fuen.org

President of Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) Giuanna Beeli,

Romansh Minority in Switzerland
giuanna.beeli@yeni.org



FUEN General Secretariat

Schiffbrücke 41
D-24939 Flensburg, Germany
Phone: +49 461 12 8 55
Email: info@fuen.org

FUEN Berlin

Milastraße 2
D-10437 Berlin, Germany
Phone: +49 309 599 6397

FUEN Europe Office

Rue Jacques Jordaensstraat 34
B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium
Phone: +32 2 627 18 22

FUEN AGDM Coordination

Bundesallee 216-218
D-10719 Berlin, Germany
Phone: +49 30 364 284 050



Éva Adél Péntes
Executive Director
eva.pentes@fuen.org



Nehle Mommsen
Operations Manager
nehle.mommsen@fuen.org



Előd Balázs-Pál
Communication and PR
press@fuen.org



Jenni Jones
Member & Network Coordinator
jenni.jones@fuen.org



Roman Roblek
Legal and Policy Advisor
roman.roblek@fuen.org



Marko Wessela
Finances & Controlling
marko.wessela@fuen.org



Michaela Carlsen
Accountant Administrator
michaela.carlsen@fuen.org



Renata Trischler
AGDM Office Coordinator
agdm@fuen.org



Johan Häggman
Policy Advisor
johan.haggman@fuen.org



Keike Faltings
Project Coordinator
keike.faltings@fuen.org



Arvid Martens
Office Manager
arvid.martens@fuen.org



Linn Löffler
Project Manager
agdm-netz@fuen.org



Matic Germovšek Ž.
Project Coordinator
matic.germovsek@fuen.org



Mareike Jäger
Student Assistant
mareike.jaeger@fuen.org

COMING SOON

70th Anniversary Congress 2019

The 70th Anniversary 2019 Congress of FUEN will be organised in Bratislava • Pozsony • Pressburg and Dunajská Streda • Dunaszerdahely between the 12th and 16th of June this year. The Congress, hosted by the MKP, the minority organisation of Hungarians in Slovakia, in partnership with the Carpathian-German Association of Slovakia will provide an opportunity to evaluate the accomplishments of 70 years of FUEN, in the presence of the former presidents of the organisation, and to draft a direction for the minority umbrella organisation for the decades to come. The Congress will also serve as an opportunity to focus on the situation of minorities in Slovakia, the hosting country.

The FUEN Assembly of Delegates will elect a new Presidium, the Members of the European Dialogue Forum and Auditors.



FUEN 
CONGRESS
12-16 June 2019

Bratislava • Pozsony • Pressburg
Dunajská Streda • Dunaszerdahely



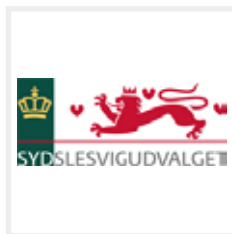
Europeada 2020

EUROPEADA, the European football championship of the autochthonous minorities is a major event that connects the fair competition and the enthusiasm for a sporting event with the interests of the autochthonous national minorities. The focus is on the encounter, the exchange of minorities and the public promotion.

After the three successful European football championships, hosted by the Romansh people in Grisons/Switzerland in 2008, the Lusatian Sorbs in Germany in 2012 and the German-speaking South Tyroleans and Ladins in South Tyrol, Italy in 2016, the 4th EUROPEADA will take place in Carinthia/ Koroška, and will be hosted by the Carinthian Slovenes in 2020. The tournament is open for teams of minorities from non-professional football leagues. At the last edition of Europeada in 2016 24 men's and 6 women's teams have competed for the title. Registration for next year's competition opens in the spring of this year. The Book of Rules and more info is available at www.europeada.eu.



SPONSORS • FÖRDERER



FUEN General Secretariat
Schiffbrücke 41, D-24939 Flensburg, Germany
Phone: +49 461 12 8 55

FUEN Berlin
Milastraße 2, D-10437 Berlin, Germany
Phone: +49 30 364 284 050

FUEN Europe Office
Rue Jacques Jordaens 34, 1000 Bruxelles,
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 627 18 22

FUEN-AGDM Coordination
Bundesallee 216-218, D-10719 Berlin, Germany
Phone: +49 30 1 868 114 613

info@fuen.org | www.fuen.org