

28 July 2025

FUEN STATEMENT ON THE POLICE OPERATION AT PERŠMANHOF/PERŠMANOVA DOMAČIJA IN CARINTHIA/KOROŠKA

The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) strongly condemns the police operation that took place on 27 July 2025 on the premises of the Peršmanhof/Peršmanova domačija Museum in the municipality of Bad Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla (Carinthia/Koroška, Austria). The operation at this historically sensitive site of remembrance, where members of the Slovenian minority were massacred by the Nazis in 1945, was disproportionate and deeply disturbing in its symbolic impact.

Peršmanhof/Peršmanova domačija is not only a memorial site for the Carinthian Slovenes. It is also a place where young people from across Europe can take part in minority-led, anti-fascist educational programmes. The fact that such a site was the scene of a major police operation, complete with helicopter, K9 unit and house search, targeting participants of a youth camp, is unacceptable to FUEN.

As the main representative and largest umbrella organisation of the autochthonous national minorities, nationalities and language groups in Europe, currently uniting over 100 member organisations from 38 countries, FUEN calls for:

- a comprehensive, transparent and political investigation of the operation and its background,
- a review of proportionality and accountability at all administrative levels,
- the involvement of the affected youth, organisations and representatives of the national minorities in this process of clarification.

FUEN expects a clear commitment from the Austrian authorities to the protection of minority rights and to historical responsibility at sites of remembrance. Police actions must not endanger the dignity of such places or of those committed to working there.