



GROWING TOGETHER

FUEN ACTIVITY REPORT

2022–2023

FUEN IS...



...the **umbrella organisation** of 110 minority organisations from 36 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



...the **largest and most representative** organisation of Europe's autochthonous national minorities, nationalities and language groups



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



GROWING TOGETHER



2022-2023 marked a very intensive period in the life of FUEN. It was the first year after the pandemic in which we were finally able to organise face-to-face events, but, because of Russia's unjustified war on Ukraine, things were far from being back to normal.

It was a year in which we strengthened our friendships and partnerships with our flagship event, the FUEN Congress organised in Berlin, but also a year in which we managed to reach out to new territories, with the Forum of Minority Regions organised in Ireland and the Non-Kin-State Working Group's meeting in Spain.

It was also a year of new projects focusing on current issues, like the situation of the minorities in the EU pre-accession process with the Minorities in the Western Balkans conference and the role and possibilities of women in minority organisations with the Women of Minorities projects.

And, after a successful EUROPEADA 2022 in Carinthia/Koroska, it was also a preparation period for even bigger things to come, as the next European Football Championship of Minorities will take place in the German-Danish border region in 2024.

It was also a year in which we needed to stay strong and united after the General Court of the European Union's decision in the case of the Minority SafePack Initiative vs. The European Commission. Not only did we do that, but we also managed to get new allies in this process.

The quest for minority rights in Europe continues!

FUEN EVENT CALENDAR 2022/2023

2022

- **06.10.** Minority Intergroup meeting – the Main Resolution of the FUEN Congress 2022 is presented – Strasbourg, France
- **07.10.** “Democracy in Europe“ pupil group from Denmark visiting FUEN – Flensburg • Flensburg, Deutschland
- **10.10.** Extraordinary Presidium meeting – online
- **13.10.** Meeting with MP Knut Abraham – Berlin, Germany
- **16.-19.10.** Working Group on Education annual meeting – Klagenfurt • Celovec, Austria
- **21.10.** “Women of Minorities“ Kick-off Meeting – Online
- **19.-20.10.** European Congress of national minorities of the Province of Carinthia – Carinthia • Koroška, Austria
- **27.10.** Meeting with Christina Flume from Saxony's Ministry of Culture and Tourism – Brussels, Belgium
- **06.-09.11.** 31st AGDM annual meeting – Berlin, Germany
- **09.11.** The General Court of the European Union delivers its judgment in the case of the Minority SafePack Initiative vs the European Commission
- **10.-12.11.** Forum of the European Minority Regions – Galway • Gaillimh, Ireland
- **15.11.** Minority Competence Network members' meeting – Sankelmark, Germany
- **17.-20.11.** 25th AGSM annual meeting – Wien • Beč, Austria
- **27.11.** Presidium meeting – Brussels, Belgium
- **30.11.** Minority Monitor case – Territorial reform in Albania affecting Macedonians
- **05.12.** BMI annual planning meeting – Berlin, Germany
- **06.12.** UN Forum on Minority Issues – Geneva, Switzerland
- **06.12.** Roma Civil Society Forum on Ukraine, focused on the Russian war on Ukraine and its consequences for Roma in the country – Berlin, Germany
- **06.12.** Audiovisual Stakeholder's Dialogue – Brussels, Belgium
- **08.12.** ECMI group visit with young people from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine as well as state representatives – FUEN Berlin, Germany
- **11.12.** 8th Annual Meeting of TAG – Online
- **15.12.** Women of Minorities project: study results presentation – Online
- **15.12.** Plenary debate in the European Parliament on the 30th anniversary of UN's Declaration on Minority Rights – Strasbourg, France
- **19.12.** Schleswig-Holstein State Chancellery minority officer Sonja Wolf visits FUEN office – Flensburg • Flensburg, Germany
- **19.12.** EUROPEADA 2024 Kickoff meeting – Flensburg • Flensburg, Germany

2023

- **17.-18.01.** Conference “Models for inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups in the Western Balkans” – Skopje, North Macedonia
- **20.01.** Minority Monitor case – Russian-language education in Estonia
- **23.01.** MSPI – Appeal filed at the European Court of Justice
- **24.01.** Presidium meeting – online
- **25.01.** Minorities in the Western Balkans project kick-off meeting – Online
- **30.01.** FUEN presidium meets Minderheitenrat – Berlin, Germany
- **01.02.** “National minorities in Europe – a task for the EU?” conference at the representation of Land Hessen – Brussels, Belgium
- **11.02.** “Nature and Diversity in North” Webinar – Online
- **14.02.** FUEN and AGSM condemn messages directed against the Slovene ethnic group in Carinthia • Koroška
- **16.02.** EP Minority Intergroup meeting – Strasbourg • Straßburg, France
- **27.02.** Meeting with Federal Commissioner for Repatriates and National Minorities, Natalie Pawlik – Berlin, Germany
- **01.03.** Presentation and workshop for a Western Balkan delegation – Flensburg • Flensburg, Germany
- **01.03.** Meeting with Bundestag members on EUROPEADA 2024 – Berlin, Germany
- **02.03.** 2th. Anniversary of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages – debate and discussion meeting in the German Bundestag – Berlin, Germany
- **02.-04.03.** Presidium meeting – Tirgu Mures • Marosvásárhely • Neumarkt, Romania
- **08.03.** Women of Minorities survey findings presented at the headquarters of the Croatian Center for Culture, Education and Politics – Vienna, Austria
- **10.03.** Registration for EUROPEADA 2024 opened
- **13.03.** DialogForumNorden – Flensburg/Flensburg, Germany
- **14.03.** General Meeting of the Minority Competence Network – Sankelmark, Germany
- **25.03.** Platt Drift Barcamp, event on Low German and other regional languages – Leck, Germany
- **28.03.** EUROPEADA 2024 kick-off press conference – Flensburg • Flensburg, Germany
- **29.-31.03.** Minority Competence Network Cluster Meeting – Sankelmark, Germany
- **03.04.** Minority Policy Breakfast – Kiel, Germany
- **18.-21.04.** Education Working Group annual meeting – Sibiu, Romania
- **24.04.** Political meetings in the German Bundestag: MP Bruno Hönel, Astrid Damerow, Petra Nicolaisen – Berlin, Germany
- **24.04.** Minority Monitor case: Tetovo Forum for Social Dialogue and Cooperation
- **27.04.** Presentation of the FUEN at „Café 50 plus” – Flensburg • Flensburg, Germany

- **03.05.** European Dialogue Forum meeting – Online
- **03.05.** German vice chancellor Robert Habeck becomes patron of EUROPEADA
- **11.05.** Minority Intergroup meeting – Strasbourg • Straßburg, France
- **12.05.** OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Kairat Abdrakhmanov, visits FUEN – Flensburg • Flensburg, Germany
- **14.-16.05.** Fact-finding visit to the umbrella organisation of Yenish and Sinti in Switzerland
- **22.05.** Presidium meeting – Online
- **25.05.** ENTAN Forum – Zürich University, Switzerland
- **31.05.-03.06.** WG Non-Kin-State's annual meeting – Altafulla, Catalonia, Spain
- **01.-03.06.** FUEN Conference “Minorities in the Western Balkans” – Osijek • Eszék, Croatia
- **06.06.** Meeting with Oliver Paasch, prime minister of the German-speaking community in Eastern Belgium – Brussels, Belgium
- **21.-23.06.** FUEN Secretariat Team Building – Flensburg • íFlensburg, Germany
- **27.06.-30.06.** “Heimatvertriebene und Heimatverbliebene” conference by AGDM and Kulturstiftung – Bayreuth, Germany
- **03.07.** Minority Competence Network Schleswig-Holstein board meeting – Sankelmark, Germany
- **05.07.** European Dialogue Forum visits UNESCO headquarters and National Assembly – Paris, France
- **06.07.** Presidium meeting – Berlin, Germany
- **11.07.** Minority Monitor case: German education in Poland
- **12.07.** Women of Minorities Kick-off Meeting – online
- **02.-08.08.** JuLeiCa (youth leader card) seminar AGDM – Cuxhaven, Germany
- **07.-10.09.** 67th FUEN Congress – Pécs • Fünfkirchen • Pečuh, Hungary

FUEN CONGRESS 2022

FROM TRIESTE TO BERLIN



FUEN CONGRESS

BERLIN22

29.09 – 02.10



While we fully enjoyed the beauty and the excellent atmosphere of Berlin and the hospitality of our member organisations from Germany, there was no cause for celebration at FUEN's 66th Annual Congress: here, the war in Ukraine and the regress in the protection of minority rights in Europe was on everyone's mind.

Held between 29 September – 2 October, the Congress focused on the situation of different minority communities during violent conflicts of the recent past, and it got all emotional when representatives of minorities from Ukraine came on stage and gave insights into their experiences since the outbreak of the war.

The solidarity and concern of FUEN members was felt throughout the whole congress, and it was also expressed in the Main Resolution adopted by the Assembly of Delegates. "We condemn the Russian war of aggression and war crimes. We emphasise that in the interest of cohesion and conflict resolution and prevention, it is important to protect and support all minorities living in the country," it says. In the resolution, FUEN stresses "the importance of emphasising the minorities' belonging to Ukraine and appreciating

their participation in the defence of the country", coupled with an appeal: "There must be no attempt to marginalise the minorities." Looking to the future, it says, "the support of Ukraine by the minorities living in the country after the end of the war should lead to a new minority policy of Ukraine, granting rights to all minorities and language groups living in Ukraine, based on the European conventions on human and minority rights". At the same time, Ukrainian minorities should be included on an equal footing in plans for the reconstruction and development of Ukraine.

Against the backdrop of the 30th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Minorities, the Main Resolution expresses concern that "minority issues have been extremely low on the agenda of the United Nations over the past decade". It therefore calls on the United Nations to "renew efforts to protect and promote the rights of minorities throughout the world".



THE NEW FUEN PRESIDIDIUM: Andor Barabás (YEN President, Hungarian/German from Romania), Daniel Alfreider (Ladin in Italy), Olivia Schubert (German in Hungary), Loránt Vincze (FUEN President, Hungarian from Romania), Gösta Toft (German in Denmark), Bahne Bahnsen (Frisian in Germany), Nabi Ibraimtzik (Western Thrace Turk) and Bernard Gaida (German in Poland).





The resolution also criticises what FUEN sees as the inadequacy of the minority protection system in Europe, most notably the rejection of the Minority SafePack Initiative. Minority rights are not exclusively a national matter, and FUEN calls on the EU institutions to create a comprehensive legal framework for minority rights.

The Assembly re-elected FUEN president Loránt Vincze for a third and final term, elected a new Presidium and members of the European Dialogue Forum, took decisions on the locations of EUROPEADA 2024 and the Congress. In 2023, the largest gathering of the European national minorities and language groups will be hosted by the Germans in Hungary in Pécs • Fünfkirchen • Pečuh, Hungary.

Four organisations became Associate Members of FUEN: the National Self-government of Romanians in Hungary, Friesenrat Sektion Nord (Germany), the Slovenian Economic and Cultural Association (Italy) and the Montenegrin Association ZGCA Elbasan (Albania). Two new Supporting Members were also accepted: “Unser Land” (Alsatis in France) and Macedonian Movement to Promote Mother Language Krste Misirkov (Macedonian minority in Greece). The Catalan organisation Plataforma per la Llengua was upgraded from Supporting Member to Associate Member. The Ordinary Membership of the Magyar Közösség Pártja (MKP) was transferred to Szövetség Aliancia (Hungarians in Slovakia).

The four autochthonous national minorities in Germany, the Frisians, the Danes, the German Sinti and Roma and the Lusatian Sorbs, as well as the Minority Council, the host of the FUEN congress, presented themselves at the Congress, where FUEN’s working groups also held their meetings. Discussions with members of the Bundestag, a visit of the Reichstag Dome and of the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe Murdered under National Socialism and the traditional Minority Market was also part of the programme.



FUEN PRIZE 2022 WINNER:

GIANCLAUDIO BRESSA

Supporting minorities in their development and their special needs – this is what the Italian politician Gianclaudio Bressa has mastered in an exemplary manner. As a token of appreciation for his tireless efforts and achievements on behalf of autochthonous, national minorities and language groups, he received the FUEN Prize 2022.

Gianclaudio Bressa was born in Belluno, Italy in 1956. He was a member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies from 1996 to 2018 and a member of the Italian government on several occasions. He is a member of the Partito Democratico party. He is currently fighting for more plurality and against monopolies in the Italian media.



"With his actions, Gianclaudio Bressa is an example and role model; as a representative of the majority population, he not only has an open ear, but has also shown through active and concrete action over decades how minorities can be supported in their development," said Daniel Alfreider, FUEN Vice President and, as Deputy Governor of the Autonomous Region of Bolzano-South Tyrol, a good connoisseur of the laureate, in his laudation. Gianclaudio Bressa is a great role model and an example of how state representatives should deal with their minorities.

FUEN has received great help from Gianclaudio Bressa in connection with the Minority SafePack Initiative. During his time as a member of the government in the Italian Parliament, his support for the project in Italy was decisive.

Unfortunately, due to an accident, the award winner was not able to be there in person, so a delegation of FUEN visited him in Rome.

The FUEN Prize is a special honour for people who are actively involved in the protection of minorities and who have worked with commitment and dedication for the improvement and recognition of autochthonous national minorities and language groups in Europe. Launched in 2019, the award has now been formally presented for the third time at the FUEN Congress 2022. The previous winners are Hartmut Koschyk (2019) and Fernand de Varennes (2021).



FUEN · 2023
CONGRESS

PÉCS
FÜNFKIRCHEN
PEČUH

7-10 Sep

FUEN CONGRESS 2023 IN PÉCS · FÜNFKIRCHEN · PEČUH

The cathedral towers, agriculture, rivers, wine, and of course the city of many minorities – all this characterises the city of Pécs • Fünfkirchen • Pečuh in the south of Hungary, where our 67th FUEN Congress will take place from 7 to 10 September 2023. The official congress logo combines all these special features.

This year's host is the National Self-Government of Hungarian Germans. "It is a great pleasure for us to serve as the venue – for the second time since 1991 – and at the same time an obligation that we take very seriously," says Ibolya Hock-Engler, chairwoman of the host organisation.

Pécs • Fünfkirchen • Pečuh can rightly be considered a worthy background for the congress, as eleven different nationalities live in it besides Hungarians: Armenians, Bulgarians, Germans, Greeks, Croats, Poles, Roma, Romanians, Ruthenians, Serbs and Ukrainians.

The programme includes topics such as minority protection in the EU neighbourhood, the role of minorities and FUEN in democratic societies, and possibilities for cultural autonomy. During the working group sessions, the participants will also have the opportunity to meet representatives of the other nationalities living in Hungary and even visit some of their cultural and educational institutions in the host city.

SEE YOU IN PÉCS •
FÜNFKIRCHEN • PEČUH ON
7-10 SEPTEMBER 2023!



FORUM OF THE EUROPEAN MINORITY REGIONS

FUEN's forum connecting minority and minority-friendly regions from all over Europe set out to be a fertile ground for networking and collaboration, an event at which the representatives of the different regions can discuss together the defining aspects of their everyday lives, the different challenges they face and the opportunities their special statuses hold. Each year, a relevant topic to regions minorities live in is discussed in detail, ranging from work commute and brain drain to minorities' role in economic growth.

This time, tourism was in focus. Minorities mean business: How a different language and culture can attract investors and tourists? – this was the question the 6th Forum of Minority Regions was framed by. Once again, the Forum lived up to its reputation of pathfinder, adventuring all the way to Ireland.

On 10-12 November 2022 in Galway/ Gaillimh, it became clear that tourism has an impact on smaller languages and cultures. The local language and culture is an added value that can make a region more attractive to tourists. In many regions the minority language and culture can bring an 'exotic flair' to the region that is appealing for tourists. In many countries, thanks to a different regional language and culture, tourists feel like they are abroad even though they are on vacation in their own country. But the minority language has to be more than a marketing gimmick, and it is always worth studying whether tourism helps language vitality and not just the income of people.



How can you promote the use of the smaller language in the private sector? How can you persuade companies to offer services in the minority language and how can you encourage customers to request services in the smaller language, their mother tongue? This was also a topic of discussion at the Forum, along with study cases on promoting regional identity and languages among young people in Ireland, the UK and Brittany. Making young people proud of their language and culture with various projects is a difficult task, but nonetheless essential in making the number of speakers no longer decrease but increase.

One of the highlights of the Forum was the study visit to Aran Islands. The three small islands are considered a stronghold of the Irish language and have a total population of 1200. They are a perfect example of how a smaller language and culture cannot only be preserved but also promoted.





One of the biggest challenges for the community is that more and more young people choose to have higher education, and afterwards they do not move back to the island as there are no jobs which would require their specific skills. There are several activities on the island which are not profitable, but nevertheless are essential for the community. The community development organization Comcharchumann Forbartha Árann works on finding solutions for them to function.



Minority languages and the labour market – advantage or strain – is the question the upcoming Forum of Minority Regions is framed by. The 7th Forum of European Minority Regions, focusing on the advantages of a bilingual labour market, will take place on 1-2 December 2023 in Opole/OpelIn and Katowice/Kattowitz, Poland.

It is easier to find a job, change jobs and to be promoted in your job if you speak the minority language. Also, the local language and culture is an added value that can make a region more attractive to foreign investment. Bi- or trilingual regions tend to be more prosperous than monolingual ones. Trilingual South Tyrol and the Aosta Valley are the richest regions in Italy and the bilingual Basque country and Navarre have the highest GDP per capita in Spain. But while it is an advantage to know the minority language at the personal and company level,



organisations promoting the minority language and culture might see it as a drawback since those knowing the language are lured to the private sector by higher salaries. The panel discussions at Opole will focus on these issues: the advantage of minority languages for people and companies, the loss of qualified staff that minority organisations face when competing for the same workforce with the private sector, but also the still present discrimination in the labour market.

MINORITIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



Minorities in the Western Balkans face many challenges, some of them similar, but some of them completely different from minorities in other parts of Europe. This is why FUEN considers it essential that their topics become part of the public debate and they gain attention that strengthens the cooperation of minorities and majority, and supports minority communities at all levels.

Therefore, between Friday, 2 June 2023 and Sunday 4 June 2023, in Osijek/Essegg/Eszék, Croatia, FUEN organised the Minorities in the Western Balkans conference, in cooperation with the Democratic Union of Hungarians of Croatia, the German Society – Organisation of Danube Swabians in Croatia and the Coordination Council and Representatives of the Czech National Minority.

The Minorities in the Western Balkans conference was preceded by an online kick-off meeting, in which representatives of the minorities proposed topics of debate for the event. Using these inputs, the conference programme was made to accommodate discussions on

the role of sustainable minority institutions, the effectiveness of different education models, the importance of political representation and ways to fight antigypsyism, hate speech and discrimination.

How good is the framework of minority rights in the countries in the Western Balkans and how well can minorities use these rights to preserve their identity, culture and language? The debates showed that there is a great variance not only by countries, but between minorities living in the same country and even between members of the same community.

The conference was intended to be the first step in a series of constructive and action-oriented dialogues on the existing challenges

of national minorities and language groups from the Western Balkans region and possible mechanisms to address them. The goal is to foster cooperation among the FUEN Member Organisations, the minority institutions, the local and national authorities and international organisations. We are confident that enabling the expansion of FUEN's network in the Western Balkans by establishing closer contacts with other minority institutions and NGOs will strengthen our Member Organisations.



FOLLOWING THE SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS, THE PARTICIPANTS ADOPTED A MEMORANDUM, CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- » “Coexistence based on mutual respect, bringing the majority and the minority closer together, appreciating and protecting the value of linguistic and cultural diversity of autochthonous minorities requires further efforts. In this effort member organisations count on the support and mediation role of FUEN.
- » The participants of the Minorities in the Western Balkans Conference clearly state the need to strengthen the presence of FUEN as an umbrella organisation for minorities in this part of Europe.
- » The accession of the countries of the region to the EU is an important goal for all minority communities; the conference participants are confident that legal guarantees for the protection of minorities will be strengthened in the accession negotiations.
- » Combating hate speech is an objective for FUEN's member organisations in the Western Balkans which should be a priority in the coming years, using all possible means.
- » The participants call for real solutions to the situation of the Roma minorities and for FUEN to continue to represent the interests of these communities at EU level. Antigypsyism, discrimination, and marginalization of Roma communities must be actively combatted and eliminated in Western Balkan countries in accordance with the active politics and measures of the European Union.
- » Education in the mother tongue has been solved in many EU countries, but needs more attention in this part of Europe, so the participants call on FUEN to use its know-how to push for the development of public education policy strategies that can guarantee the survival of minority communities in the region.
- » Ageing is affecting not only majority societies but also autochthonous minorities across Europe, so policy instruments should be identified to address the system of representation of minorities.”

MINORITY PROTECTION IN EUROPE

MINORITY SAFEPAK INITIATIVE

For ten years now, the Minority SafePack Initiative has been FUEN's most important project, considered by many the most important initiative for minority rights in the last 30 years. Started in 2013 by the initiative of the FUEN, RMDSZ, SVP and YEN, it is a European Citizens' Initiative asking for European protection and promotion of their languages, cultures and rights. After an initial refusal of registration by the European Commission, the MSPI was finally registered following a European Court decision in 2017. In a Europe-wide campaign coordinated by FUEN, 1,123,422 validated statements of support were collected, and the Minority SafePack Initiative became the fifth successful ECI ever. It also obtained the support of the Bundestag, the Hungarian Parliament, the lower chamber of the Dutch parliament, many regional parliaments, and, most importantly, the European Parliament, which voted a resolution in its support in December 2020. Following the Commission's decision on 14 January 2021 not to initiate legal acts based on the proposals of the MSPI, on 24 March 2021 the Citizens' Committee of the MSPI filed at the General Court of the European Union a request for the annulment of the decision. The Citizens' Committee, the FUEN and their legal representatives, based the submission on a careful legal examination of the Commission's response, concluding that the Commission infringed its legal obligation to state reasons and committed manifest errors of assessment. However, in its decision delivered on 9 November 2022, the General Court of the European Union states that the Commission proceeded correctly in refusing to propose legal acts based on the MSPI.

"The court's November decision stands in sharp contrast to the previous case-law of the European courts in ECI matters. Their communication starts by stating that "The action already taken by the European Union to emphasise the importance of regional or minority languages and to promote cultural and linguistic diversity is sufficient to achieve the objectives of the initiative". This is clearly a political statement, and all European minorities know it to be false" – FUEN President MEP Loránt Vincze pointed out. Hence, the Citizens' Committee has decided to bring the case before the Court of Justice on 23 January 2023.

What is more than encouraging is that we got new allies for the proceedings. As with the previous court proceedings the MSPI was involved with, Hungary will intervene this time as well on behalf of the European Citizen's Initiative. However, this is the first time that two European regions – South Tyrol and Ostbelgien – also filed their intent to intervene.

A decision is expected in the next two years, until then FUEN will continue to work on implementing the provisions of the MSPI where possible and working on other ways to ensure the protection and promotion of minority rights in Europe.

The implementation of the MSPI is part of the German coalition agreement, and we are working with government officials and the parties on this.

The FUEN got invited to the Dialogue on Access to and Availability of Audiovisual Content across the EU, organised by the European Commission. At the year-long series of stakeholder meetings with representatives of the European film and broadcasting industry, which came to an end in Brussels on 6 December 2022, FUEN represented the interests of minority communities. We made a series of concrete proposals on cross-border access to content and will actively force the position of the minorities and the demands of the Minority SafePack Initiative on cross-border access when negotiating concrete proposals.

FUEN AT THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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

European Parliament

Two years after the vote on the MSPI, another important day for minority rights came in the European Parliament. A large majority voted a resolution presented by FUEN President and Vice Chair of the Committee for Constitutional Affairs, Loránt Vincze in the plenary session on 17 April 2023. At his request, the European Parliament has for the first time produced a comprehensive report on cooperation between the European Union and the Council of Europe (CoE), which states that the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCPNM) and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECMRL) should be incorporated into the EU legal order.

FUEN is a regular attendant of the monthly meetings of the EP's Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages, where many important questions concerning minorities in general and FUEN Member Organisations in particular were discussed in the last year. FUEN President MEP Loránt Vincze is Co-chair of the Intergroup.

United Nations

On 2 December 2022, at the invitation of the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Fernand de Varennnes, the FUEN President took part in the highest level minority forum in the world in Geneva. Loránt Vincze emphasized the need for global and European standards in minority protection. At the Forum organised on the 30th anniversary of the UN Declaration in Minority Rights, the FUEN President expressed his full support for the UN and its institutions to continue the fight for better recognition, protection and promotion of the rights of minorities. At his proposal, a plenary debate in the European Parliament was organised in December to mark the 30th anniversary of the UN Declaration.

OSCE

Kairat Abdrakhmanov, High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), paid a visit to FUEN on Friday, 12 May 2023. Abdrakhmanov had come to the German-Danish borderland with his delegation to meet the minorities living here, the European Center for Minority Issues as well as important political representatives. During a discussion with the FUEN Vice-Presidents **Gösta Toft**, **Bahne Bahnsen** and **Bernard Gaida**, the focus was on activities and areas of responsibility, current challenges in the field of minority policy as well as possibilities for cooperation.





EUROPEADA 2024 “BETWEEN THE SEAS” – RAISE THE SAILS!

One thing is already certain: EUROPEADA 2024 will be bigger than ever before. With 27 men's and 10 women's teams, we are registering a new registration record. "This is fantastic. Especially in the women's field, we had hoped for an increase and are now looking forward to such a diverse field of participants," says Ruwen Möller, EUROPEADA project manager in the German-Danish borderland. The 5th edition of the European Football Championship of Autochthonous National Minorities will take place from 28 June to 7 July 2024 in North and South Schleswig around the German-Danish border, with Flensburg/Flensburg, Germany, as the organising centre. Over 1000 participants are expected.

And there is another record to report: For the first time, four minorities are hosting the tournament, which was initiated by FUEN. The German Sinti and Roma, the Frisians in Schleswig-Holstein, the German minority in Denmark and the Danish minority in Germany form the quartet of hosts.



● Press conference on EUROPEADA 2024 in Flensburg · Flensburg, Germany on 28 March 2023. Photo: Rasmus Meyer

"Between the seas" is the motto of EUROPEADA 2024, as the venues in northern Schleswig-Holstein and southern Denmark are framed by the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. "The tournament will create added value for the entire region and bring about a lot of positive change," says FUEN Vice President Gösta Toft, for whom the tournament will be a home game as a member of the German minority in Denmark. A major goal is to draw the attention of the majority population to minorities – in this context, the media is an important player. The organising team has therefore started very early to involve representatives of the press – for example with a hybrid press conference in March 2023.

In addition, two well-known political personalities from the border region have been won over as patrons of EUROPEADA: the German Vice Chancellor and Green politician Robert Habeck and the Danish Venstre politician Stephanie Lose, Chairwoman of the Regional Council of Southern Denmark and most recently Denmark's acting Minister of Economic Affairs. Both live in the region and are therefore fantastic ambassadors for the event. "The German-Danish borderland is a model region when it comes to how living together in diversity and cross-border friendship can take place and be shaped," says Habeck.



Ruwen Möller, Project Manager EUROPEADA 2024, in the course of the presentation of the event at the German Bundestag in Berlin.
Photo: SSF



FUEN is the founder and coordinator of the tournament and organises EUROPEADA together with the local organisers. So far, the European Minority Football Championship has been held in Graubünden, Switzerland (2008), in Lausitz, Germany (2012), in South Tyrol, Italy (2016), and in Carinthia/Koroška, Austria (2022). It takes place every four years, usually in the same year as the UEFA Eurocup. The tournament is a major sporting event that combines fair competition and the excitement of a sports festival with the matters of the autochthonous, national minorities. On and off the pitch, it is about fair play, respect, tolerance and international understanding.



The games will be played at a total of eleven venues in both Germany and Denmark. In addition to the festive opening ceremony and the finals, another highlight will be the traditional Culture Day in the middle of the tournament, where the participating minorities will present their culture, language and traditions to each other. There will also be a supporting programme with concerts, panel discussions and much more.

The draw for the group matches will take place at the beginning of December in North Schleswig, Denmark, at a festive event with hopefully numerous representatives of the teams – a small foretaste of the big festival of sport and diversity next summer.

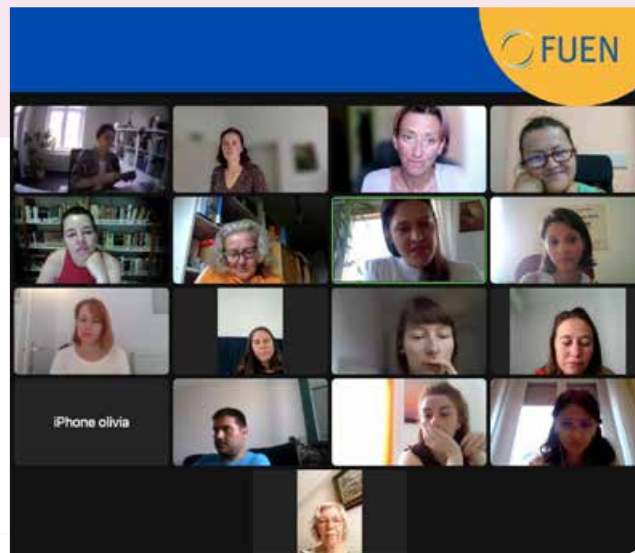
WOMEN OF MINORITIES

Dedicated to promoting the rights of the autochthonous national, ethnic minorities and language groups across Europe, supporting the development of their organisational capacities, and amplifying the voices of diversity before national and international institutions, FUEN has identified an area that calls for attention – the intersectionality and multiple forms of discrimination that constitute women of (some) minorities among the most vulnerable groups in present days.

Raising awareness about intersectionality and multiple forms of discrimination and engaging in the fight against them is a challenge that FUEN must address to ensure that both minority men and women, boys and girls, fully enjoy their rights as equal citizens of European societies. A survey, conducted among the FUEN member organisations in November 2022, was the launch of the new programme line “Women of Minorities”. The purpose of the survey was to screen the level of and the attitudes towards gender equality across the network so that with an increased understanding of the status quo, the minority organisation can engage in a constructive discussion

about the ways forward. For only 20 days, the FUEN survey collected 60 completed forms, covering 17 European states and one country from Central Asia. The analysis of the submitted entries revealed that the FUEN survey has reached out to organisations beyond the direct network members. Due to the high public interest, a 1-minute survey aiming at the general audience was launched in parallel. Its focus fell on the major challenges that women of minorities face and the possible mechanisms to address them.

The analysis of the survey results, presented in an online event in December 2022, revealed that structural discrimination appears to be a significant impediment to women’s equality in general. Women of minorities are sometimes additionally challenged by stereotypes and prejudices against their ethnicity. Furthermore, the surveys revealed that:



- ★ Gender equality and women's empowerment are not only of interest to the FUEN member organisations but also to a range of actors promoting and protecting minority rights.
- ★ Women of minorities are active at the institutional level, but their contribution often remains invisible since they rarely are put forward as representatives of their institutions. The impediments appear to come from the existing attitudes and stereotypes instead of structural challenges.
- ★ While the majority of staff members appear to be women, minority organisations are led mainly by men, who also hold a greater share of the decision-making positions. Some organisations have never had a woman in the leadership.
- ★ Very few organisations have adopted rules and procedures to safeguard and promote equality at the institutional level.
- ★ The awareness of national legislation and instruments for the protection and promotion of gender equality is greater than the awareness of the overarching legal

frameworks and mechanisms at the European and international levels. A significant percentage of the respondents, however, lack knowledge of national or international normative rules and procedures.

- ★ Minority institutions almost never conduct staff training on gender equality.
- ★ Although women are among the target groups of programme and projects, only a few organisations adhere to gender equality as a horizontal principle of their activities.
- ★ Monitoring of women's involvement in project activities is not a regular practice. Qualitative indicators are rarely used – many organisations do not account for the number of women participating in events and of whether their participation is active.

Although awareness raising, training, and capacity building are key mechanisms that can bring in a positive change, fostering gender equality requires also structural approach to women's empowerment (such as quotas ensuring access to decision-making positions, institutional rules and procedures, and mobilisation of support through women-networks). Convinced that a real change can only start from within, in 2023-2024 FUEN will continue with the thematic activities within the Women of Minorities project #2, which will aim at the further advancement of the gender equality within the network and the individual member organisations by launching an internal discussion about the need for establishing and adopting the principles and procedures that would ensure the possibility for minority women within the FUEN network to be active and visible.

The kick-off for this second phase was an online meeting on 12 July, which focused on the desired contents of the interested parties as well as concrete projects. The follow-up will be a workshop on "Minority Women in Leadership" and an online campaign to raise awareness and promote role models.



WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP OF GERMAN MINORITIES – AGDM

In 2022, the AGDM was able to achieve a new dynamic. After almost 2 years of working under very limited conditions and with little face-to-face exchange, the AGDM was finally able to conduct all projects as face-to-face events in 2022. In June 2022, the long prepared and longed for youth leader training "JuLeiCa" took place in cooperation with the partner organisation djo (Deutsche Jugend in Europa) in Saxony. The feedback on the project was more than positive, so the AGDM is pleased to be able to continue the project and in this way support youth work in the AGDM member organisations through the best possible educational offers.

Since the elections for the FUEN Presidium at the FUEN Congress 2022 in Berlin, the German minorities are again strongly represented in the FUEN Presidium: Olivia Schubert (Landessebstverwaltung der Ungarndeutschen – LdU) and Bernard Gaida (Verband der deutschen Gesellschaften in Polen – VdG) were elected for the first time as FUEN Vice-Presidents from the ranks of the German minorities, and Gösta Toft (Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger – BDN) was re-elected. At his own request, the previous Vice-President Vladimir Ham (German Community in Croatia) did not stand for re-election.



AGDM at the FUEN Congress 2022 in Berlin

On 30 September 2022, the already traditional working session of the AGDM member organisations took place in the framework of the 66th FUEN Congress 2022 in Berlin, chaired by AGDM Speaker Bernard Gaida. The working session became a preparatory meeting for the upcoming AGDM Conference with many important concerns of the member organisations.



German minorities on the pulse of German minority policy: AGDM Annual Seminar in Berlin

The 31st Annual Seminar of the Working Group of German Minorities in Berlin set an important milestone for the dialogue between German minorities abroad and federal politics. Representatives and youth coordinators of the German minorities made their way to Berlin from 6 to 10 November 2022 for the 31st Annual Seminar of the AGDM. In this context, the representatives and youth representatives from 17 countries from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia had the opportunity to hold intensive discussions with important decision-makers in German politics about the current situation and challenges in their respective countries.

Among the numerous topics discussed at this year's AGDM Annual Seminar, two in particular came into focus: the scandalous and continuing discrimination against the German minority in Poland due to the legal cutbacks in German lessons for the children of the German minority, and the difficult situation of the German minority in Ukraine, which had to stop most of its minority work and activities with the beginning of the war.



At the meeting, Bernard Gaida was re-elected AGDM Speaker for the next three years. He has held this role since 2016. Hanna Klein, Youth Representative of the German Community in Croatia, was elected as AGDM Youth Coordinator.

The official opening of the 31st Annual Seminar of the AGDM was given by the Federal Government Commissioner for Repatriate Issues and National Minorities, Ms Natalie Pawlik (MdB). She particularly emphasised her awareness that the German minorities abroad are facing financial challenges and that the participants can be sure of her full support in the future.



 Photos



This was followed by expert talks with the department responsible for the promotion of German minorities abroad in the Federal Ministry of the Interior and for Home Affairs, exchanges in the German Bundestag with the members of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group and, in the next few days, further expert talks with the Foundation for Solidarity with Germans Abroad, with the management of the Documentation Centre Refuge, Expulsion, Reconciliation, with the Commissioner for Foreign Cultural and Educational Policy in the Federal Foreign Office, Anna Bartels, and with the management of the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa). An evening networking meeting offered the participants the opportunity for in-

depth exchange and networking with representatives of various parliamentary groups of the German Bundestag and partner organisations. On the last afternoon, a very informative expert discussion took place with the members of the parliamentary group Minorities, Stefan Seidler (MP), Denise Loop (MP) and Maja Wallstein (MP). Finally, a discussion with the representatives of the SPD took place. The Federal Government Commissioner for Repatriate Issues and National Minorities, Natalie Pawlik, emphasised that minority policy is an important part of peace policy and that the SPD parliamentary group has a historic responsibility for the German minorities.



This year's AGDM conference was once again a successful event, which confirmed how important the ongoing dialogue between German minorities living abroad and German politics is.



The AGDM in conversation with the Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz



The traditional annual reception of the Federation of Expellees in Berlin is always a much sought-after event. On 28 March 2023, more than 30 members of all parties in the Bundestag, state secretaries, party leaders, ambassadors of several countries and the guest of honour – the Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz – accepted the invitation of the President of the BdV, Bernd Fabritius. The AGDM was represented by AGDM speaker and FUEN Vice President Bernard Gaida and many chairpersons of the associations of German minorities – from Northern Schleswig, Romania, Poland, Ukraine, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. In a brief exchange with Chancellor Scholz, the AGDM speaker was able to sum up the greatest challenges facing the German minority. In his ceremonial address, the Chancellor emphasised how important the aid for Ukraine still is and, above all, highlighted the support that the German minorities in Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary provided to the fleeing Ukrainians in the first hours of the war.



In Bayreuth, the expellees and those who have remained in their homeland met together for the 4th time

From 28 to 30 June 2023, this year's 4th international symposium of the Cultural Foundation of German Expellees in cooperation with AGDM took place in Bayreuth in the Free State of Bavaria under the title "Homeland Expellees and Homeland Remainers – Two Sides of the Same Medal" with renewed participation of high-ranking representatives from the ranks of the German minorities.

At the conference, impulses were jointly given for cross-border cultural projects, cooperation between youth organisations and new ways of imparting knowledge about the German cultural heritage. Once again, minority organisations as well as other actors and German minorities sat around the same table at this event. In particular, the possibilities of cooperation and sustainable collaboration between "expellees" and "remaining homelanders" were once again at the centre of the event and reflected on the idea of cross-border understanding policy.



The AGDM is now also on Instagram!

Have you already seen our Instagram account? We are now active there too!

Follow us to stay up to date, find out the latest news about the AGDM and never miss a thing!

We look forward to seeing you!

Here you can find our profile:



[instagram.com/
agdmfuen/](https://www.instagram.com/agdmfuen/)

Multinational JuLeiCa 2023 in Cuxhaven

The 2nd Multinational Youth Leader Training – JuLeiCa 2023 took place in cooperation with the djo – Deutsche Jugend in Europa – Bundesverband. Participants from AGDM member organisations from Hungary, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Croatia, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Kazakhstan travelled to Cuxhaven from 2 to 8 August 2023 and were able to gain a lot of new knowledge during the week at the North Sea. The JuLeiCa training is the basis for voluntary engagement in youth work in Germany, which is highly appreciated and adopted by many other EU countries. The JuLeiCa certificate confirms that young people can responsibly lead a youth group or supervise a holiday camp. The Youth Leader Card is the nationwide standardised ID card for volunteers in youth work. It serves as legitimisation and proof of qualification for the holder.

WORKING GROUP OF SLAVIC MINORITIES – AGSM

The Working Group of Slavic Minorities is already a 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 group to further develop and professionalise its activities could finally be realised. That this was an extremely sensible step was not only confirmed by members, it also became apparent in the FUEN internal strategies.



Since 2019, the AGSM has a new, thoroughly designed homepage (www.agsm.fuen.org), and has published a brochure about its members, which is already available in 5 languages. Members are regularly informed about the working group's activities in the newsletter. 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 and Home Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, the AGSM was able to continue to develop and carry out its activities in 2022/23. Within the framework of the FUEN Congress 2022 in Berlin, the AGSM was able to meet at a working

session. The congress in Berlin also had a Slavic flavour, as the Lusatian Sorbs (Domowina) were co-organisers through the Minority Council. At the meeting, the Slovenian edition of the AGSM brochure, which was translated with the help of two Slovenian-speaking member organisations, NSKS – Council of Carinthian Slovenes and SSO – Council of Slovenian Organisations in Italy, was presented. There are six member organisations of the AGSM in the FUEN who can use the brochure in their mother tongue or national language. All language versions of the brochure are available on the AGSM homepage in online format, as well as in print from the AGSM. The members also presented their situations and discussed other AGSM activities.

At the end of November 2022, the 25th seminar of the Slavic minorities in Europe took place with the Burgenland Croats in Wien/Vienna/Beč,



Austria. Stanko Horvath, President of the HKD – Croatian Cultural Association in Burgenland, Gabriela Karall-Novak, Hrvatski centar, Angelika Mlinar, speaker of the AGSM, and Olivia Schubert, FUEN Vice-President welcomed the guests from twelve different countries. A visit to the heart of Austrian politics was on the agenda – one of the highlights of the seminar. The exchange with three members of the Austrian National Council – Olga Voglauer (Greens), Nikolaus Berlakovich (ÖVP) and Michael Bernhard (Neos) brought many new insights for the participants. At the border triangle of Austria, Hungary and Slovakia, to three villages where Burgenland Croats live, a concentrated cultural programme, peppered with expert background information from the host minority awaited the participants. During the annual meeting, the topics of education, media and the protection of minorities in urban areas were discussed.

The last part of the seminar was about the current situation of the Slavic minorities and the activities in the past year, as well as future AGSM activities. It could be seen that the Slavic minorities have also been very active within the FUEN in recent years and that many events have been hosted by them. In particular, EUROPEADA, where no less than nine Slavic teams participated, was a success for many in terms of the perception of their minorities. Finally, Dr Angelika Mlinar was unanimously re-elected as AGSM speaker and the location for the next, 26th annual meeting of the working group in 2023 was set: with the Serbian minority in Croatia. In 2023, the AGSM brochure will also be translated into Macedonian, and thus the first language with Cyrillic script.

WORKING GROUP OF TURKIC MINORITIES/COMMUNITIES – TAG

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

The TAG has currently 12 FUEN member organisations representing the Turkic minorities and communities: Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF), Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association (WTMUGA), Friendship, Equality and Peace Party (FEP Party), Rhodes, Kos and the Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association, Bars El: Social Organisation for Fostering and Development of the Karachay-Balkar Traditions, International Society of Meskhetian Turks “VATAN”, Association of the Meskhetian Turks “Vatan” in Azerbaijan, Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, Association of Crimean Karaites “Krymkarailar”, Kosovo Youth Union, Regional Civic Organisation for Development of Kumyk Culture, Contribution to Kumyk Language, Preservation and Coordination of Kumyk projects “Qumuqlar” and Democratic Union of Tatars.



The ongoing Russia's invasion of Ukraine since 2022 has unfortunately further prevented the TAG to carry out its regular activities in the 2022-2023 period.

The 8th annual meeting of FUEN TAG took place online on 11 December 2022. At the annual meeting, which started with the greetings of TAG speaker Halit Habip Ođlu and FUEN Vice-

President Nabi Ibraimtzik, Habip Ođlu was unanimously re-elected as speaker of the TAG in the FUEN.

The participating organisations conveyed the important developments regarding the Turkic minorities and communities they represent since the last annual meeting in December 2021 as well as the activities they carried out in 2022 and plan to realize soon. The annual meeting ended with the discussion of TAG in the FUEN's 2023 action plan and common roadmap for it.

The 9th Annual Meeting of TAG in the FUEN is expected to take place in Autumn 2023 in Ankara.

NON-KIN-STATE WORKING GROUP – NKS

The Non-Kin-State Working Group was launched by FUEN in 2017 to give minorities without a mother-state the opportunity to discuss their specific concerns and challenges, find solutions and develop joint strategies for the preservation of their small languages and cultures. Currently, 29 organisations from 15 different countries belong to it.

After the annual meeting in Bulgaria hosted by the Pomaks and the FUEN Congress in September 2022, the second part of the year was about background work for the Non-Kin-State Working Group. The speaker of the Non-Kin-State Working Group in the FUEN, Bahne Bahnsen, was re-elected as FUEN Vice-President at the congress in Berlin. In October, Thea Bargum Petersen took over the coordination of the working group. Just before the end of the year, the working group's website was translated into German and is now available in both English and German.

Following the wishes of numerous member organisations, the annual meeting of the NKS was held in the first half of 2023. The annual meeting was hosted by the FUEN member organisation "Plataforma per la Llengua", which works to promote and defend the Catalan language and language rights. From 31 May to 3 June, 18 participants met in Altafulla, Catalonia, to exchange ideas in thematic working group sessions.

The annual meeting was divided into two thematic blocks. On 1 June, the focus was on minority languages in the public sector. It became clear that many of the 14 non-kin-state minorities who were present experience challenges when



they want to use their minority language at the authorities, in court or in the health system. In addition to experts from the Catalan region, representatives from Asturias, the Basque Country and Galicia provided examples of theory and practice, giving participants a general insight into the situation of minorities in Spain.

On the second day, the participants focused on the topic "Presence of minority languages in new technologies". The focus was on content in minority languages, but also on the use of the technologies in general. Many social media and devices can not be used in minority languages, which means that less content is available in minority languages. An important message was that "feeding" the new technologies, i.e. input in minority languages, is very important for improving opportunities.

With the annual meeting of minorities without a kin-state at the Catalan community, FUEN organised an event in Spain for the first time.



WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION IN THE FUEN

The establishment of the Working Group on Education in the FUEN was proposed during the 2017 FUEN Congress in Cluj, Romania. The focus of the working group is on the exchange of experiences, problems as well as best practices with regard to the right to education in the mother tongue and the systems of minority schools.

Education plays an essential role in the preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity, that's why the Working Group of the FUEN dedicated to Education wishes to deepen its commitment.

The Working Group on Education pursued its work on the thematic of early education which was started during the annual meeting 2021 in Bolzano/South Tyrol (Italy); on 16-19 October 2022 on the invitation of the regional government of Carinthia, the WG held its annual meeting in Klagenfurt (Austria). Experts from the European minority communities representing our member organisations but also institutes, competence centres and educational institutions gathered to gain insights into the educational structures of the Slovenian



minority in Carinthia/Koroška. On the program were study visits with the possibility to exchange experiences with the pedagogical staff in a bilingual kindergarten and a bilingual primary school. The important role of the cooperation between educational institutions and science was also given space for with the presentation of the pedagogical language framework concept, serving as a guideline for promoting bilingual and multilingual education in elementary educational institutions (children from 0 to 6 years) in Carinthia.

The 32nd European Congress of Ethnic Groups of the Province of Carinthia was organised in Klagenfurt on 19 October. The theme was: "From crèche to university. Mother tongue education for ethnic groups" and in addition to exciting lectures from the perspective of Carinthia, international speakers – including FUEN members – were also present at the programme. They





presented the educational situation of their minority and reported on their experiences. The coordinator of the Education Working Group was also invited to present the results of the annual meeting 2022.

With the launch by the end of 2022 of the digital platform “EDU”, the Working Group on Education gained online presence with topics such as strategies, best practices, challenges around minority language teaching. Get registered and please have a look under <https://edu.fuen.org/>.

In March 2023 the coordinator of the Working Group on Education was invited to the cluster meeting on Education organized by Minority Competence Network (Minderheiten-Kompetenz-Netzwerk) Schleswig-Holstein / Süddänemark e. V. in the Sankelmark Academy. Together with other actors of the minorities in the field of education in the German-Danish border region, the WG coordinator participated to a brainstorming. The idea is to develop a concept and offer study visits to members

of other minorities who wish to gain insights into the borderland region as a good model for minorities.

The 2023 annual meeting of the Working Group on Education took place in Sibiu (Romania) on 18-21 April. With the precious help of our member organisation, the Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania, a rich and varied program was offered to the members of the WG on the thematic of the transition from kindergarten to primary school. Next to an overview of the educational situation of the German and Hungarian minorities in Romania from the historical and political perspective, the highlight of the program was the possibility to visit a kindergarten and attend lessons taught in minority language in primary schools. With more than 20 experts from all over Europe, it was also the time for a fruitful exchange of experiences and best practices.



EUROPEAN DIALOGUE FORUM

The European Dialogue Forum (EDF) of the FUEN worked under the overall goal of fostering dialogue on minority-related topics between minority leaders – EDF members – and policymakers of the global, European and national levels.

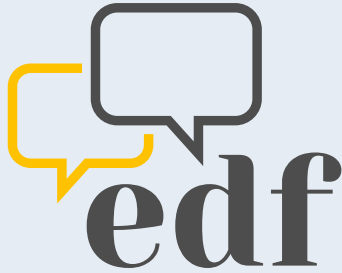
At the beginning of 2023, EDF members convened for an online planning session. Priorities were identified as the following: to strengthen cooperation, including through in-person meetings, with the key institutions at the European level – the Council of Europe, the UNESCO and the EU institutions.

In April, The EDF participated in the Spring Session of the Conference of INGOs (International NGOs) of the Council of Europe taking place on 24-26 April 2023 in a hybrid format. The outcome was that FUEN and EDF should engage more actively in the activities of the Conference, the representative body of the INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe. Many of the other NGOs face similar challenges, and through the conference, FUEN could influence the outcome of Council of Europe policies vis-à-vis autochthonous minorities.



In May 2023, another planning meeting of the EDF took place online. The agenda included the following topics: discussion of the latest developments on the Minority SafePack Initiative and the work of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages; presentation of the FUEN Brussels Office and the action plan for the EDF's agenda until end of 2023. The Brussels office has also been expanded with a policy officer position, as FUEN wants to strengthen the work and visibility of the Brussels office.

Following the online preparatory meeting of the EDF in June, the On 5 July, a delegation of nine EDF members, joined by two representatives of the FUEN MO from France "Unser Land" paid a study visit to the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The delegation also had a meeting with members of the National Assembly that represent Corsican and Breton minority communities.



At the UNESCO, the EDF

- called for strengthening the cooperation between the two organisations in the framework of specific projects for preserving linguistic diversity and the minorities' cultural heritage and also in the framework of the UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Peoples;
- stressed that contributions by the FUEN member organisations are paramount for reviewing the UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages and ensuring data on minority and indigenous languages is well-documented;
- urged the UNESCO to establish more opportunities of direct funding for minority NGOs that are ready to implement projects for preserving cultural and linguistic diversity;
- called for strengthening the cooperation on the level of minority youth between the two organisations, especially in the context of the YEN's efforts to promote the use of minority languages in cyberspace.

At the National Assembly, the EDF

- discussed with politicians representing minority communities of France the challenges for non-recognized minorities' political and civil society representatives
- discussed functionable mechanisms of minorities' political participation in France and how to spread such good practices for example in the countries of Eastern Europe and Western Balkans
- explored ways for the FUEN to bring to the attention of the French government the importance of minorities in France and Europe to preserve their collective identities and rights and best mechanisms for that
- discussed ways forward with the endorsement of the Minority SafePack Initiative in France.



YOUTH OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES (YEN)

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

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



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

As an independent youth organisation YEN values and enjoys strong cooperation with FUEN and the President of YEN is a member of the FUEN Presidium. In 2022 Andor Barabás was elected as president for a second mandate 2022-2024.

In 2022 we addressed some of the problems brought about by the pandemic with our topic "growing together". With this topic we aimed to empower and motivate young people belonging to national, ethnic and linguistic minorities to actively shape and engage in their own youth organisations, in YEN and in their communities.



In 2023 we could finally implement activities again without the weight of Corona-related restrictions. With our topic "Keeping Traditions Alive. Since 2023!" we address traditions as an important element for minority communities.

Traditions are not constant; they change continuously even though this might be seen by many as a threat to their existence. Traditions support identity and community building as well as social cohesion and serve as visible distinctive features for small communities. At the same time traditions can also be restrictive and the base for conflict. Different interpretations and wishes for change can lead to estrangement when youth cannot or do not want to follow existing identification elements.

Young people belonging to national, ethnic and linguistic minorities are often confronted with these opposing realities in living with their minorities' traditions. They experience that traditions can be vital for ensuring the existence of their communities, but also understand that they pose challenges and can be harmful, specifically to those critical of them.



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

Therefore, in 2023 YEN offers young people the chance to reflect on and better understand the power, opportunities and possible challenges that lie in traditions. Together at our events, we want to think critically about traditions and support youth to gain the skills to make traditions their own, initiate a process of change or create new traditions and encourage them to make their voices heard.

FIND YEN ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

- [@yeni.org](https://www.facebook.com/yeni.org)
- [@yenjev1984](https://www.instagram.com/yenjev1984)
- www.yeni.org

YOUTH OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES/
JUGEND EUROPAISCHER VOLKSGRUPPEN
Kaiser-Friedrich Str. 90, 10585
Berlin, Germany
Mail: office@yeni.org
Tel.: +49 17631779414

For the Kick Off in February 2023 we visited YENs member organisations the Vlach Youth Council of North Macedonia and for the Easter Seminar we were invited to Austria by our member organisation Hrvatski akademski klub (the student organisation of the Burgenlandcroatian minority).



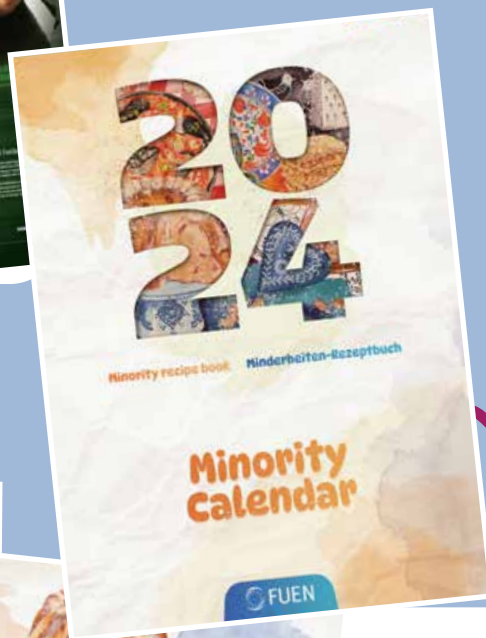
MINORITY PHOTO CALENDAR

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

With the calendar, we plan on celebrating different aspects of minority life – in the context in which our lives are defined by our past, present, and hopefully, 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 *Minority Photo Calendar* present each year one of these defining elements of the minorities. For 2021, we chose folk costumes as the theme, 2022 was the year of contemporary painters and their art, while in 2023 football was the main topic of the calendar, presented through the emotions of the EUROPEADA.

For 2024, we prepared the most delicious *Minority Photo Calendar* yet: the topic is the culinary art of minorities. 12 different dishes, ranging from starters to desserts are presented in this prestige format calendar with beautiful illustrations and useful recipes. What a delight!



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), South Tyrolean Institute of Ethnic Groups (SVI), Tom Lantos Institute (TLI), Coppieters Foundation, Minorities Competence Network, Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Cultural Forum Eastern Europe. We participated in and organised many events involving these partners of ours.



BUILDING-UP THE FUEN

PRESIDIUM 2022–2025



President
Loránt Vincze,

Member of the European Parliament, International Secretary of the Romániai Magyar Demokrata Szövetség (RMDSZ), Hungarian Minority in Romania

lorant.vincze@fuen.org

Vice President
Olivia Schubert,

Vice Chairwoman of the National Self-Government of Germans in Hungary, German minority in Hungary

olivia.schubert@fuen.org



Vice President
Daniel Alfreider,

Vice-President of the South Tyrol Provincial Government, Deputy Governor of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano Südtirol, Vice Chairman of the South Tyrolean People's Party, Südtiroler Volkspartei (SVP), Ladin in South Tyrol, Italy

daniel.alfreider@fuen.org

Vice President
Bahne Bahnsen,

Chairman of Friisk Foriining, North Frisian in Germany

bahne.bahnsen@fuen.org



Vice President
Bernard Gaida,

Representative of the VdG Board of Directors for international cooperation, Association of the German Socio-Cultural Societies in Poland/Verband der Deutschen sozial-kulturellen Gesellschaften in Polen (VdG), German minority in Poland

bernard.gaida@fuen.org

Vice President
Nabi Ibraimtzik,

Vice President of the Federation of the Western Thrace Turks in Europe/Avrupa Bati Trakya Türk Federasyonu (ABTTF), Turkish Minority in Greece

nabi.ibraimtzik@fuen.org



Vice President
Gösta Toft,

Former Secretary of the political party Slesvigsk Parti and Chairman of the Sozialdienst Nordschleswig, Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN), German Minority in Denmark

toft@fuen.org

President of Youth of European Nationalities (YEN)
Andor Barabás,

Hungarian and German Minority in Romania

andor.barabas@yeni.org



STAFF



Nehle Brix-Mannshardt
Operations Manager
nehle.brix-mannshardt@fuen.org



Renata Trischler
Project Manager
agdm@fuen.org



Éva Adél Péntes
Secretary General
eva.pentes@fuen.org



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



Bérengère Vogel
Project Coordinator
berengere.vogel@fuen.org



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



Thea Bargum Petersen
Project Coordinator & Office Manager
thea.bargum@fuen.org



Kateryna Haertel
Project Coordinator & Political Officer
kateryna.haertel@fuen.org



Johan Häggman
Policy Advisor
johan.haggman@fuen.org



Dr. Zora Popova
Scientific Consultant & Project Manager
zora.popova@fuen.org



Roman Roblek
Freelancer
roman.roblek@fuen.org



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



Merle Bornemann
Communication and PR
press@fuen.org



Andrea Polanski
Social Media Managerin AGDM
agdm-media@fuen.org



Michaela Carlsen
Accountant Administrator
michaela.carlsen@fuen.org

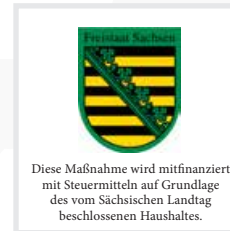
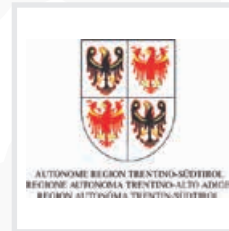


Marko Wessela
Finances & Controlling
marko.wessela@fuen.org



Inga Spiegel
Student Assistent

SPONSORS



FUEN Flensburg / Flensburg
Schiffbrücke 42
24939 Flensburg
Germany
Phone: +49 461 12 8 55

FUEN Berlin
Kaiser-Friedrich-Straße 90
10585 Berlin
Germany
Phone: +49 30 364 284 050

FUEN Brussel / Bruxelles
Rue d'Arlon 25
1050 Bruxelles
Phone: +32 2 234 6101
Email: officebrussels@fuen.org

info@fuen.org | www.fuen.org