

Bernhard Ziesch, FUEN Vive-President

Financial Report at the Assembly of Delegates 2016

Financial Report 2015

Dear Delegates, Dear Guests!

In my function as vice-president I am also responsible for budget management, reporting and controlling.

Last year I was able to report a positive financial statement for 2014. Over the last year priority was once again on budget consolidation and obtaining outside funding for projects.

Now I am once again able to report that this has been successfully achieved. And once again we can submit a positive annual financial report.

The figures you have before you bear this out. The conditions of the continuation forecasts from 2013 have been fulfilled. The negative equity of previous years has been diminished and the liquidity of FUEN has been proven.

The Brussels project, the AGDM office in Berlin and the other successfully concluded multiple-year EU projects are testimony to the fact that this goal was achieved with the above-average efforts of the secretariat-general.

Here I would like to take the opportunity to give special thanks to the FUEN secretariat-general under the leadership of Ms Frau Susann Schenk, the State of Schleswig-Holstein and the Sydbank, who have enabled and secured such a consolidation of the budget. What stands out here is the simultaneous successful obtainment of project funding, which can be seen from the figures before you.

The increase of project funds for 2016 is especially thanks to the dedication of our president, Hans Heinrich Hansen, the diverse support given by Hartmut Koschyk in his function as the German government's commissioner for ethnic Germans and national minorities, and to other members of the German parliament. FUEN has developed into a respected lobbyist and mutual support group for the minorities in Europe, also in the area of sound budget and project management.

What are our goals for the future?

1. We must reinforce the basic institutional configuration and orientate it on the new tasks ahead of us. To do this we need a new administration structure that can rely on institutional funding from the German government.

The public grants received up to now and also the membership fees of the member organisations are a solid foundation upon which we can build.

2. The increased project volume also calls for viable project management structures, which in addition to the technical and content-related work also guarantees proper use of project funds. That is a challenge that also involves multifaceted cooperation with other project partners.

3. For further successful obtainment of outside funding – also from EU funding pools – we need an equity base with a freely available budget so that total financing is guaranteed without budget risks right from

when the project is first applied for.

The examples of recent years have shown that financing of EU projects without adequate equity is associated with financial risks. This is why we should aim to set up a *Fund for European Minorities*. It is more urgent than ever before that we acquire freely available funding, if FUEN is to continue on its successful course – and that is what we want.

The FUEN board is handing over a financially consolidated organisation to the board that is to be newly elected. In the name of its members and the secretariat-general, I would like to thank all member organisations, sponsors and partners for the trust they have placed in us and for the great and varied support in the ongoing legislative term.

On the basis of the 2015 audit report and the results of the audit of the annual report by BDO auditing company, and after discussion of the reports I would ask the delegates to acquit the board.

Bernhard Ziesch