

Federal Union of European Nationalities

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 / 2017

... for the Assembly of Delegates, at the FUEN Congress in Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár / Klausenburg, Romania

Status: May 1st 2017



FUEN AT A GLANCE

Advocate and umbrella organisation

FUEN represents the interests of the European minorities.

FUEN is the most important advocate and the biggest umbrella organisation of the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe. FUEN unites over 90 member organisations from 32 European countries, with new members joining every year.

FUEN sees itself as a mutual support community that represents the interests of the European minorities on a regional, national, and particularly a European level. It maintains a large network of policy makers, scientific institutions, cultural and educational institutions, youth organisations, media and other associates.

FUEN works for the preservation and promotion of identity, language, culture, rights and traditions of the

European minorities. It is the mouthpiece of the minorities in dealing with international organisations, especially the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the OSCE.

FUEN is represented in three different locations: The Secretariat-General in Flensburg, in Berlin and in Brussels.

FUEN is headed by a seven-person executive board, led by the FUEN president Loránt Vincze.

The MinoritySafePack Initiative – a European Citizens Initiative supported by the FUEN and their member organisations - will attract the attention of the European public towards the minorities.



ANNUAL REPORT 2016 / 2017

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This annual Report 2016/2017 provides information about the FUEN, from the timeframe between the two FUEN congresses 2016 – 2017, which are held regularly in May. The fiscal year of the FUEN is the calendar year. The financial year and auditor's report is published in addition to the annual report.

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A FEW WORDS AT THE BEGINNING ...

A historical turnaround for European minorities

On 29 March 2017 the Minority SafePack Initiative – the European Citizens’ Initiative for autochthonous national minorities – was officially registered by the European Commission. This was a perfect sensation!

The Minority SafePack Initiative – MSPI – is not only the first Citizens’ Initiative, that has successfully raised a claim at the European Court of Justice and was afterwards – in coordination with the EU-Commission – partially registered. MSPI is also the first successful initiative for European minorities.

After the initiative had been submitted for registration in July 2013, it was rejected by the European Commission in September 2013. According to the European Commission, the proposed initiative fell “manifestly outside the framework of the Commission’s powers”.

The decision was a harsh blow for everybody involved and brought up once again the dilemma of minority policies and the issue of responsibilities and power in the European Union. Too many times European minorities had addressed Europe as their protecting power in vain.

The Idea of the Minority SafePack Initiative was born many years before it came to an official submission. The initiative developed an enormous attraction and was supported by minorities, their organisations and other partners, no matter whether in- or outside the European Union.

Quickly the initiative became more than a citizens’ initiative of the European Union – it was the perfect example of an act of solidarity, a visible campaign and political strategy, that would eventually put minority issues on a European agenda. At the same time the initiative stands for the recognition of active citizenship, the tool of direct democracy in the European Union, that needs to be taken seriously and is a clear vote for Europe.

You are not alone. One million signatures for diversity in Europe

In autumn 2013, after thorough analysis, a high-profile citizens’ committee filed the cause, that would take three and a half years before a judgement was announced by the European Court of Justice.

This was a time when the prospect of success, as well as the minority issue in Europe as a whole, had been critically discussed over and over again.

Nevertheless, the FUEN in its function of promoter of the initiative, used this time to reorganise itself: the or-

ganisation increased its capacities, consolidated budgets, opened new offices, attracted new sponsors, developed new formats and improved the existing network.

This was also a time when things in Europe and the entire world changed significantly.

In this context things take an unexpected turn: already the hearing on 16 September 2016 strengthened the assumption, that the Court could deny the Commission’s rejection, which was eventually confirmed on 3 February 2017 in Luxembourg.

Afterwards things happened very quickly. The citizens’ committee, its supporters and the FUEN – all of them conferred about which steps to take next and a dialogue with the EU-Commission was launched.

The decision of the EU-Commission of 29 March 2017 in favour of the initiative’s registration, is a decision in favour of the protection of national and linguistic minorities, as well as for the strengthening of cultural and linguistic diversity within the European Union!

Launched in 2013 in a colourful event during the FUEN Congress in Brixen (South Tyrol), celebrations will take



place in Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár / Klausenburg in occasion of the 2017 FUEN Congress, with initiators, friends and supporters eventually coming together again.

It is a historical ability to resist in difficult times, to wait for the right moment and to grasp the opportunity when it arises. A few years are a tiny little part in the history of minority protection and the 60-year-old activity of the FUEN and its member organisations.

So let’s assume that this is the right moment – lets bundle the forces of our common commitment:

Susann Schenk,
FUEN General Secretary

„We want to change the face of Europe, put the minority question on the agenda and it finally looks like we will manage to do so. After a surprising positive scenario, I am optimistic that we will eventually succeed.“, so FUEN Präsident Lorànt Vincze bei der Konferenz zum MinoritySafePack am 04. Mai 2017 im Europäischen Parlament.



FUEN 2016

Recognition for “building bridges”

The year 2016

The year 2016 was characterised by the following events and initiatives:

- the 61st FUEN Congress in the European City of Culture Breslau/Wrocław,
- new elections of the FUEN Presidium
- cooperation in the context of the German OSCE Chairmanship in 2016,
- organisation of the 3rd edition of the EUROPEADA, European Football Championship of the autochthonous, national minorities,
- the Minority SafePack Initiative,
- vast commitment for the issues of European minorities and for more than 90 member organisations,
- various activities of the Working Groups,
- targeted lobby work on all political levels,
- trustworthy cooperation with sponsors and supportive regions
- the launching of the projects and the Fact Finding Mission in Ukraine, Georgia, the Western Balkans and the Caucasus.

The development of the situation in Europe over the last years, characterised by a worldwide refugee crisis, wars in Ukraine and Syria, an ongoing economic crisis, with a tendency to renationalization, disintegration and restoration of the borders in Europe, has brought up several matters in terms of security and cooperation, which reinforces the OSCE as organization in Eu-

rope. It is uncontested that in Europe and in the rest of the World many critical situations are still related to different nationalities living together.

The focus of the OSCE on national minorities, tolerance and non-discrimination has strengthened the FUEN and its member organisations. The German OSCE

Chairmanship dedicated its commitment to the national minorities and their potential to arbitrate between states.

According to the German Secretary of State Steinmeier, who suggested that the expertise of FUEN should be employed in Germany’s foreign policy, the FUEN is willing to share its experience and the minorities’ knowledge and skills on conflict resolution and prevention.

The FUEN dedicated a separate programme to this special year including various projects, contributions and cooperation initiatives. Since its foundation, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is an indispensable partner in the protection of minorities.

Since August 2013, Astrid Thors from Finland is the new High Commissioner for national minorities of the OSCE. Since the establishment of the role of High Commissioner in 1992, four officials have addressed many inter-ethnic conflicts in various parts of Europe. In their work, they are less seeking for public attention, but are trying to de-escalate tensions and conflicts thanks to silent diplomacy. This is how the High Commissioners set the course for the development of minority protection in Europe. The OSCE Commissioners have elaborated several recommendations on the minority rights on education and language, participation, media, police, integration and international relations, which receive more and more attention.

For this reason the High Commissioner of the OSCE, Astrid Thors, was nominated key speaker at the annual congress, which took place in the European Cultural Capital Breslau / Wrocław.

In her speech, Astrid Thors commented the current situation in Europe and in the rest of the World. She pointed out that it is part of her diplomatic function to carry out dialogues on conflict prevention throughout Europe. “This is not an easy task. Hate speeches become more and more frequent and we can currently see alarming developments in some regions”, she says. “The reason can be found in the current refugee situation, which puts under risk the willingness to adopt a tolerant mind-set. Instead of playing off minorities against each other, societies should aim to achieve an intercultural dialogue. Once the conditions for a peaceful coexistence are given, education, justice and other institutions of everyday life must be accessible for everybody.” Astrid Thors wants the minorities in Europe to take an advisory role and sees the present representatives as bridge builders between the communities.

Astrid Thors defines FUEN a strong organization that is working hard to improve the situation of national minorities and strengthen their political representation and participation. Moreover, interesting FUEN initiatives improve the position and the visibility of the minority representatives. Mrs. Thors concludes that for more than half a century FUEN has been successful in formulating the common issues of the national minorities.

The FUEN also welcomed the intention of the German Chair of the OSCE to focus in 2016 especially on those topics, that are strongly related to the current crisis in the European security order, making clear that the commitment will also continue in future.

Astrid Thors, High Commissioner for national minorities of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) about the FUEN:

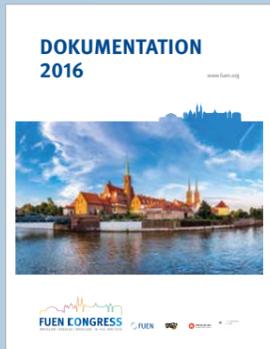
„We see FUEN as a forceful organization working hard to improve the position of national minorities and their political representation and participation. FUEN’s interesting initiatives, such as the Forum of European Minorities and the Minority SafePack, enhance both the voice and the visibility of minority actors. FUEN has been able to successfully articulate the common concerns of national minorities across Europe for over half a century.

Since 1949 you have been active in bringing together minority communities to make their voices heard at the international level. The linguistic rights of minorities, their education, and full participation are recurrent topics that my institution has identified as being significant for reducing inter-ethnic tensions and thus mitigating the possibility of tensions escalating into conflict. These are also among FUEN’s key areas of interest, which are addressed by this annual congress as well as within projects directed at minority and majority communities.”

An annual event on a European level

From Breslau / Wrocław to Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár / Klausenburg

The FUEN Congress is the largest annual meeting of the autochthonous national minorities in Europe. For more than 60 years the FUEN Congress has taken place in cooperation with the FUEN member organizations and has become a real institution. Around 250 representatives of minorities attend the FUEN Congress and discuss current issues of the minorities in a European context. Thanks to the Congress, European minorities receive significant attention and consideration in Europe that goes beyond their regional issues.



In May 2016 the 61st FUEN Congress took place in the European Capital of Culture in Breslau/Wrocław in cooperation with the Association of German Social Cultural Societies in Poland (VdG), the organisation of the German minority in Poland. The official opening speech

was held by Astrid Thors, High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In the context of the German OSCE Chairmanship, the congress was dedicated to the issues of the national minorities and their role in Europe. The minorities in Poland described their current situation with the question on Europe's future in times of a European crisis leading to a lively discussion. The FUEN, on the other hand, presented its positive annual results and a new FUEN president was elected.

The 62nd Congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) is going to take place from 17 - 21 May 2017 in the Grand Hotel Napoca in Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár / Klausenburg in Romania. The

Congress will be organised by the FUEN member organisation Romániai Magyar Demokrata Szövetség, the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) together with other member organisations. This FUEN Congress will be dedicated to the successful Minority SafePack Initiative and the contribution of the minorities to the European cultural heritage. The main speaker at the event will be Tobor Navracsecs, European Commissioner for education, culture, youth and sports.



The FUEN Congress 2018 has already been assigned to West Frisia and will take place in the European Capital of Culture **Ljouwert/Leeuwarden-Fryslân**. **Together with the member organisation** Ried fan de Fryske Beweging and other partners the congress aims to involve the minorities in the cultural programme in the most different ways. Indeed, considering the 20th anniversary of the European Charta for Regional and Minority Languages of the Council of Europe in 2018, special attention is dedicated to plurilingualism and linguistic diversity

The request for tender on the hosting of the FUEN Congress in 2019 has already been passed to the FUEN member organisations. In the context of the common projects with the minorities in Ukraine, that have taken place since 2015, the idea of a FUEN Congress was expressed during the current Fact Finding Mission 2016 in Kiev. Indeed, a common application for the hosting of the FUEN Congress in 2019 has already been presented by the minority organisations in Ukraine. Moreover in 2019 the FUEN celebrates its 70th anniversary.

We are looking for Member Organisations to organise the upcoming FUEN Congresses: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 ...



Ambitious goals and experienced representatives

Assembly of Delegates

The assembly of the FUEN delegates took place on 21 May 2016 in the occasion of the 61st FUEN Congress in the European Capital of Culture Breslau / Wrocław.

In line with the charter the following resolutions were passed:

- report and ratification of Presidium and General Secretariat at the end of term of office 2013 – 2016;
- adoption of the budget, the budget estimate and the auditors' report;
- future key topics and initiatives of the FUEN;
- adoption of 12 resolutions;
- election of the Presidium and the two auditors;
- amendments of the charter;
- admission of two new full members and one sustaining member.

Under the direction of newly elected FUEN president Loránt Vincze, member of the Hungarian minority in Romania and representative of the member organisation Romániai Magyar Demokrata Szövetség (RMDSZ), the following representatives were elected into the Presidium for a term of three years:

- Vice President Olga Martens, German minority in Russia, Vice President of the International Association for German Culture (IVDK),
- Vice President Daniel Alfreider, Member of the Ladin minority, Vice Chairman of the South Tyrolean People's Party (SVP) and member of the Italian Parliament,
- Vice President Bernhard Ziesch, of the Lusatian Sorbs, former Managing Director of Domowina – Union of Lusatian Sorbs / Zwjazk Łužiskich Serbow,

- Vice President Gösta Toft, German minority in Denmark, former Secretary of the political party SP and Chairman of the Social Services in Nordschlesig, Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN),
- Vice President Dieter Paul Küssner, Danish Minority in Germany, former Chairman of Sydslesvigsk Forening (SSF),
- Vice President Halit Habipoglu, Western Thrace Turks, President of Avrupa Bati Trakya Türk Federasyonu (ABTTF) - Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe
- President of Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) Britta Tästensen, German minority in Denmark

Whereas for Daniel Alfreider and Gösta Toft this is the first term of office, all the other elected representatives have already worked in the FUEN Presidium before.

Hans Heinrich Hansen, FUEN President between 2007 and 2016, was nominated honorary president of the FUEN. Both, Hans Heinrich Hansen and Vice President Martha Stocker were honoured in a farewell ceremony after they had given an overview about the most notable events of the last years.

In 2016 also the auditors, the FUEN members in the European Dialogue Forum and the spokesmen of the working groups were elected for a term of office of three years.



Bernhard Ziesch

Bernhard Gaida

Halit Hapib Oglu

FUEN auditors 2016 – 2019

- Gerd Wiencke
- Hans-Christian Bock



In 2016 the delegates passed also an amendment that provides a statutory function to the Working groups within the FUEN. Currently there are three working groups with another one being established. The other amendments to the Charter, besides the one on the new status for the Working Groups, regarded the re-

Presidium

The newly elected Presidium for the term of office 2016 – 2019 was constituted during a first assembly in occasion of the EUROPEADA 2016 in Sand in Taufers, South Tyrol.

After this first session, in 2016-2017 the new FUEN Presidium met regularly in other 6 occasions. The members of the Presidium have split among themselves the various responsibilities and competences and have participated in a significant number of events, meetings and work sessions.

requirements for Presidium members, the terms of the Assembly of delegates and the changes in the name of the FUEN.

The Assembly of delegates adopted also a resolution on the admission of three new members, adopting a total of 12 resolutions.

The resolutions of the Assembly of Delegates and of the Working Groups were duly published. The Assembly of Delegates will meet on 20 May 2017 in occasion of the 62nd FUEN Congress in Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár / Klausenburg, Rumänien.



FUEN Presidium meetings 2016 / 2017:

Presidium meetings – term of office 2013 – 2016

- 22.01.2017/Flensburg, Germany
Beginning of the year meeting
- 02.02.2016 / Europe
Skype-Session
- 18.03.2016 / Berlin, Germany
Meeting of the Presidium
- 15.04.2016 / Berlin, Germany
Meeting of the Presidium
- 20.05.2016 / Breslau-Wrocław, Poland
Meeting of the Presidium
- 21.05.2016 / Breslau-Wrocław, Poland
Assembly of the Delegates

Presidium meetings – term of office 2016 – 2019

- 16.06.2016 2016 / Brixen, Italy
Constitution of Presidium 2016 – 2019
- 06-07.10.2016 / Berlin, Germany
Meeting of the Presidium
- 08.-9.12.2016 / Berlin, Germany
Meeting of the Presidium
- 03.-04.02.2017 / Berlin, Germany
Meeting of the Presidium – Judgement on MinoritySafePack
- 17.-18.03.2017/ Berlin, Germany
Meeting of the Presidium
- 17.05.2017 / Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár / Klausenburg, RO
Meeting of the Presidium
- 20.05.2017 / Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár / Klausenburg, RO
Assembly of the Delegates



FLensburg / Flensburg · Berlin · Brussel / Bruxelles

FUEN General Secretariat

European commitment and a highly-motivated team

FUEN General Secretary is Susann Schenk, a member of the minority of the Lusatian Sorbs. As General Secretary, she is responsible for the strategic development of the organisation and needs to ensure the respective basic requirements.

Our locations

FUEN operates in three locations with the headquarters of the General Secretariat being located in Flensburg, a city with very strong historical links for FUEN. Moreover, Flensburg is also home to the FUEN House of Minorities for events and projects.

As a European umbrella organisation and a body that carries out representative functions the FUEN has its offices in Brussels/Bruelles. In 2015 and 2016 the

Hanse-Office was staffed with Frank de Boer, who belongs to the West Frisian minority.

Since 2015 the FUEN has also a representative office in the Bundeshaus in Berlin, that functions also as coordination centre for the Working Group of German Minorities. The office is led by Éva Adel Péntzes from the German minority in Hungary.

Our team

The FUEN has gradually increased its number of employees from 3,5 at the beginning to currently 15 team members (01.05.2017) working in various offices and projects.

The medium-term planning foresees a further increase to 20 permanent team members for 18 positions in 3 locations in collaboration with free project staff and freelancers.

The establishment of a European team operating in three locations requires respective measures. We would

like to thank the team members of 2014 – 2016 for their successful and tireless commitment.

The increase of personnel was carried out in 2016 and 2017 in a recruiting process with professional advice of a recruiting agency. FUEN disposes of a significant pool of applicants and a great deal of interest. Together with its partners, especially the youth organisations of European Nationalities, the FUEN aims to provide for the respective education of the younger generation and future employees.

FUEN COMMUNICATION

The FUEN Brand

Pressreleases and Statements 2016

In 2016, the FUEN has

- Published around **130** pressreleases and statements,
- Released a **quarterly** newsletter for the FUEN and for the Working Group of German Minorities
- Posted over **200** Facebook posts and news-bits on social media
- Hosted over **20** events in the office of the House of Minorities
- Participated at around **40** events hosted by our member organisations

- Carried out around **27** events,
- The FUEN maintains its web presence at www.fuen.org.

The word mark FUEN is utilised in all projects and products.

EUROPEADA – is the brand of the football championship of the autochthonous national minorities. Further flagship projects use independent communications.



OUR MEMBERS

The FUEN Family

FUEN Membership

FUEN is the largest umbrella organisation of the European autochthonous national minorities and aims to represent their interests through a membership structure. About 25% of the approximately 400 national minorities in Europe are directly represented within the FUEN, with many of them maintaining direct contact with the organisation. The function of the Federal Union of European Nationalities as umbrella organisation is rather unique in Europe. Currently the FUEN has 93 members in 32 European states.

In 2016 FUEN approved the admission of three new members and in 2017 other three applications for membership are going to be submitted.

Moreover, there is a number of organisations, whose membership application is still in process. In the year 2016/2017 seventeen organisations contacted FUEN for membership, which increases the number of potential candidates to a total of 32. Applicants need to go through a detailed application procedure, which is supported by on-site visits and a cooperation in various projects.

In terms of membership requests in 2016 – 2017 the following on-site visits were carried out:

- Visit of the applicant Russian School of Estonia, Vice President Olga Martens
- Visit of the applicant Kosovo Youth Union Association in Kosovo, Vice President Halit Habip Oglu
- Visit of the applicant Kirdzhali Turkish Culture and Arts Association in Bulgaria, Vice President Halit Habip Oglu

Thanks to new initiatives, as for example the project “Minorities in Western Balkans”, and the vast activities of the FUEN Working Groups, more and more minority organisations get access to the European network. Besides the regular and extraordinary membership FUEN offers also a sustaining membership, as for example for institutions.

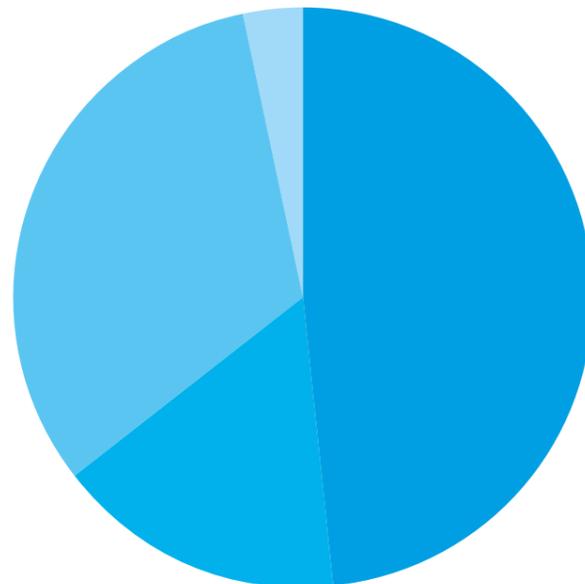
Thanks to its gradual growth the FUEN is going to strengthen further its unique role in Europe.

Number of minorities in Europe:
more than 400
FUEN members:
93

Of which

- Full members: 45
- Extraordinary members: 15
- Sustaining members: 30
- Dormant members: 3

Contact request: 32
Status: 01.05.2017



Membership fees

The resolution on the current system of membership fees was passed in 2011 in view of the Congress in Eisenstadt/Željezno. Fees vary according to the category an organisation belongs to, which in turn depends on the number of members a minority has and its geopolitical position (EU, Extra-EU, CIS). Over the last 5 years (2012-2016) this system was proven to be efficient and helped to secure the permanent income that is needed to finance the FUEN.

The payment of membership fees is not only a symbolic contribution, but regulates the active and passive voting rights, the entitlement to vote, the participation and the authorisation of FUEN events, as well as the application for their hosting.

Promoting a stimulus-contribution system between member and umbrella organisation, the FUEN tries to increase the support for the single members, the regional presence, as well as the extent to which

members are involved in FUEN activities. The positive development over the last years and the momentum of the Minority SafePack Initiative have created ideal conditions to achieve these goals.

The FUEN is aware of the most different situations of the single minorities and their organisations. Many of them make use of the status of sustaining member. As the FUEN sees itself as a community based on solidarity, the membership fee system will be analysed to see whether it corresponds to current needs. In this context, a designated Working Group will be established. The underlying principle should be that the FUEN works for its members and receives in turn a contribution, that corresponds to the capacities and the respective situation of the single minorities. At the same time the participation in events and the access to mandates shall not only depend on the financial capabilities of the minorities.

FUEN Membership Fees 2011 – 2017:

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (5.5.)
Amount	39.125,00 €	56.172,63 €	59.712,50 €	65.685,00 €	65.760,00 €	68.397,50 €	60,236,00 €
Paying MOs	46	39	41	52	49	58	43
Reduced fee applications	0	19	13	18	16	20	16



The FUEN Working groups

The FUEN Working groups allow members to focus on specific topics or activities within the organisation.

In 2016, the Assembly of Delegates passed an amendment that provides statutory function to the Working groups within the FUEN. The Working Groups work closely together with the FUEN Presidium and the General Secretariat and report to the Assembly of Delegates.

In their annual conferences in October and November 2016 the working groups have finalised their agenda and elected their spokesmen. Also in 2016, the working groups have further developed their image and communication platforms. FUEN member organisations

have suggested to form new working groups; a working group for non-kinstate minorities, and for education and language. After approval by the Presidium additional working groups can be established at any time.

The activities of the Working Groups of the Slavic, German and Turkish minorities require major commitment of its members.

Working Group of German Minorities:

Abbreviation: AGDM
 Founded in: 1991
 Members: 21
www.agdm.fuen.org

Spokesman:
 Bernhard Gaida,
 German Minorities in Poland
 Coordination:
 AGDM Coordination Centre
 Berlin

Working Group of Slavic Minorities:

Abbreviation: AGSM
 Founded in: 1991
 Members: more than 20
www.sm.fuen.org

Spokesman:
 Bernhard Ziesch,
 Lusatian Sorbs
 Coordination:
 Domowina – Association of
 Lusatian Sorbs, Branch office
 Bautzen / Budyšin

Working Group of Turkish Minorities / Communities:

Abbreviation: TAG
 Founded in: 2013
 Members: 10
www.tag.fuen.org

Spokesman:
 Halit Habip Oglu,
 Western Thrace Turks
 Coordination:
 ABTTF Office in Witten, Secretariat of the Working Group of Turkish Minorities/Communities

25th Annual Conference of the Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) within the FUEN

Berlin, 07. – 11. November 2016
 Organised by the AGDM coordination centre in Berlin

XIX. Seminar of Slavic minorities within the FUEN

Subotica – Vojvodina,
 27.10. – 30.10.2016
 Organised by Domowina and
 Demokratski savez Hrvata u Vojvodini

3rd Annual Conference of the Working Group of Turkish minorities within the FUEN

Berlin, 14. – 18. November 2016
 Organised by ABTTF

AGDM

Working Group of German Minorities within the FUEN

2016 – Anniversary. The Working Group of German Minorities within the FUEN (AGDM) was founded in 1991 and represents 20 organisations of German minorities. Since 2015 the AGDM has a coordination centre in Berlin, lead by Éva Péntzes, who belongs to the minorities of Germans in Hungary.

Until October 2016 it was FUEN Vice President and Vice Chairman of the International Association for German Culture (IVDK) Olga Martens to preside the AGDM, the oldest Working Group within the FUEN. For the next three years the Working Group will be chaired by Bernhard Gaida, Chairman of the Association of Socio-Cultural Societies in Poland (VdG).

The annual conference in occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Working Group of German Minorities was, without any doubt, the highlight of the year 2016. The German Chancellor Angela Merkel received the AGDM and its representatives in the Federal Chancellery in

Berlin. She congratulated them on the 25th anniversary and expressed her appreciation for their dedication and effort and the precious role of the German minorities for intercultural relations.

Under the supervision of Hartmut Koschyk, Member of the German Bundestag and Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities, other high-level political events followed: for example with Members of the German Bundestag, in the Office of the Federal President, in the Federal Foreign Office with Minister of State Böhmer and intermediary organisations, with representatives of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

The reception took place in the representative office of the German-speaking community, the Wallonia – Brussels Federation and of the Walloon Region in Berlin.

Additionally, in 2016 the AGDM coordination centre organised the following activities and initiatives:

- Three more work sessions, which took place between the annual conferences in January, March and May.
- The approval of the AGDM agenda and the elaboration of the programme for 2016 and 2017.
- Visits of the Organisations of German Minorities in Berlin.
- Participation in the open day of the Federal Ministry of the Interior.
- Involvement in the elaboration of the brochure on German minorities, published by the Federal Ministry of the Interior.
- AGDM Website www.agdm.fuen.org,
- Participation if the FUEN Congress.
- Participation in the EUROPEADA – 3rd European Football Championship of the autochthonous, national minorities in South Tyrol with 3 male and one female team and many media reports.

Priorities for 2017:

- Annual conference 2017.
- Travelling exhibition „21 German Stories“ about German minorities in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in states of the former Soviet Union. The exhibition is supposed to be officially inaugurated in Berlin in September 2017.
- Elaboration of a new funding policy in view of the parliamentary elections.

In the run-up to the parliamentary elections in 2017, the AGDM members agreed on the elaboration of a new funding policy considering the forward-looking and system-

atic cooperation between the German minorities and the German government.

AGSM

The Working Group of Slavic Minorities / Slowjanske mjeńšiny

Focus: establishment of coordination centre. The Working Group of Slavic Minorities was founded in 1991. Since then, annual seminars for Slavic minorities are being organised, also thanks to the commitment of the Lusatian Sorbs. The venue alternates every year between Lusatia and other communities of Slavic minorities.

More than 20 Slavic minorities are represented in the FUEN. Additionally, the organisation maintains relations with many other Slavic minorities in Europe which, over the years, enhanced the development of a network of around 50 organisations.

The XIX FUEN Seminar of Slavic Minorities took place on 27 – 30 October 2016 and was organised by the FUEN member organisations Domowina, Association of Lusatian Sorbs/Zwjazk Łužiskich Serbow, and the Demokratski savez Hrvata u Vojvodini.

Nine organisations from seven countries (Germany, Serbia, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Croatia and Austria) participated in the Seminar that took place in Subotica. Besides the information exchange on current FUEN issues and the activities of the single organisations attending the seminar, the main topics of the agenda regarded the resolution on work guidelines for the working group's future activities, as well as the election of a spokesman. In terms of content, participants covered topics such as „Political Participation” and “Plurilingual education models”. When comparing the various existing models, it became evident that the situation of the single minorities varies

significantly in terms of both, their legal status in their home countries as well as the effective implementation of their rights and the level of available funding.

The new spokesman of the Working Group of Slavic Minorities is Bernhard Ziesch. At the same time the Working Group pointed out once more the importance of a coordination centre.

Unlike the Working Groups of the German and Turkish Minorities, whose common feature is their common language, the Working Group of Slavic Minorities is characterised by a series of different Slavic languages, with Czech and Russian having the status of working languages. Moreover, in 2016, the Working Group's website was updated and foresees now also an extension to mobile users. One of the goals is also to create a news portal in different languages.

The main objective is to provide the Working Group of Slavic Minorities with the same conditions as other Working Groups and to support the single minorities, who currently are rather poorly positioned and represented.

The Working Group points out, that regardless of the type of funding, all member organisations need to be treated equally, also in terms of the participation in events.

At the same time, the Working Group will start a dialogue regarding protection and support for minorities with the respective countries, among which also Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and Serbia.

Priorities for 2017:

- Seminar of Slavic Minorities on 22.-25. June 2017 in occasion of the International Folklore Festival Lausitz/Łužica
- Establishment of a Coordination Centre for the Working Group of Slavic Minorities
- Dialogue with the single states

AGTM

The Working Group of Turkic Minorities

Road map adopted. Based on the initiative by FUEN Vice President, Halit Habipoglu, the Working Group of Turkic Minorities was established. Since 2013, he has been active as the Vice President of the FUEN Presidium. By following the example of other working groups under the FUEN, he succeeded in establishing the Turkic Minorities working group as an additional working group under the FUEN.

This new format of uniting Turkish minorities under the FUEN Working Groups, envisions a strong solidarity and cooperation amid Turkish minorities and other historic minorities. The aim is to support Turkish minorities on a vast geographical area from the Caucasus to the Balkans with the same passion as ABTTF is acting on behalf of Turkish minorities of the Western Thrace.

In 2016 the Working Group of Turkic Minorities can look back onto their 3rd annual meeting. With logistical support from FUEN's Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) the meeting was held successfully from 14-17 November in Berlin.

The meeting collected Turkish minorities from different countries of Europe. Turks in Kosovo and Bulgaria attended to the meeting for the first time: The Kosovo Young Association of Kosovo and the Kardzhali Turkish Culture and Art Association from Bulgaria represented the Turkish minorities in the Balkans.

The Working Group of Turkic Minorities is looking to expanding its ranks with Turkish minorities from the Balkans, who they eventually are hoping to introduce as new members into the FUEN.

FUEN President Loránt Vincze informed the participants about FUEN's work, and further concluded, that the FUEN will continue to support Turkish minorities and communities.

In the session titled „Right to learn Native language and Education in Native language“, the participants were informed about their respective rights within their own countries and regions about learning and education in their own mother tongue. They shared information about their activities and experiences from their own countries with civil society representatives on the protection of mother tongue language and education within the same.

FUEN Vice President Halit Habipoglu presented regulation changes and working group regulations from the 2016 FUEN Congress. FUEN Vice President Halit Habipoglu was elected as the speaker of the working group.

The meeting was concluded after the participants discussed the road map and their proposals about the groups' activities for 2017.

The working group is very active in cooperating with international organisations.

In 2016, the working group paid a study visit to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Fact Finding Missions for 2017, amongst others, to the Crimean Tatars in Ukraine, Kosovo, and Bulgaria were prepared.

Priorities for 2017:

- Supporting the concerns of the Meskhetian Turks and the Crimean Tatars through Fact Finding Missions
- New members in the Balkans
- Provide and present the know-how of the Turkish minority concerns in international organizations and to FUEN members

Minority policy – a policy of peace

Challenges in Europe and the rest of the World

In European history crises and conflicts were often due to problems emerging from the coexistence of different nationalities. Many of the 90 FUEN member organisations are affected by the current conflicts in Europe. FUEN promotes a peaceful coexistence of nationalities in Europe and shows that for decades minorities have carried out a peaceful and future-oriented commitment in many European regions. Indeed, minority policy is a policy of peace.

Minorities in Caucasus: Dialogue for a stable future

- House of Minorities in Flensburg, 14 – 17 December 2016
- FUEN project in occasion of the German OSCE Chairmanship in 2016

Western Balkans: Access to municipal services

- Skopje * Belgrade * Flensburg, 30 October – 4 November 2016
- Common project of FUEN, ECMI, GIZ and the Bundesland Schleswig-Holstein on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Cooperation and Development.

Autonomy and Diversity, Challenges for multiculturalism in Italy and the World.

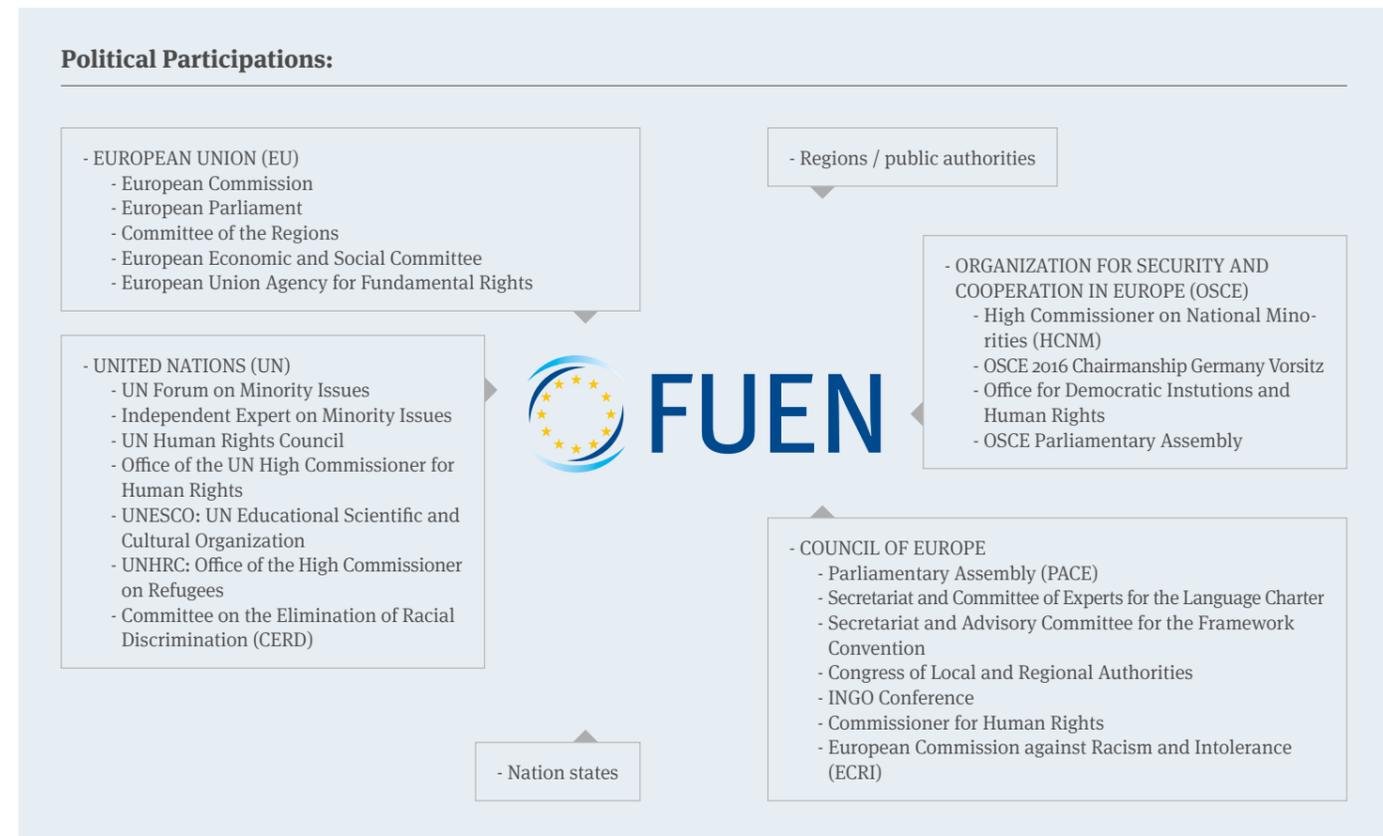
The parliamentary group representing linguistic minorities in the Italian Parliament organises a Conference in collaboration with the Institute of Advanced Studies in Geopolitics and Auxiliary Sciences (IsAG) and the FUEN, Federal Union of European Nationalities. Rome 19 October 2016



Participation and dialogue between equals

In the political multi-level system of Europe, the FUEN, in close cooperation with the international organisations, tries to strengthen minority concerns together with states and regions. With its many years

of experience and its extensive network, the FUEN encourages the relevant actors to lead a sustainable minority policy.



FUEN aims at establishing a political representation at the European Union level with the European Parliament - similar to the contact committees and advisory committees at national level. Currently the FUEN a participatory status at the Council of Europe and has consultative status with the United Nations. The FUEN

demands that the Council of Europe's human rights conventions, the recommendations of the OSCE, as well as the conventions and political instruments of the United Nations, will be taken seriously and should develop with the course of time.



European Dialogue Forum

Together with MEPs from the European Parliament, FUEN launched the European Dialogue Forum in 2008. The aim is to establish

a dialogue and contact committee for the interests of the minorities directly at the European Parliament.

A new partnership with the European Parliament

June 2016

FUEN President Loránt Vincze has taken the opportunity to present the activities of the FUEN in the new legislative period before the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages:

The new President presents FUEN in the European Parliament

09.06.2016 – Press releases

FUEN President Loránt Vincze participated in the meeting of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament (Minority Intergroup) in Strasbourg today. The newly elected President of FUEN was greeted and congratulated by co-chairwoman Kinga Gál (EPP): “We are happy to have a direct connection with FUEN and I hope that we shall have fruitful contacts with this organisation.”

January 2017

FUEN and the members of the European Dialogue Forum present FUENs activities directly at the European Parliament. Prior to this, the inaugural meeting of the Dialogue Forum took place in Brussels

First meeting of the new European Dialogue Forum

20.01.2017 – Press releases

On Wednesday 18 January 2017 the first official meeting of the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) of FUEN and YEN since the election its members at the FUEN Congress in 2016 took place in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The working body was established in 2008 to develop closer contacts with the European institutions and influence European policies. The meeting was used to discuss its priorities and working plan for the upcoming years.

European Parliament listens attentively to what FUEN has to tell

20.01.2017 – Press releases

On Thursday 20 January 2017, FUEN had the privilege to be able to present its organisation, network and programme of activities to the European Parliament. At the well attended meeting of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages, FUEN President Loránt Vincze gave the Members of the European Parliament (MEP) an update on the latest developments inside FUEN and the programme of activities for the coming year.

May 2017

Together with members of the Citizen’s Committee, FUEN presents the successful registration of the Minority SafePack Initiative, with the motto: “Hite the road”, at the European Parliament.

Celebrating the success of the Minority SafePack in the European Parliament

03.05.2017 – Press releases

On May 3–4 the FUEN is holding a conference in Brussels, under the high patronage of the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani. The conference entitled Hit the road – the Minority SafePack Initiative and the European Parliament is being hosted by RMDSZ MEPs Iuliu Winkler and Csaba Sógor, representatives of the Hungarian community in Romania. The two-day conference started on Wednesday with a constructive internal meeting about the strategy of the Minority SafePack (MSPI) petition campaign followed by a work-dinner in the European Parliament.

President of the European Parliament fully supports the FUEN Minority SafePack

The conference at the European Parliament was held under the high patronage of the new president of the European Parliament, Mr. Antonio Tajani. The successor of Mr. Schulz, has for the first time appointed an advisor to the linguistic minorities in the EU. Mr. Tajani’s term runs up to the European Parliament elections in June 2019.

„The citizens are the center of Europe, not the states, that is why the European Citizens‘ Initiative is so important and noone should feel like a second grade citizen because all languages are equal as key elements of our diversity.“ – this was the main message of the European Parliaments‘ President Antonio Tajani as transmitted by his personal councillor for minority issues Markus Warasin who reassured the FUEN that the President very much supports the Minority Safe-Pack Initiative and his door is always open.“

Dr. Markus Warasin, from South Tyrol, has previously held positions in the European Parliament and with the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. FUEN is looking forward to working together to improve the situation of European minorities and their languages.



Meetings and events in relation to FUEN political participation at European and international organisations, including cooperation with partner organisations

European Union



- **January 2016, EP Brussels:** Round table discussion “Minority rights in theory and practice” with contribution by Loránt Vincze
- **February 2016, EP Strasbourg:** Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages with Tibor Navracsecs, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
- **March 2016, EP Brussels:** Conference “Freedom of Association in Greece, organised by ABTTF and hosted by Csaba Sógor MEP
- **March 2016, EP Strasbourg:** Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages on Cornish in England and the current state of Frisian, Low-Saxon and Bildts in the Netherlands
- **April 2016, EP Brussels:** Roma Week in the European Parliament on the occasion of Roma Day – Group Leaders debate – A Commitment Against Antigypsyism, hosted by the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI)
- **April 2016, EP Brussels:** Conference “Unsolved Restitution Cases in the Post-Communist Countries, hosted by Pál Csáky MEP
- **April 2016, EP Brussels:** Debate and film screening of the movie “THE MACEDONIAN”, hosted by Josep Maria Terricabras MEP and Marek Plura MEP
- **May 2016, EP Brussels:** Conference “A Europe of Diaporas”, organised by AGBU, EUJS and Phirin Amenca with contribution by Frank de Boer
- **May 2016, Kiel:** Strategy meeting for the Minority SafePack Initiative with lawyer Prof Ernst Johansson
- **May 2016, FUEN Congress in Wroclaw:** Presence of several representatives of the European Parliament
- **May 2016, EP Brussels:** Cocktail reception and presentation organised by Google Translate “United in Diversity – the Power of Translation” in the European Parliament, hosted by Catherine Stihler MEP
- **June 2016,** Participation in consultations of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency
- **June 2016, EP Strasbourg:** New FUEN President Loránt Vincze presents himself in the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages
- **June 2016, EP Brussels:** ELEN Conference of the European Language Equality Network (ELEN) “Respecting Linguistic Diversity? Language Discrimination in the EU”, hosted by Liadh Ní Riada MEP

- **June 2016, Brussels:** Enlargement Day of the Committee of the Regions: Contribution of the sub-national authorities to the enlargement process, in cooperation with European Commission DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
- **June 2016, EP Brussels:** International Conference “Prospects for Minority and Indigenous Rights in South-East Asia, hosted by Urmas Paet MEP
- **June 2016, EP Brussels:** exhibition „Hungarian artists in Slovakia“, hosted by Pál Csáky MEP
- **July 2016, Brussels:** Debate “The NATO Summit in Warsaw – Consequences for European Security”, with NATO Generals and Reinhard Brandl MP
- **July 2016, Brussels:** Committee of the Regions lunchtime briefing “The Role of Subnational Parliaments in the EU”
- **July 2016, Brussels:** Visit and discussion with European Committee of the Regional Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein
- **September 2016, EP Brussels:** Hearing by the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO) on “The constitutional relationship of the United Kingdom with the European Union: the consequences of the results of the referendum of 23 June 2016”
- **September 2016, CJEU Luxembourg:** Oral Hearing on the Minority SafePack Initiative at the General Court of the European Union
- **September 2016, EP Brussels:** Conference “Multilingualism and Equal Rights in the EU: the Role of Sign Languages”, hosted by Helga Stevens MEP
- **September 2016, EP Brussels:** Conference “Low Saxon Languages: A Sleeping Giant”, hosted by Annie Schrijer-Pierik MEP and Jens Gieseke MEP
- **September 2016, Brussels:** Visit DialogForumNorden to the European institutions in Brussels
- **October 2016, Brussels:** Release educational cartoon “What are minority rights?”, developed by ECMI and CMC
- **October 2016, Brussels:** Conference “The European Union and the Caucasus: New Perspectives on an Evolving Relationship”
- **October 2016, EP Strasbourg:** Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages discusses the situation of national minority communities living in Serbia and the Action Plan for the realization of the rights of national minorities
- **November 2016, Brussels:** Seminar “Which Steps Towards European Policies Against Anti-Gypsyism?”, hosted by the Open Society Foundations and Michael Roth, Minister of State for Europe at the German Federal Foreign Office.
- **November 2016, Brussels:** Statement “Letter of Support to Stop Penalising the Use of Minority Languages in Elections in Bulgaria”, after request by the Turkish minority in Bulgaria
- **November 2016, Bruges:** Conference on “Differentiation: A new pragmatism or the end of ever closer union?”, co-organised by the College of Europe and the European University Institute
- **January 2017, EP Brussels:** Seminar “Language Equality in the Digital Age: Towards a Human Language Project”, organised by the Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) of the European Parliament
- **January 2017, Brussels:** New Year reception at the Hanse Office
- **January 2017, EP Brussels:** Conference “The Right to Decide: Self-determination in the EU”, hosted by EFA
- **January 2017, EP Strasbourg:** FUEN presents an overview of the FUEN activities and the main topics for 2017. The FUEN European Dialogue Forum, the Youth of European Nationalities and the Working Groups present themselves at the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages

- **February 2017, Flensburg:** FUEN presents the latest news regarding the Minority SafePack at the meeting of the DialogForumNorden
- **February 2017, Dagebüll:** FUEN presents the latest news regarding the Minority SafePack at the meeting of the Minority Council in Germany and attends the Biike Reception of the North Frisians
- **March 2017, EP Brussels:** New report on minority languages and education, commissioned by the research department of the European Parliament and written by the Mercator European Research Centre
- **March 2017, EP Brussels:** Newly elected president of the European Parliament, Mr Antonio Tajani, appointed Dr Markus Warasin from South Tyrol as his advisor tasked with linguistic minorities in the EU.
- **March 2017, Brussels:** Meeting with the Secretariat General of the European Commission – dialogue about the following steps with the Minority SafePack Initiative
- **April 2017, Brussels:** “ECI Day 2017 – I Participate” conference at the European Economic and Social Committee with presentation about the Minority SafePack Initiative
- **May 2017, EP Brussels:** Several meetings and conference “Hit the Road” with Members of the Citizens’ Committee, politicians and experts on the Minority SafePack Initiative

Council of Europe



- **January 2016, Strasbourg:** Delegation of FUEN led by Vice President Halit Habip Oglu visits Council of Europe and speaks with Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland, Members of the Parliamentary Assembly and representatives of European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the Commissioner for Human Rights
- **February 2016, Vienna:** FUEN participates in the consultation meeting for the Fourth Thematic Commentary of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
- **May 2016, FUEN Congress in Wroclaw:** Presence of representatives of the Committee of Experts for the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **June 2016:** FUEN supports the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe with getting answers to a questionnaire collecting information for a report on “the promotion of regional or minority languages in Europe”.
- **September 2016:** Participation in consultations of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe
- **October 2016, Strasbourg:** FUEN attends the launching conference of the Fourth Thematic Commentary on the Scope of Application of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and warns that the instrument should not move away from the original aim of protecting national minorities
- **October 2016, Strasbourg:** FUEN has several meetings with leaders of the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) of the Council of Europe, including with Pedro Agramunt, the President of the Assembly and the leaders of the three largest political groups, to enhance cooperation between PACE and the European minorities
- **May 2017, Eupen:** Round table discussion “Successful Territorial Reform – Causes and Methods of Subnational Reform in Council of Europe Member States”, organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, with contribution by FUEN President Loránt Vincze

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)



- **January 2016, Berlin:** Coordination meeting of FUEN with the task force for the German OSCE Chairmanship in 2016
- **February 2016, Berlin:** Ambassador Antje Leendertse, Head of the Task Force for the 2016 German OSCE Chairmanship at the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have talks about the input of FUEN to the programme of activities of the OSCE and the German Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2016
- **April 2016, The Hague:** FUEN participates in the conference marking the 20th anniversary of the launch of “The Hague Recommendations Regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities”
- **April 2016,** FUEN supports questionnaire of the High Commissioner on National Minorities that is looking for good practices that highlight the abilities of minorities as bridge-builders and agents of reconciliation between states.
- **May 2016, FUEN Congress in Wroclaw:** High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors gives the keynote speech at the congress and also representatives of the German OSCE Chairmanship 2016 participate
- **September 2016, Warsaw:** Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2016 – participation in sessions on: Democratic Institutions, International Covenants on human rights and their importance for the OSCE human dimension, Freedom of assembly and association, Tolerance and non-discrimination(including address by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities), freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and freedom of movement.
- **October 2016, Berlin:** Participation in the “OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Tolerance and Diversity”
- **November 2016, Vienna:** Participation in the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting “National Minorities, Bridge Building and Integration
- **December 2016, Flensburg, Hamburg:** presentation Bridge building and integration in diverse societies, a project in cooperation with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) and the European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano (EURAC)

United Nations



- **February 2016:** Statement submitted to the UN Human Rights Council
- **April 2016:** Application for consultative partnership with UNESCO
- **May 2016, Warsaw:** Participation of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) at the FUEN Congress
- **August 2016:** Statements submitted to the UN Human Rights Council
- **August 2016:** UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) uses information from the FUEN Resolution about the Turkish minority in Rhodes and Kos adopted at the Assembly of Delegates in 2016 for its report on Greece’s implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- **November 2016, Geneva:** UN Forum on Minority Issues “Minorities in situations of humanitarian crises”
- **February 2017:** Statements submitted to the UN Human Rights Council



FORUM OF THE EUROPEAN MINORITIES

European Regions Forum – 1st time at the EUROPEADA

Minorities in Europe, which includes more than 100 million Europeans, want to contribute to shaping the future of Europe and strengthening European civil society.

With the formation of a forum for European Minorities, the FUEN wants to find new approaches, in order to gain the support from European multilingual regions.

In particular, the FUEN has been closely linked to the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, the Autonomous Region of Trentino-Alto Adige and the Autonomous Province of South Tyrol-Bolzano, the Free State of Saxony, Land of Carinthia, Eastern Belgium, Brandenburg, South Denmark and Denmark, and the Federal Republic of Germany. Further regions and sponsors will follow.

“Our dream – the dream of the autochthonous, nationalities minorities – is that the minorities in all of Europe are allowed to maintain their own culture and language and have the same rights as the majority in their country”, said Loránt Vincze, the president of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), the largest umbrella organisation of the European minorities, for an audience of about 150 guests at the high plateau of Kronplatz/Plan de Corones.

On the occasion of the opening of the 3rd European Football Championship of the Minorities, South Tyrol invited to a forum of the regions and sponsors of the

FUEN for the first time. On a 2275-meter high mountain top in South Tyrol, on the edge of the Dolomites, the South Tyrolean president Arno Kompatscher and FUEN President Vincze welcomed numerous representatives from the different regions.

South Tyrol with its German- and Ladin-speaking minorities shows, like the German-speaking minority in Belgium and the Danish-German border region, where four national minorities are at home, how a peaceful co-existence is possible that is of benefit for all.

“These examples are an inspiration for many regions and national minorities”, said president Vincze at the opening event.

For 2017, the Forum will be organised by the Government of the German-speaking Community at the invitation of East Belgium and Minister-President Oliver Paasch.

“These examples are an inspiration for many regions and national minorities”, said president Vincze at the opening event.

„The EUROPEADA is much more than just a sports event; it is a major symbol for the diversity of Europe with guaranteed rights for all the minorities. You can see in several countries that nationalist thinking is on the rise again. We have to oppose this sentiment. The EUROPEADA is a good opportunity to show how powerful a Europe based on diversity can be”, said the South Tyrolean president Arno Kompatscher at Kronplatz/Plan de Corones.

“We share the wish of FUEN that the national minorities in Europe shall enjoy the same rights everywhere and therefore that we should continue to campaign together so that the European citizens’ initiative Minority SafePack, which urges the implementation of several measures for the protection for the minorities, will become a success”, said Hartmut Koschyk, member of the German federal parliament and German federal government commissioner for matters related to ethnic German resettlers and national minorities.



3rd European Minorities Football Championship

A sports event in the sign of linguistic and cultural diversity

The concept of the EUROPEADA is simple and ambitious at the same time. It aims to make use of the enthusiasm for football, carrying out a tournament that takes place at the same time as the UEFA European Football Championship.

The EUROPEADA is a European large-scale event that combines fair play and the enthusiasm of a sports event with the issues of the autochthonous national minorities. The focus lies on bringing minorities together, giving them the chance to exchange their thoughts and experience, as well as on the public promotion of their issues. The EUROPEADA, a protected FUEN trademark, is organised by the FUEN itself.

Whereas, the past tournaments were hosted by the Romansh from the Canton of Grisons in 2008 and the Lusatian Sorbs in 2012, the 3rd EUROPEADA took place in South Tyrol from 18 – 26 June 2016. Compared to the 19 male teams that participated in past tournaments, in the Pustertal and Gadertal valleys it was 24 male teams who competed against each other. The tournament is open to all non-professional football players who belong to the respective minority.



The tournament was organised by the FUEN and hosted by the Ladin and German-speaking minorities in South Tyrol. It is important to point out, though, that there was a major difference to the UEFA European Football Championship: in 2016, for the first time there was also a female tournament within the EUROPEADA, which will definitely be part of the EUROPEADA also in future editions.

After the assignment of the EUROPEADA in 2014, the preparation work was carried out by the Association of South Tyrolean Sports Organisations under supervision of Siegfried Stocker. The official drawing for the tournament took place in December 2015 in Bozen/ Bolzano. In February 2016, FUEN representatives visited several sports associations, tourist organisations, media and partners. During the 6 days of the EUROPEADA, a total of 67 matches involving 30 teams took place.

Both the female and the male tournament were won by the hosting minority. Additionally, a Fairplay Award was assigned.



An important part of the EUROPEADA is also the Culture day which allows minorities to present themselves and get to know each other. The Culture Day 2016 was

organised by the Museum Ladin, which at the same time also carried out an International Conference for Museums of Minorities.

EUROPEADA 2020

The FUEN has opened the request for tender in relation to the hosting of the EUROPEADA 2020 at the beginning of the year 2016. Besides the German-Danish border region, also the Carinthian Slovenes have submitted their application. Both regions are characterised by European enthusiasm and the 100-year- anniversary since border demarcation.

Following the three previous successful EUROPEADA tournaments, the program had to be evaluated. Experi-

ence's from the organisers and participating teams were taken up and other various aspects had to be examined, such as the goal of the project, logistics, the program, fair play, the self-understanding of the teams as ambassadors of their own minorities, and to assess the commitment of the teams. Finally the process of finding a host for the upcoming EUROPEADA 2020 had to be initiated.

Poster Hosts



Application The German-Danish border region

EUROPEADA 2020:

According to the FUEN Charta, the assignment of the EUROPEADA needs to be made 3 years in advance.

On 21 May 2017, the FUEN Assembly of Delegates will decide on the assignment of the EUROPEADA 2020.



Application The Carinthian Slovenes



A EUROPEAN NETWORK

FUEN partners and major focus

The FUEN maintains a large network and many contacts with the European minorities and their organisations, political officials, scientific institutes, youth organisations, media, cultural and educational institutions, as well as with many other partners.

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is the European umbrella organisation for the youth of European minorities and a major FUEN partner www.yeni.org.

Some of the most important FUEN partners are: the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD), Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning, Minorities Dailies Association (MIDAS), European Free Alliance (EFA), Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Association (UNPO), European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), the European Academy Bozen/Bolzano (EURAC), the Association Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Ajatushautomo Magma – Think tank Magma.

It is this network across the most different fields of activity that constitutes one of FUEN's major strengths. FUEN also supports the Association of European Minority Theatres, the Association of European Minority Museums, as well as various partners in the fields life-long learning, sports, civil society, media and science.



FEDERAL UNION OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES

Support and Finance

FUEN is a non-profit organisation, which receives its income predominantly through public subsidies and institutional grants, project grants and membership contributions.

After FUEN succeeded in consolidating its financial situation in the years 2014-2016, it is possible to present positive results for the third consecutive year, in the financial year 2016.

FUEN increased its total budget as follows:



The main components of the budget are comprised of the institutional funding provided by eight grant-givers from different regions and states, the increased funding by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Hungarian Government, additional project grants and the contributions by the Member Organisations.

The positive annual accounts for 2016 enable FUEN to raise further public funding and free-to-use funds and donations. It is our aim to get additional institutional funding for the FUEN to establish a sustainable project structure and a fund for European minorities.

Especially in regards to the implementation of the Minority SafePack Initiative and for providing support to minorities, a positive acquisition of new funds is required.

Federal Union of European Nationalities
FINANCIAL REPORT & AUDIT REPORT 2016

Föderalistische Union Europäischer Nationalitäten
FINANZ- & REVISIONS-BERICHT 2016





THE PRECIOUS ROLE
OF MINORITIES IN
EUROPEAN SOCIETIES

Project: House of Minorities

An European centre of information
and documentation

The minorities in Europe – with more than 100 million European citizens – carry a potential that still has not been fully explored with their knowledge and experience remaining mostly unused.

Despite the minorities' visible contribution to linguistic and cultural diversity, often their skills and competences which could favour economic and regional development are not being considered.

The “House of Minorities” in Flensburg is an initiative of the FUEN and its partners in the Danish-German border region aiming to establish a European information and documentation centre. This unique European centre for minorities is supposed to be located in the historical “Speicher” building in Flensburg.

Already in Autumn 2014, supported by a start-up-funding of the Bundesland Schleswig-Holstein in the context of a common INTERREG Project, a branch office of the House of Minorities was officially inaugurated. The House of Minorities is a rather ambitious project aiming to display minority issues.

Since then the House of Minorities has organised more than 100 events of various formats, all recorded in the House's Journal.

Haus der Minderheiten
Mindretallenes Hus
Hüs foon e manerhäide
I Kehr for mengi

“With this building we started to put our idea into practice and give it a first and temporary location: a House of Minorities, a support by minorities for minorities, that shall provide what is still missing: a place inspired by minority experience, where minorities, majorities and other interested people from all over Europe can come together.”, says Renate Schnack, Minority Commissioner to the Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein, in occasion of the inauguration in 2014.

Among other issues the focus lies on the realisation of projects with minorities in crisis regions. That is how the first projects started in 2014 with Ukraine, followed by projects with minorities from the Western Balkans and the Caucasus.

In April 2017, the Youth of European Nationalities awarded a price for a video competition. Moreover, in the same month the MSPI celebration for the Danish-German border region took place.

For the realisation of the House of Minorities a reconstruction of the historical “Speicher” building is required. In November 2015, the German government has already assigned 600 thousand Euro for the project. The Bundesland Schleswig-Holstein, as well as the City of Flensburg have assured their support. Under the supervision of the organisation Sydslesvigsk Forening the project is supposed to be fully realised for the anniversary celebrations in the Danish-German border region in 2020.



Veranstaltungen im Kontor zum Haus der Minderheiten, Auswahl 2016

Datum	Inhalt
19/01/16	Bund-Länder-Programm: Neue Formate der Zusammenarbeit in der Technischen Zusammenarbeit – Neues Projektvorhaben der Staatskanzlei Schleswig-Holstein, FUEN und ECMI auf dem Westbalkan, Projektentwicklung mit der Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
22/01/16	Sitzung des FUEN Präsidiums
25/01/16	Planung PR-Konzept mit Fischertext und PR, Michael Fischer

Datum	Inhalt
	Georgios Arnaoutis, Generalkonsul von Griechenland aus Hamburg, Kooperationsstreffen
	Treffen Vorbereitung – FUEN-Kongress 2016
	EUROPEADA 2016 – Medientreffen
	Grenzlandtreffen
	Entwicklung neuer Jugendprojekte mit der JEV (Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen)
	Gespräche Revision Haushaltsjahr 2015
	Treffen mit SPD Fraktionschef Ralf Stegner, Mdl. Simone Lange aus Flensburg und der minderheitenpolitischen Sprecherin der SPD Landtagsfraktion Birte Pauls
	Treffen mit Linguist Alastair Walker
	Vorstellung des Projektes Minderheiten- und Friedenspark Thies Boysen
	Planungstreffen mit Visuellverstehen
	Treffen mit Revisoren Gerrit Wiencke und Hans Christian Bock
	Treffen mit Mohammad Darawshe, Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow der Robert-Bosch-Stiftung

Events Overview:
House of Minorities

Has already written history

It is the most important initiative of the European minorities over the last decades: FUEN members have launched a European citizens' initiative for the minorities:

The initiative is about protecting and promoting national minorities and language groups to ensure linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe.

On April 3rd 2017, 9 of the 11 proposed measures were approved by the EU Commission for signature collection.

The initiative addresses the entire EU population and will furthermore provide symbolic support

from across Europe. The minorities want to collect more than 1 million signatures for the preservation of diversity in Europe in an unprecedented, solidarity campaign. Together we will persuade Europeans to support and sign our initiative. Thereby we should succeed in strengthening and protecting the European cultural and linguistic heritage.



Minority SafePack events following the official registration

06.04.2017 Celebrating the success of the Minority SafePack Initiative in the office of the House of Minorities

12.04.2017 FUEN presents the Minority SafePack Initiative at the ECI Day in Brussels

19.04.2017 Parliament hearing on the Minority SafePack at the Danish Parliament in Copenhagen

20.04.2017 RMDSZ and FUEN President present the Minority SafePack Initiative in Hungary

04.05.2017 "Hit the Road"- Conference in Brussels – the European Parliament supports the Minority SafePack Initiative

17. – 20.05.2017 FUEN Congress 2017: Official launch of the Minority SafePack Initiative campaign

Facts:

Since April 2012, with the Lisbon Treaty on the European Union, it is possible to submit European citizens' initiatives.

Statistics of previous applications for citizens' initiatives

Since Mai 2012		Successful (1 Million):
2012:	23	3 ECIs
2013:	17	Not successful: 32 ECIs
2014:	10	
2015:	6	Recently completed
2016:	3	collection: 2 ECIs
2017 (06.02.):	2	Can be supported from now: 4 ECIs
Registrations:	41	
Rejections:	20	As of 06.02.2017

Annex – Full list of the 11 proposals of the 'Minority Safepack' Citizens' Initiative

- 01** A recommendation of the Council 'on the protection and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity in the Union' on the basis of the second indent of Article 167(5) TFEU and the second indent of Article 165(4) TFEU;
- 02** A decision or a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the basis of the first indent of Article 167(5) TFEU and the first indent of Article 165(4) TFEU, the subject matter of which is to adapt 'funding programmes so that they become accessible for small regional and minority language communities';
- 03** A decision or a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the basis of the first indent of Article 167(5) TFEU and the first indent of Article 165(4) TFEU, the subject matter of which is to create a centre for linguistic diversity that will strengthen awareness of the importance of regional and minority languages and will promote diversity at all levels and be financed mainly by the European Union;
- 04** regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the basis of Articles 177 TFEU and 178 TFEU, the subject matter of which is to adapt the common provisions relating to EU regional funds in such a way that the protection of minorities and the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity are included therein as thematic objectives;
- 05** A regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the basis of Article 173(3) TFEU and Article 182(1) TFEU, the subject matter of which is to change the regulation relating to the 'Horizon 2020' programme for the purposes of improving research on the added value that national minorities and cultural and linguistic diversity may bring to social and economic development in regions of the EU;
- 06** A Council directive, regulation or decision on the basis of Article 20(2) TFEU and Article 25 TFEU, for the purpose of strengthening within the EU the place of citizens belonging to a national minority, with the aim of ensuring that their legitimate concerns are taken into consideration in the election of Members of the European Parliament; **[considered not admissible by the Commission]**
- 07** Effective measures to address discrimination and to promote equal treatment, including for national minorities, in particular through a revision of the existing Council directives on the subject of equal treatment, on the basis of Article 19(1) TFEU; **[considered not admissible by the Commission]**
- 08** The amendment of the EU legislation in order to guarantee approximately equal treatment for stateless persons and citizens of the Union, on the basis of Article 79(2) TFEU;
- 09** A regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the basis of Article 118 TFEU, in order to introduce a unitary copyright so that the whole EU can be considered an internal market in the field of copyright;
- 10** An amendment of Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services, for the purpose of ensuring the freedom to provide services and the reception of audiovisual content in regions where national minorities reside, on the basis of Article 53(1) TFEU and Article 63 TFEU;
- 11** A Council regulation or decision, with a view to the block exemption of projects promoting national minorities and their culture, on the basis of Article 109 TFEU, Article 108(4) TFEU or Article 107(3)(e) TFEU.



MINORITY SAFEPACK INITIATIVE

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



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

NISI SAM(A).
MILIJON PODPISOV ZA RAZNOLIKOST EVROPE

YALNIZ DEĞİLSİN.
AVRUPA'NIN ÇEŞİTLİLİĞİ İÇİN BİR MİLYON İMZA

NON ESTÁS SÓ/SOA.
UN MILLÓN DE FIRMAS PARA A DIVERSIDADE EN EUROPA

TI N'ES BETG SULET.
IN MILLIUN SUTTASCRIPZIUNS PER LA DIVERSITAD EN L'EUROPA

ΔΕΝ ΕΙΣΑΙ ΜΟΝΟΣ.
ΕΝΑ ΕΚΑΤΟΜΜΥΡΙΟ ΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΕΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΔΙΑΦΟΡΕΤΙΚΟΤΗΤΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΗ

NO ESTÁS SOL.
UN MILIÓ DE SIGNATURES PER LA DIVERSITAT A EUROPA

TU NE TENÉ YÍ.
YEK MÍLYON NAVÍŠ JI BO CUDAHİYÉ LI EWROPA

NE TE IES NIA SĚUL/SĚULA.
N MILION DE FIRMES PER LA PLURALITÁ

ТЫ НЕ ОДИН.
МИЛЛИОН ПОДПИСЕЙ ЗА МНОГООБРАЗИЕ ЕВРОПЫ

ET OLE YKSIN.
MILJOONA ALLEKIRJOITUSTA EUROOPAN MONIMUOTOISUUDEN PUOLESTA

TĚ NIE JES SÓM.
MĚLIÓN PŮDPISĚNKŮW DLŮ BŮKADOSCĚ ĚUROPE

NÍL TÚ I D'AONAR.
MILLIÚN SÍNIÚ AR SON NA HÉAGSÚLACHTA SAN EORAIP

N'OUT KET DA-UNAN-PENN.
UR MILLION A SINADURIOŪ EVIT AL LIESSEURTED EN EUROPA

TI NISI SAM.
JEDNU MILION PODPISOV ZA ŠAROLIKOST U EUROPI

SEN YANGIZ TŪGŪLSEN.
BIR MİLYON QOLBASIWLAR AWROPADA MILLI RENKLIK BOLSUN UÇUN

DŮ BAST AI ĀLIINE.
IINJ MILJOON UNERSCHRAFTE FOR EUROPAS MANINGFŪOLJ

TU N'ES PAS SEUL(È).
NOUS SOMMES UN MILLION À SIGNER POUR LA DIVERSITÉ EN EUROPE

NU EȘTI SINGUR.
UN MILION DE SEMNĂTURI PENTRU SUSTINEREA DIVERSITĂȚII ÎN EUROPA

NEJSI SÁM.
MILION PODPISŮ ZA ROZMANITOST EVROPY

NU ESHTSÁ SINGUR.
UN MILIUN DI SEMNĂTURI TI DIVERSITATI TU EVROPA

NID YDYCH AR BEN EICH HUN.
UN MILIWN O LOFNODION AR GYFER AMRYWIAETH YN EWROP

NUK JE VETĚM.
NJĚ MILION FIRMA PĚR DIVERSITĚTIN NĚ EUROPE

TY NJEJSY SAM(A).
MILION PŮDPISŲ ZA WJELERAKOSĆ EUROPY

DU BĀĀST NIT ALLEENICH.
EEN MILLION UNERSKRIFTEN FOAR JU FUULFOALT FON EUROPA

Our Members

There are more than 400 minorities in Europe, and more than 90 of them are united under the umbrella of FUEN. They make an important contribution to the irreplaceable heritage of Europe. FUEN is a community based on solidarity, a family and an interest group at the same time. It is the critically thinking and committed people and active organisations that drive our network.



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