



FUEN

FEDERAL UNION OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES
FÖDERALISTISCHE UNION EUROPÄISCHER VOLKSGRUPPEN
ФЕДЕРАЛИСТСКИЙ СОЮЗ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ МЕНЬШИНСТВ
UNION FÉDÉRALISTE DES COMMUNAUTÉS ETHNIQUES EUROPÉENNES

FUEN Congress 2013 – towards one million signatures

The annual FUEN Congress has been taking place since 1949. With 150 to 200 participants from all over Europe we organise the largest meeting of the autochthonous national minorities / ethnic groups in Europe.

From 19 till 23 June 2013 the FUEN Congress will be in Brixen, South Tyrol. The local organiser is the Südtiroler Volkspartei (SVP: South Tyrolean People's Party). SVP is a long-time member and has much experience in organising European congresses.

The congress is focusing on two main topics:

- *the benefits of autonomy and self-government for minorities in Europe*
- *the European Citizens' Initiative of the minorities - one million signatures for diversity in Europe*

The number of places is limited – and the member organisations of FUEN will have priority and pay a reduced participants' fee. However, FUEN offer the opportunity to participate in the congress to all who are interested.

From **15 April till 31 May 2013** you will have the possibility to register for the congress. The registration is binding. Information about the congress and the detailed options for booking will be published in cooperation with SVP by then.



SVP

Südtiroler Volkspartei (SVP: South Tyrolean People's Party) is a regional party and collective movement that represents the German and Ladin population in South Tyrol and in Italy politically. SVP is represented in the Italian Parliament and in the European Parliament. (www.svp.eu)

FUEN

The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) is an umbrella organisation that unites around 90 member organisations representing autochthonous, national minorities in Europe. The seat of FUEN is in Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein / Germany. (www.fuen.org)

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19-23 JUNI 2013
SÜDTIROL
www.fuen.org

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The benefits of autonomy and self-government for minorities in Europe

Europe is in crisis. How will our continent develop after the financial and debt crisis will be over? Will we experience a stronger Europe or will there be re-nationalisation? What do the recent announcements about the Catalanian and Scottish aspiration to independence mean? Will there be a Europe of petty states or will this be the opportunity to strengthen a Europe of the regions?

There are 100 million people in Europe who are part of an autochthonous, national minority. There are 40 million people in the EU who speak another language than the official language of their country. Most of these people have a strong bond with their regions.

But how are the minorities in Europe attached to the different regions? How do they defend their interests? What does territorial autonomy mean, what is European federalism and how does cultural autonomy work?

South Tyrol has developed a strong model of autonomy – which was celebrating its 40 years' jubilee last year. We use this time as the occasion to discuss at the FUEN Congress this subject, which is not just important for South Tyrol or for the European minorities, but also for Europe as a whole.

There will be exciting contributions from interesting speakers, who know the situation by personal experience and who are capable of evaluating it. There will be discussions and you will have plenty of time to pose your questions or make remarks.

Citizens' Initiative of the minorities – one million signatures for diversity in Europe

Since the FUEN Congress in Željezno - Eisenstadt / Burgenland in 2011 we are working hard to realise our vision: one million signatures for diversity in Europe. As minorities, and based on common solidarity, we want to engage in a European citizens' initiative.

In Brixen we want to launch the initiative. We have 12 months to collect the signatures. We are overwhelmed by the number of reactions by our members and by other interested parties, who all support the idea. Thanks to everyone who supports us. And to all of them who still want to join in: everyone can participate, and we need the help from everyone.

During the congress we want to introduce the European Citizens' Initiative and discuss its content together with you. We want to use the campaign to realise sustainable changes to the benefit of the minorities in Europe.

The founding partners of the initiative are the Democratic Alliance of the Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and the South Tyrolean People's Party (SVP) – they are both member organisations of the umbrella organisation of the minorities in Europe, FUEN.

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