

## Network for multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Europe Netzwerk für Mehrsprachigkeit und sprachliche Vielfalt in Europa

### **FUEN announces Declaration on the European Day of Languages Focus on the future EU funding programmes from 2014 onwards**

On the **occasion of the 10th European Day of Languages** FUEN announced a joint declaration together with the European network NPLD (Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity) during FUEN's conference in Celovec/Klagenfurt.

The declaration states the following, referring to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Lisbon Treaty and the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe:

*The NPLD and FUEN are committed to working together to promote the regional and minority languages: they seek greater international recognition for these languages by raising awareness of the value and importance of the languages to Europe's linguistic diversity and the opportunities they provide for social cohesion and economy.*

The main focus of the joint undertaking is opening up the EU funding programmes for the regional and minority languages, especially for these languages to be taken into account adequately in the next EU financial framework of 2014-2020.

**Within this new European networking initiative FUEN aims at pooling the commitment for the regional and minority languages in Europe.**

### **Pooling commitment for early multilingualism across Europe**

#### **Third Regional Conference of RML2future in Celovec/Klagenfurt successfully concluded**

More than 75 participants from European minorities and several representatives of the Carinthian Slovenes came to Celovec/Klagenfurt on the invitation of the Council of the Carinthian Slovenes.

Based on the example of bilingual and multilingual projects of the Carinthian Slovenes in preschool and school education, concepts, didactics and methodology were critically assessed and discussed, as were the educational framework, the need for professionals and financial resources.

The concepts of early language learning from the German-speaking and Ladin minorities in South Tyrol, from the Sorbs in Upper and Lower Lusatia, from the Danes and Germans and from the German-Danish border region, from the German-speaking community in Belgium, from Friesland, Wales, Graubünden and Burgenland were all presented.

A number of programme parts such as the Tržnica International and the Café Olé promoted increased European cooperation, exchange between professionals and of ideas as well as



[www.fuen.org](http://www.fuen.org)



[www.eurac.edu](http://www.eurac.edu)



[www.dglive.be](http://www.dglive.be)



[www.hojoster.dk](http://www.hojoster.dk)



[www.nsk.s.at](http://www.nsk.s.at)



[www.yeni.org](http://www.yeni.org)

The network is supported by the European Commission and the Autonomous Region Trentino-South Tyrol.  
Gefördert wird das Netzwerk durch Mittel der Europäischen Kommission und der Autonomen Region Trentino-Südtirol.



## Network for multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Europe Netzwerk für Mehrsprachigkeit und sprachliche Vielfalt in Europa

initiating new projects.

For that reason also the opportunities to obtain funding from the EU-programme for Lifelong Learning, and in particular Comenius, was presented during the conference. Also the latest research outcomes and studies on multilingualism and further projects of the European networks Mercator, NPLD and RML2future were presented.

The chairman of the Council of the Carinthian Slovenes, Valentin Inzko, and FUEN-president Hans Heinrich Hanse were very positive about the commitment and enthusiasm of the participants. They both called upon the political decision makers to provide the means required and to cooperate with the minorities in such a way that the available potential for each region can actually be realised.

*“What all regions have in common is the endeavour to offer high quality, continuing language teaching of the regional and minority languages within the context of the European languages in general. Especially differences in historical and regional contexts, demographic changes, limited resources and lack of professionals are challenges practitioners have to overcome. The aim of RML2future is to cater for the need for networking, support and European cooperation”,* said Judith Walde, project manager of the network RML2future.

The conference was a joint undertaking of the Council of the Carinthian Slovenes and the Network for Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity RML2future, organised by Marko Oražec and Judith Walde.

## European Day of Languages 2011 was celebrated in Klagenfurt / Celovec as well

Led by Hester Knol and Sonja Horvath from the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN), more than 50 school students of the new secondary school Klagenfurt-Wölfnitz and their teachers experienced an exciting and interactive presentation on the European Day of Languages. With podcasts, short speeches and a lively presentation by representatives of minorities they were introduced to linguistic diversity and regional and minority languages in a playful way.

The presentation in the schools is part of the language promotion in the youth field that was developed by RML2future.

The quiz that was prepared on the occasion of the European Day of Languages 2011, with more than 20 questions and examples, was won by Měto Nowak, who is the deputy leader of the Witaj-language centre in Cottbus/Choćebuz, just ahead of Karl Hren, chairman of the EBLUL member state committee Austria and Heledd Daniel of the Network to Promote



[www.fuen.org](http://www.fuen.org)



[www.eurac.edu](http://www.eurac.edu)



[www.dglive.be](http://www.dglive.be)



[www.hojoster.dk](http://www.hojoster.dk)



[www.nsk.at](http://www.nsk.at)



[www.yeni.org](http://www.yeni.org)

The network is supported by the European Commission and the Autonomous Region Trentino-South Tyrol.  
Gefördert wird das Netzwerk durch Mittel der Europäischen Kommission und der Autonomen Region Trentino-Südtirol.



**Network for multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Europe  
Netzwerk für Mehrsprachigkeit und sprachliche Vielfalt in Europa**

Linguistic Diversity (NPLD).

**FUEN Presidium meeting in Klagenfurt/Celovec**

Before the Third Regional Conference of 2011 the presidium of FUEN came together for a presidium meeting at the office of the Council of the Carinthian Slovenes. The agenda included the evaluation of the Assembly of Delegates of 2011, the preparation of the Regional Conference in Carinthia and the upcoming FUEN Congress of 2012 in Moscow. The representatives of FUEN, Hans Heinrich Hansen and Martha Stocker and those of the Council of the Carinthian Slovenes, Valentin Inzko and Nanto Olip used the conference to consult about the latest developments in Carinthia, in particular in regard to the solution of the issue of the place-name signs.

**Cooperation with EBLUL member state committee**

On invitation of FUEN, during the Regional Conference a working meeting took place with Karl Hren, the chairman of the EBLUL member state committee Austria. Talks with EBLUL member state committees are taking place within the framework of the new networking initiative of FUEN with further actors in the field of regional and minority languages. The main topic for discussion was how to make sure that funding for regional and minority languages will be possible in the next funding programmes of the EU. This is one of the subjects of the joint statement on cooperation between FUEN and NPLD that was announced on the occasion of the European Day of Languages.

The **complete programme** you can find at:

[http://www.rml2future.eu/third+regional+conference\\_en.htm](http://www.rml2future.eu/third+regional+conference_en.htm)

More information and photos of the Regional Conference: [www.rml2future.eu](http://www.rml2future.eu) and

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/RML2future/109626262422468>

FUEN press release: [www.fuen.org](http://www.fuen.org)

For questions please contact:

Judith Walde

[judith.walde@fuen.org](mailto:judith.walde@fuen.org)

0049 173 9936731

Marko Oraže

[office@nks.at](mailto:office@nks.at)

0043 664 350 2627

Netzwerk für Mehrsprachigkeit und sprachliche Vielfalt  
Network for multilingualism and linguistic diversity  
*Föderalistische Union Europäischer Volksgruppen (FUEV)*  
*Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)*

[www.rml2future.eu](http://www.rml2future.eu), [www.fuen.org](http://www.fuen.org)



[www.fuen.org](http://www.fuen.org)



[www.eurac.edu](http://www.eurac.edu)



[www.dglive.be](http://www.dglive.be)



[www.hojoster.dk](http://www.hojoster.dk)



[www.nksk.at](http://www.nksk.at)



[www.yeni.org](http://www.yeni.org)

The network is supported by the European Commission and the Autonomous Region Trentino-South Tyrol.  
Gefördert wird das Netzwerk durch Mittel der Europäischen Kommission und der Autonomen Region Trentino-Südtirol.

