

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

## Conference in Bozen/Bolzano: “Every language has a soul and majesty”

About 100 participants: representatives from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the Council of Europe, chairs and members of FUEN-organisations, participants from South Tyrol, politicians from several regions and communities of Europe, teachers, scholars, kindergarten-teachers, linguists, sociologists, political scientists, students, journalists and youth representatives had come to Bozen/Bolzano, South Tyrol, on 17 – 19 January 2012, to discuss about the future of the regional and minority languages in Europe on the invitation of the network RML2future.

RML2future is the network of FUEN, which is active in the field of regional and minority languages and linguistic diversity in Europe.

“It is difficult to select a specific highlight from the past two days – we are very pleased with the overall result. I am particularly glad that we invited the different groups of minority representatives, politicians and professionals together to the conference and thus have been able to promote exchange, as well as offer an interesting programme for all,” says Judith Walde, the project manager of the network.

The conference was opened by Governor Luis Durnwalder of South Tyrol. He congratulated the network and FUEN for their commitment: “It is not without reason that we awarded the South Tyrolean Minority Prize 2011 to FUEN, and we are very glad that the European Commission already decided to grant the follow-up project. That means that you are doing a good job”, Durnwalder said to the participants.

Provincial Councillor Mussner made clear that the Ladin minority in South Tyrol – one of the endangered languages of Europe – is working with confidence on the preservation of their language. He vividly illustrated the motivation why the participants, the FUEN and the network RML2future should work on European networking: “Every language has a soul, has its majesty and we should join forces to protect them.”

But for many regional and minority languages in Europe the preservation of this soul and majesty is an acute problem. The languages in Europe are critically endangered.

The conference was looking for answers on the question what can be done on a policy level in order to improve the conditions for the endangered regional and minority languages.

Since the FUEN Congress of 2011 in Eisenstadt/Željezno and on the initiative of the network RML2future, FUEN has been looking for enhanced cooperation between the different actors on the European level.



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.



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FUEN used the congress in Bozen/Bolzano to invite these actors to a public discussion. The discussion was also attended by the two latest EBLUL-presidents. They both called for stronger cooperation between Mercator, FUEN and NPLD.

In Bozen/Bolzano it was recognised that the cooperation between FUEN, NPLD and Mercator should be given a concrete basis. "We want to examine where we can complement each other and where concretely we want to cooperate," Jan Diedrichsen emphasised.

"When FUEN, NPLD and Mercator work together on the European level, then we will have an impressive and powerful alliance", said the representative of the European Commission attending the conference, Teresa Condeço.

More information will follow.

Photo gallery: [http://www.fuen.org/gallery/2012\\_rml\\_bolzano/index.html](http://www.fuen.org/gallery/2012_rml_bolzano/index.html)

[www.rml2future.eu](http://www.rml2future.eu)

<http://www.fuen.org/show.php?id=88&news=148>

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## RML2future

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