

RML2future

Network for multilingualism and
linguistic diversity

*It's never too late ...
monolingualism is easy to cure!*

*Es ist nie zu spät ...
Einsprachigkeit ist heilbar!*

DOCUMENTATION

Concluding meeting

in Bozen / Bolzano, South Tyrol (Italy)
from 17–18 January 2012

www.rml2future.eu

Conference
on European Language Policies
for Regional and Minority Languages
Concluding meeting
of the Network RML2future

17–18 January 2012
Bozen / Bolzano (Italy)

Documentation of the Conference on European Language Policies for Regional and Minority Languages
2012 in Bozen / Bolzano

RML2future – Network for Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity in Europe
under the auspices of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

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www.nsk.s.at



www.yeni.org

GUTEN TAG! BUN DÉ! BUONGIORNO! HELLO!



“Every language has a soul and majesty”

On the invitation of the network RML2future, more than 100 participants from 15 European countries had come to Bozen / Bolzano, South Tyrol, on 17 – 19 January 2012, to take stock of language policy and to discuss about the future of the regional and minority languages in Europe.



*Dr. Luis DURNWALDER,
Landeshauptmann Südtirols*

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.

That the Ladins in South Tyrol – one of the endangered languages of Europe – are standing up for their language with self-confidence, was something Provincial Councillor Dr. Mussner made clear. 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: many languages in Europe are critically endangered.

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

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Next to this publication, you find more information at the website of the conference:
www.language-diversity.eu/bozen2012



South Tyrol, Bozen / Bolzano

South Tyrol, officially the autonomous province of Bozen – South Tyrol, in Italian Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano – Alto Adige, in Ladin Provinzia Autonoma de Balsan / Bulsan – is the northernmost province of Italy and forms together with the province of Trentino the autonomous region of Trentino-South Tyrol. The capital of South Tyrol is Bozen/Bolzano.

Since the South Tyrol-Package was adopted in 1972 the province and region have

autonomy rights. The autonomy-model of the South Tyroleans is regarded as a best-practice example for other minorities in Europe.

More than two-thirds of the population are German-speaking, more than a quarter has Italian as his/her mother tongue and a smaller part of the population living in the area of the Dolomites Mountains speaks Ladin. The Ladins make up almost four percent of the population of South Tyrol.

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www.regione.taa.it/default_d.aspx

More links to organisations / institutions in South Tyrol:

- European Academy EURAC, www.eurac.edu
- Office for bilingual and trilingual exams, www.provinz.bz.it/zdp
- Office for language minorities, www.regione.taa.it/minoranze/default_d.aspx
- South Tyrolean Institute for Ethnic Groups, www.svi-bz.org
- Office for bilingualism and foreign language, www.provinz.bz.it/land/landesverwaltung/aemter-abteilungen.asp?&organi_action=4&organi_unit_id=0638

GERMAN-SPEAKING GROUP

- German School Authority, www.schule.suedtirol.it/landesschulamt
www.provinz.bz.it/schulamt
- Pedagogical Institute for the German-speaking group, www.schule.suedtirol.it/pi

LADIN-SPEAKING GROUP

- Istitut Ladin Micurà de Rü, www.micura.it
- Ladin Cultural Institute, www.istladin.net
- Ladin Culture and Ladin School Authority, www.provinz.bz.it/ladinisches-schulamt
- Union Generela di Ladins dles Dolomites, www.ladinia.net

ITALIAN-SPEAKING GROUP

- Italian School Authority, www.provinz.bz.it/italienisches-schulamt
- Pedagogical Institute for the Italian-speaking group, www.ipbz.it

Extract from the programme of the Conference on European Language Policies for Regional and Minority Languages

■ Tuesday 17 January: European language policy

Words of welcome by the President of EURAC **Dr. Werner Stuflessner**, Governor **Dr. Luis Durnwalder**, Regional Assessor and FUEN vice-president **Dr. Martha Stocker**

Moderated by **Prof. Peter J. Weber**, University of Applied Languages in Munich, external evaluator of RML2future

Statements on European language policy:

- **Dr. Michl Ebner**, President of the Chamber of Commerce Bozen / Bolzano and former Member of the European Parliament: The Agency for Linguistic Diversity and for Language Learning – the aims of the Ebner report from 2003 and its implementation
- **Dr. Christian Gsodam**, Advisor to the Secretary General, Committee of the Regions of the European Union
- **Prof. Dr. Alexander Brörtl**, Member of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Teresa Condeço, Multilingualism Policy Unit, European Commission, presentation of the new EU programme “Erasmus for All”

Presentations

- Presentation MENON Study of the European Parliament, **Dr. Walter Kugemann**
- Presentation EUROMOSAIC Study, **Prof. Peter J. Weber**
- Presentation NPLD – Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity, **Meirion Prys Jones**
- Presentation Poliglotti4.eu, **Cor van der Meer**
- Presentation RMDSZ – Language rights in practice – case study Romania, **Loránt Vincze**

Panel discussion: Why is it that we don't succeed in establishing a well-functioning network that includes all the relevant actors? – effective cooperation for the regional and minority languages on European level, with representatives of NPLD, FUEN, Poliglotti4.eu, EBLUL, Mercator; moderated by **Johan Häggman**.

Evening programme in the EURAC-building: Presentation of the EUROPEADA 2012 – the European football championship of the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe

■ Wednesday 18 January 2012: Language promotion with practical contributions and presentations

Opening by **Dr. Florian Mussner**, Provincial Councillor for Ladin Culture

Keynote speech:

- Language promotion today: strategic language planning from small to big
Jeroen Darquennes, Associate Professor of German and General Linguistics at the University of Namur, Belgium

Language planning in practice, based on the example of the Ladins

- **Dr. Edith Ploner**, Ladin Education Authority, Inspector for Ladin kindergartens

Presentation of the network RML2future

- The network RML2future and its activities: What are we doing?

Examples:

- Research within the network: development of learning scenarios for all levels of education for the purpose of raising awareness and understanding for regional and minority languages amongst both the majority as well as the minority population
- Looking into the future: the FUEN/RML2future follow-up project on raising awareness for multilingualism to achieve more creativity and innovation
- The competence centre – almost realised?! Planning for the coming three years
- Discussion with professionals from the multilingual regions: “If we would be able to wish anything, it would be...”

Increased cooperation between Mercator, FUEN and NPLD

Since the FUEN-Congress of 2011 in Eisenstadt and on the initiative of the network RML2future, FUEN aims at increased cooperation of the different actors on the European level.

» ***“It has to be our goal to combine our strengths, because only together with all the actors will our concerns be taken seriously in Brussels”,***

said FUEN-director Jan Diedrichsen, referring to the joint declaration of cooperation together with the network NPLD.

FUEN used the conference in Bozen / Bolzano to invite all the actors to a public discussion round. The discussion, which was moderated by Johan Häggman, gave the opportunity for Meirion Prys Jones for NPLD, Jan Diedrichsen for FUEN and Cor van der Meer for Mercator to present their efforts made to date on the European level.

Also the two latest EBLUL-presidents Neasa Hegarty and Bojan Brezigar joined in the

discussion. They called for increased cooperation between Mercator, FUEN and NPLD.

The conclusion in Bozen / Bolzano was that the cooperation between FUEN, NPLD and Mercator should be given a concrete shape.

» ***“If FUEN, NPLD and Mercator will work together on the European level, then we have an impressive and powerful alliance”,***

underlined Teresa Condeço, the representative of the European Commission at the conference.

FUEN provided the possibility that former EBLUL-Committees be admitted as associated members in FUEN. The German EBLUL-Committee already seized the opportunity and applied for membership. Last year EBLUL decided to dissolve itself as umbrella organisation on the European level. But some Member State Committees continue their work on a national level.

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Joint cooperation FUEN / NPLD: www.fuen.org/show.php?id=88&news=117

More Information: Mercator www.mercator-network.eu; NPLD www.npld.eu; FUEN www.fuen.org





Taking stock of European language policy of the past 10 years

When taking stock of how the situation of the regional and minorities (RML-s) has developed on the European level during the past 10 years, the results must be regarded as mediocre. The position now – 10 years after the European Year of Languages – is worse than before. To show this, the participants received a written overview of the developments of the past 10 years.

The framework of reference for proposals for the regional and minority languages on the European level is the Ebner-report that was adopted with an absolute majority in the European Parliament in 2003. The report comprises concrete proposals to improve the position of the regional and minority languages. The proposal by FUEN – 10 years later – are based for a large part on the conclusions of the Ebner-report. Therefore it was with great excitement that the participants awaited the speech by former member of the European Parliament Michl Ebner.

FUEN committed itself to forward its political proposals in the course of the upcoming debate on the multiannual framework 2014–2020 of the European Union and to reach

improvements for the RML-s during these negotiations.

Martha Stocker, Vice-President of FUEN and Regional Assessor in South Tyrol, summarised the concerns and demands of the regional and minority languages as follows:

» ***“It is not acceptable that the situation of the regional and minority languages deteriorated in the past 10 years and that the demands by the European Parliament are waiting for their implementation down to the present day. I think that we now have the chance and obligation together to use the opportunities: FUEN, EU Parliament, EU Commission and the EU Member States, to improve the conditions – including the financial conditions – for the regional and minority languages.”***

Already on 24 January 2012, FUEN presented the results of the conference and the proposals made at a meeting in the European Parliament.

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You can read more about the Parliamentary Lunch here: www.fuen.org/show.php?id=88&news=149; DE or www.fuen.org/show.php?id=88&news=151 EN
www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.316070631767328.72352.187350871305972&type=1

More links to detailed information:

The guidance by FUEN, the Report with recommendations to the Commission on European regional and lesser-used languages – the languages of minorities in the EU – in the context of enlargement and cultural diversity (short: Ebner-Report) and the recommendation by FUEN can be accessed at www.language.fuen.org/bozen2012/index.php?inhalt=bilanz

Michl EBNER, born on 20 September 1952 in Bozen/Bolzano, has been the President of the Chamber of Commerce Bozen/Bolzano since 2008. From 1994 until 2008 he has been Member of the European Parliament, where he was full member of the Committee on Agriculture and President of the Delegation of the European Parliament for the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia. Furthermore, Michl Ebner was Chairperson of the Intergroup for Minorities since 2003. With Michl Ebner as Rapporteur, in 2003 the so-called Ebner-report "Report with recommendations to the Commission on European regional and lesser-used languages – the languages of minorities in the EU – in the context of enlargement and cultural diversity (2003/2057(INI))" was adopted.



Martha STOCKER was born on 19 April 1954 in Kematen/Taufers, where she lives, and is a politician of the South Tyrolean People's Party (SVP). She studied History and German Studies at the University of Innsbruck. From 1978 she became involved in several educational and cultural establishments, including the South Tyrolean Students' Union. Within the South Tyrolean People's Party she was and still is active in many different boards and committees: from 1986 till 2000 she has been the chairperson of the SVP-committee for schooling, culture and sports, since 2006 she has been the chairperson of the statutes-committee. In 1998 Stocker was elected into the South Tyrol parliament for the first time, and since 2004 she has been the Assessor of the region Trentino-South Tyrol responsible for social care and families, for regulating nursing care and regional supplementary pensions, and Vice-President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities.

Presentations

Committee of the Regions

The speech by Christian Gsodam, personal advisor of the Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions, was very well received. He analysed the role of the regions of Europe with particular emphasis on the significance of the regional and minority languages and made some concrete proposals on how FUEN could effectively enhance its cooperation with regions in Europe in order to increase the influence of the RML-s in the EU-system. He offered the active cooperation of the Committee of the Regions.



*Dr. Christian GSODAM,
Advisor to the Secretary
General, Committee of the
Regions of the European
Union*

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe was represented by Prof. Bröstl, who is member of the Committee of Experts of the Language Charter. The speaker underlined the importance of the monitoring system of the Council of Europe. During the discussion that followed the recommendation was made that FUEN, together with the Council of Europe and selected scholars, should make



*Prof. Dr. Alexander BRÖSTL,
Member of the Committee
of Experts of the European
Charter for Regional or
Minority Languages*

a "reader-friendly and journalistic" version of the many reports of the Council of Europe in the field of regional and minority languages.

“We made many good reports that unfortunately are read by far too few people,” according to Bröstl.

EU: Erasmus 4 all

Teresa Condeço, who had come as representative of the European Commission, presented the proposals by the European Commission for the future funding for multilingualism in the new EU budget period from 2014–2020. The future Erasmus for all-programme will combine the existing programmes (Youth, Comenius, Lifelong Learning etcetera) in one. It will include also predominantly the funding strands for the regional and minority languages. Condeço presented the proposal, which is now under discussion in the European Parliament and amongst the Member States. In this process also FUEN will table its proposals (see at: Taking Stock of European Language Policy)

Mrs. Condeço suggested that the participants of the conference and their umbrella organisations already should make up their minds about projects, networks and cooperation: **“the substantial requirements will be ambitious in the new EU-programme Erasmus for all – we want to support good and sustainable results; but the chances to implement your proposals will increase at the same time.”**



*Teresa CONDEÇO,
Multilingualism Policy Unit,
European Commission,
presentation of the
new EU programme
“Erasmus for All”*

Further presentations

Also representatives of European associations active in the field of regional and minority languages on the European level were invited to the conference.

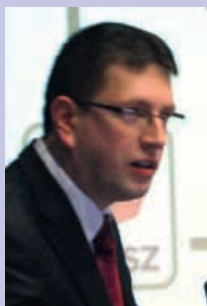
Next to presentations of the MENON-Study for the European Parliament by Dr. Walter Kugemann and the EUROMOSAIC-Study by Prof. Peter J. Weber, the representatives of the two networks NPLD – Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity and Mercator in association with Poliglotti4.eu presented their networks and there was an example from practice: about language rights in Romania.

The speech by Christian Gsodam and its concrete recommendations for networking, the presentation by Teresa Condeço and the other presentation can be accessed at:

www.language.fuen.org/bozen2012/index.php?inhalt=praesentationen



*Dr. Walter
KUGEMANN,
Research and
Innovation
Network MENON*



*Loránt VINCZE,
Democratic Alliance
of Hungarians
in Romania
RMDSZ*



*Meirion
PRYS JONES,
NPLD – Network
to Promote
Linguistic
Diversity*



*Prof. Peter J. WEBER,
University of Applied
Languages in Munich,
external evaluator of
RML2future*



*Cor VAN DER MEER,
Poliglotti4.eu*

Language planning – Theory and practice

The conference in Bozen/Bolzano was of course not only directed towards political decision makers and representatives of the umbrella organisations. For RML2future it has been important, to be “a hands-on network”. In other words, to address those who work every day with the issues of regional and minority languages. For example the kindergarten teacher, who ensures multilingual upbringing – or the school director who is enthusiastic for pedagogical concepts. But the network also works on raising awareness for the benefits of multilingualism and linguistic diversity.



*Jeroen DARQUENNES,
Associate Professor of
German and General
Linguistics at the University
of Namur, Belgium*

The contribution by linguist and language planning specialist Dr. Jeroen Darquennes from the University of Namur in Belgium attracted a great deal of interest. He introduced the participants to the basic elements of language planning. Based on the example of the Welsh, Darquennes gave concrete suggestions how tools for effective language planning might have positive effects also for small minority languages equipped with limited resources.

» **“However there is no panacea, no single blueprint for how to save languages”,**

according to the scientist from Namur.

With a lot of inner conviction and self-confidence Edith Ploner from the Ladin school inspectorate explained the conceptual considerations behind a specific language planning system from the Ladin practice. Moreover, the inspector for the Ladin kindergartens illuminated the

many benefits of being raised in a multilingual environment based on a description of her own upbringing. The benefits of natural multilingualism, often mentioned in an abstract and theoretical sense, were thus clearly portrayed.



*Dr. Edith PLONER,
Ladin Education Authority,
Inspector for Ladin
kindergartens*

Edith Ploner followed by inviting the participants of the conference who work in practice to come and visit a Ladin kindergarten in St. Ulrich / Ortisei in Gröden / Gardena Valley. “It is hard to pick out one highlight from the past two days – we are very glad with the overall result. But I am personally very pleased that the visit on the spot at the Ladins, i.e. the visit to a trilingual kindergarten, has led to so many positive reactions and that the participants will be able to go home with another concrete example of the promotion of early language learning in their pocket”, explains Judith Walde, the project manager of the network.



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Click here for the presentation by Jeroen Darquennes:
www.language.fuen.org/bozen2012/index.php?inhalt=planung



RML2future

At the end of the conference RML2future and the many active partners themselves had the opportunity to present their results.

RML2future has been funded for three year by the European Commission and through the generous support from South Tyrol as network for regional and minority languages in Europe – led by FUEN, with as partners the Agency for European Education Programmes VoG of the German-speaking Community in Belgium, the Council of Carinthian Slovenes in Austria, the Youth of European Nationalities, the European Academy Bozen / Bolzano in Italy and Højskolen Østersøen in Denmark. The funding period of the network has ended now.

www.rml2future.eu

www.facebook.com/RML2future

Many times in Bozen/Bolzano it was made clear: the network will not cease its activities after the three-year funding period. It will continue, under the auspices of FUEN; with a well-functioning team and many contacts that have been established it will continue to work towards the smaller and smallest languages.

“There is an urgent need on the European level and although we have come a long way,

there is still much left to do”, says the network manager Judith Walde.

The young Sorb was glad to report to the participants that the European Commission has granted a follow-up programme – developed within the framework of RML2future – with a subsidy of 400 000 Euro.



*Judith WALDE,
Network manager
RML2future*

The things achieved by the network were also very clearly presented by Hester Knol from YEN, which in particular was responsible within the network for dissemination and exploitation of the results. Many promotion materials and a film about the activities showed the broad scope of the network.

More information on the follow-up project of RML2future under the lead of FUEN, the



Hester KNOL,
YEN

Sabine WILMES.
EURAC



presentation by Sabine Wilmes of EURAC on research within the network and a selection of promotion materials and a slideshow on the three years of activity of the network RML2future can be accessed at:

www.language-diversity.eu/bozen2012

Forum of the European Minorities

One goal of the network RML2future – namely: to establish a “centre of competence for the regional and minority languages” was presented to the participants. FUEN-director Jan Diedrichsen told that the Danish Parliament in Copenhagen liked the idea for such a centre of competence/expertise so much that it allocated 75 000 Euro from Copenhagen to make a feasibility study for a concrete centre of competence/expertise. The results will be presented in March; a preliminary version is under evaluation now.

“That is one result from our network – without RML2future we would not have started this undertaking. We want to establish a service centre, where professionals, politicians and the general public can come to with their concrete questions and where they will be given advice”, said FUEN-director Jan Diedrichsen.

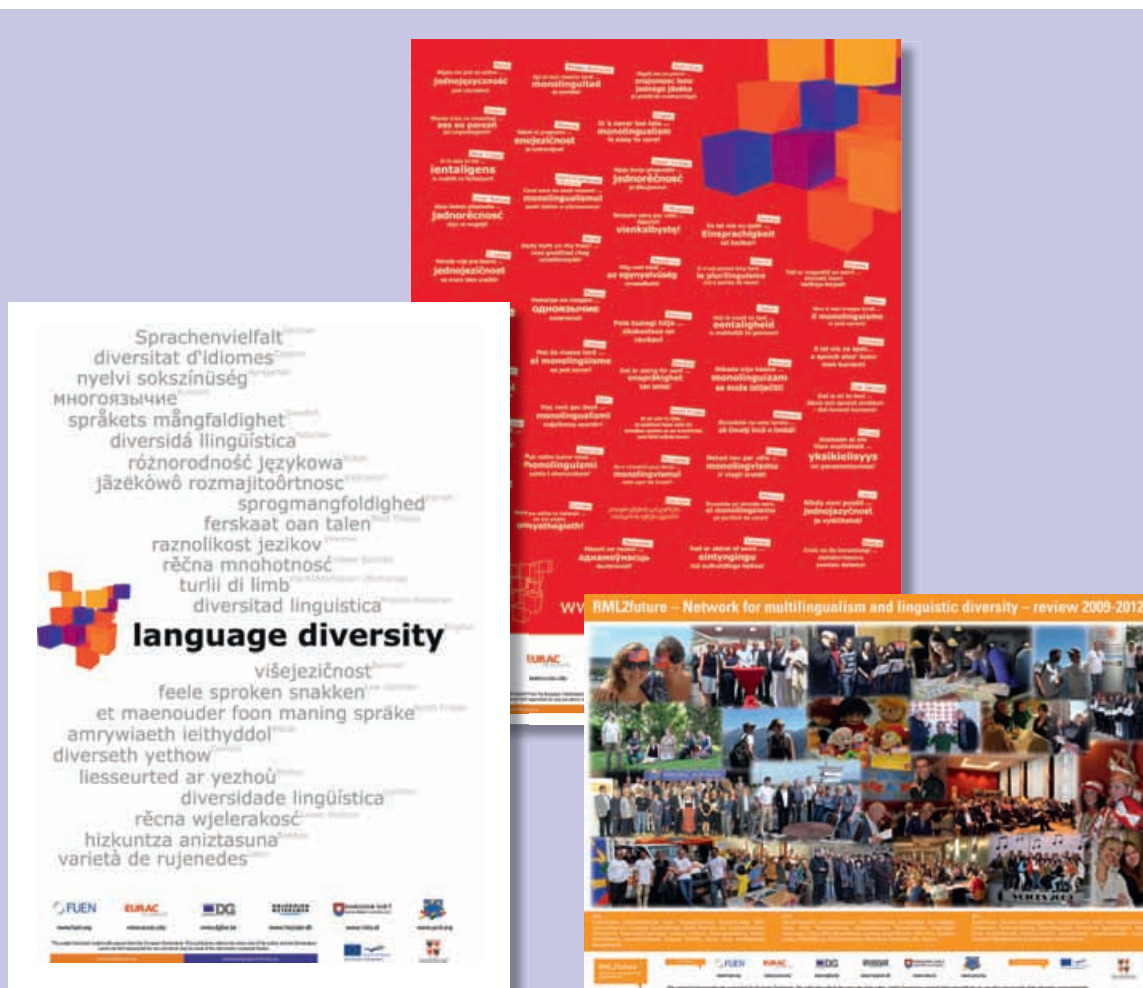
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Read more about the centre of competence:

www.language.fuen.org/bozen2012s/index.php?inhalt=zentrum

www.fuen.org/show.php?id=88&news=155





EUROPEADA 2012

Apart from many speeches, lectures and presentations, which despite the tempting weather in Bozen/Bolzano were generally very well attended, the participants did not go home before they, together with representatives of the Ladin football team and the team of the German-speaking group in South Tyrol, got a taste of the next big event of FUEN: the EUROPEADA 2012 – the European football championship of the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe.

The event and also details about the tournament were presented in South Tyrol by the organisers, the Sorbs from Lusatia in Germany. In South Tyrol – as was clear not only from the football players who were present – the football-virus already has broken out. Everyone looks forward to come to Lusatia and to the competition between 20 minority teams from all over Europe next June!

» ***“I think we showed Bozen / Bolzano that we as an umbrella organisation represent the interests of the regional and minority languages in a positive and active way through our effective, sympathetic and innovative network RML2future. Together with events such as the EUROPEADA or our next annual congress in Moscow we offer not only new knowledge to our members, but also nice experiences. We, FUEN, are proud of that”,***

said FUEN-President Hans Heinrich Hansen as conclusion of the conference in Bozen/Bolzano.

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For more information about the EUROPEADA 2012:

www.europeada.eu

EUROPEADA 2012-Anthem: www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcNDjLRBYNw

www.language.fuen.org/bozen2012/index.php?inhalt=europeada







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