

# 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

### End of year meeting 2009

in Flensburg / Flensburg (Germany),  
30 November – 2 December 2009

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

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

[www.language-diversity.eu](http://www.language-diversity.eu), [www.rml2future.eu](http://www.rml2future.eu)

Editors: Judith Walde, Madlenka Kowar

Photos: RML2future Team

Translation: Frank de Boer

Layout: Jadwiga Weidlich

Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

Schiffbrücke 41

D-24939 Flensburg

Germany

[info@fuen.org](mailto:info@fuen.org)

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



in cooperation with



[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)

# END OF YEAR MEETING 2009

in Flensburg / Flensburg (Germany),  
30 November – 2 December 2009

Hjertelig velkommen! Herzlich willkommen!  
Hartlik wäljkiimen! Hjertlæ velkommen!

» **FLensburg** (Danish and Low German: *Flensburg*, North Frisian: *Flansborj*, *Flensborag*, South Jutish: *Flensborre*) is a town in the north of the German Land of Schleswig-Holstein. Nowadays it is the biggest town in the region of Schleswig and the centre of the German-Danish border region.



## The region and its minorities

### The German-Danish border region

The German-Danish border region includes those areas on the Danish and German side of the border drawn between Germany and Denmark after the census of 1920. The German-Danish border region is regarded as a model region for European minority protection and four autochthonous, national minorities are living there:

- The **German minority** in Nordschleswig, Denmark, in the area of the former county of Sønderjylland; in total approximately 15 000 Germans,
- The **Danish minority** in Sydslesvig, Germany, approximately 50 000 people belong to the minority,
- The **Frisian minority**, living in the district of Nordfriesland on the west coast, on the islands lying offshore as well as on the island of Helgoland. They are approximately 50 000 people who consider themselves to be North Frisians or of North Frisian origin.
- The **Sinti and Roma**, approximately 5 000 of them are living in Schleswig-Holstein and can look back at a long tradition of being resident in this region.<sup>1</sup>

web



Source: [www.schleswig-holstein.de/Portal/DE/LandLeute/Minderheiten/minderheiten\\_node.html](http://www.schleswig-holstein.de/Portal/DE/LandLeute/Minderheiten/minderheiten_node.html)

### Links to organisations / institutions in the German-Danish border region / representatives of minorities

#### NORTH FRIESLAND:

- Nordfriisk Instituut: [www.nordfriiskinstituut.de](http://www.nordfriiskinstituut.de)
- Ferring Stiftung: <http://typo.kulturimnetz.de/t1/index.php?id=2>
- Friisk Foriining: [www.friiske.de](http://www.friiske.de)
- Frasche Rädj / Friesenrat: [www.friesenrat.de](http://www.friesenrat.de)
- Nordfriesischer Verein: [www.nf-verein.de](http://www.nf-verein.de)

#### NORDSCHLESWIG (Germans in Denmark):

- Deutscher Schul- und Sprachverein für Nordschleswig: [www.dssv.dk](http://www.dssv.dk)
- Bund deutscher Nordschleswiger, BDN: [www.bdn.dk](http://www.bdn.dk)
- Højskolen Østersøen: [www.hojoster.dk](http://www.hojoster.dk)
- Junge SPitzen: [www.jungespitzen.dk](http://www.jungespitzen.dk)
- University College Syddanmark: [www.ucsyd.dk](http://www.ucsyd.dk)



#### SYDSLESVIG (Danes in Germany):

- Sydslesvigsk forening, SSF: [www.syfo.de](http://www.syfo.de)
- Sydslesvigs danske Ungdomsforeninger, SdU: [www.sdu.de](http://www.sdu.de)
- Dansk Skoleforening for Sydslesvig: [www.skoleforeningen.org](http://www.skoleforeningen.org)

## Programme of the working meeting

The end of year meeting of the network RML2future in 2009 took place in Flensburg/Flensburg in the Secretariat of FUEN and in the offices of the Flensborghus, the seat of the Danish minority in Germany.

Next to the meeting with representatives of the local minorities in the German-Danish border region the network RML2future had its end of year meeting of 2009. The main topics of the meeting in Flensburg were the evaluation of the first year of the project, and also the planning of upcoming activities, especially in the next year of 2010.

On the evening of 1 December 2009, representatives from the field of schools and education in the German-Danish border region had accepted the invitation of the network RML2future and took part in a discussion in the Flensborghus. The meeting was also attended by FUEN-president Hans Heinrich Hansen.

The network, lead by FUEN, pursued two objectives with the meeting: at the first place it presented the main aims of RML2future to the actors in the border region. Additionally,

the participants wanted to collect information about the situation in the German-Danish border region: "We want to take an in depth look at the situation of the minorities in the field of language promotion and education in the selected regions, thereby using the network of the lead partner FUEN. The most important factor for us is the relation to practice. What are the needs, where are problems and how can we eventually provide help," Judith Walde, the project manager of the network, explained the rationale behind the meetings in the regions.

The German-Danish border region is a good example for how wide the spectrum is amongst the regional and minority languages. The two minorities with a "kin-state" – the German minority in Denmark and the Danish minority in Germany – have a well-functioning school and education system with establishments of their own from kindergarten to secondary schools. "We are looking for contacts in Europe time and again and want to learn from other people. Therefore we are very interested in cooperating with the



RML2future-network. The Danish School Association is cooperating intensively with FUEN and wants to remain involved,” said Olaf Runz, the head of Dansk Skoleforening for Sydslesvig.

Other than the two minorities with their own education system, the North Frisians do not have their independence in education and are dependent on cooperation with the public schools. In some regions this works fine, but in other regions “you see the language die,” according to Antje Arfsten, North Frisian and working at the Nordfriisk Instituut in Bredstedt. She also stressed that there are many good approaches for strengthening the language and that they are ready to accept every available support.

Moderated by FUEN-director Jan Diedrichsen, the 20 participants discussed about challenges and opportunities for cooperation between

the minorities and the RML2future-network. “I am taken with the concept of the RML2future-network. I think that there are many interesting aspects which may be useful in our work. We will follow what is done and also would like to cooperate within our own capabilities,” said school intendant Claus Diedrichsen, who is responsible for the school system of the German minority in Denmark, following the meeting.

Parallel to the intensive working meeting of the network, the representatives of the regions used the opportunity to get to know the beautiful town of Flensburg. The highlight of the meeting of course was the visit to the Christmas market on Norder- and Südermarkt, where the participants concluded the meeting standing in a strong Nordic breeze with a warm cup of mulled wine (glühwein) in their hands.



#### Extract from the agenda:

- Welcome by FUEN, which has its seat in Flensburg
- Evaluation of the first year of the project RML2future, looking back
- Discussion of substantive work of the network RML2future
- Project management: accounting and financial reporting
- Evaluation of the presentation of the network to the outside
- Evaluation of the network RML2future internally
- Dissemination and exploitation by the network
- Meeting of the network partners together with representatives of the minorities in the German-Danish border region: representatives of the Germans in Denmark, Danes in Germany, North Frisians and FUEN
- Overall direction of the future of the network
- Annual planning 2010



#### Participants

Hester Knol – Youth of European Nationalities YEN, the Netherlands

Susann Schenk – Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN, Germany

Judith Walde – Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN, Germany

Sabine Wilmes – Europäische Akademie Bozen EURAC, Italien

Edgar Hungs – Agency for European Education Programmes VoG, DG Belgien

Angela Hansen – Højskolen Østersøen, Dänemark

Peter Buhrmann – Højskolen Østersøen, Dänemark

Janko Kulmesch – Council of the Carinthian Slovenes NSKS, Austria

*Representatives of the German-Danish border region:*

Germans in Denmark, Danes in Germany, North Frisians, representatives of FUEN

**Accommodation:** Tulip Inn in Flensburg / Flensburg



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission and the Autonomous Region Trentino-South Tyrol. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission and the Region cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.





**RML2future**

Network for multilingualism and  
linguistic diversity

[www.language-diversity.eu](http://www.language-diversity.eu)