

## **Annual Report 2022**

The post pandemic year 2022 allowed the CONVIVENZA Foundation to move back to a relative normal. Thanks to the new travel freedom we were able to organize and to actively participate on different roundtables and conferences again. However, and needless to say, all this was overshadowed by the war launched by Russia in February 24. The foundation board shared its solidarity with the people of Ukraine and all Russian citizens opposing Putin's invasion of Ukraine with a strong statement on its website.

The main event the CONVIVENZA Foundation was actively engaged, was the Second Belgrade Armã Conference, held from October 12 to 14 2022, at the Belgrade City Library, in Serbia. It was organized in cooperation with the Armã Pen Centre in Belgrade. The theme of the conference was about the role of writers in the defense of freedom of expression in the mother tongue. The event was well attended. Among the many high-level participants were Katica Kulavkova, on behalf of PEN International, Olena Papuga, State Secretary on behalf of the Ministry of Human, Minority Rights and Social Dialogue of the Republic of Serbia, and Alma Rizvanović, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia. The final report of the conference, the welcome presentation from Raoul Blindenbacher, as well as a keynote speech made by Romedi Arquint about language as a specific feature of the identity of small nations, can be downloaded at the foundation's website.

A further important event with the active participation of the foundation was the Forum of European Minority Regions, which was organized by the Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN. It took place from November 10 till 12 2022 in Galway, Ireland. Romedi Arquint held a well-received speech about "Minorities and Tourism".

The greatest workload, however, emerged by the redaction of the Volume 6 of the CONVIVENZA Book Series with the title "Innovation and Learning to Manage Diversity in Governance". With the generous financial support of the Directorate of International Law of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland it was possible to draft a comprehensive book with 26 articles from 23 authors, originating from 15 European countries. The book is edited by Raoul Blindenbacher and published by Schulthess Verlag Zurich. It is dedicated to our Co-Founder and Vice-President of the CONVIVENZA Foundation Romedi Arquint for his 80th Birthday. The book Launch will be held in collaboration with the European Parliamentarian Society in Strasbourg, France, in Mai 10, 2023.

On November 4 2022, the CONVIVENZA Foundation held its annual virtual full cast board meeting. The board agreed to continue its strategic path to organize events and lectures based on its method of operations, the Governmental Learning Spiral®. It particularly decided to organize the above-mentioned book launch as well as a roundtable with the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, in May 11. The session will be followed by a formal dinner at the Residence of the Swiss Embassy of the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Council of Europe.

Finally, the board took note that thanks to the generous financial contributions mentioned above, the Foundation was able to balance its annual budget and with that was able to maintain the Foundation's capital.



Raoul Blindenbacher PhD, MSW  
President of the Convivenza Foundation

Berne, January 2023