



GIVE A VOICE TO THE SMALL PEOPLES WITHOUT THEIR OWN STATE

The small peoples without claim to sovereignty endeavour, sometimes under adverse circumstances, to preserve their ancestral language and culture. They do not demand sovereignty, they are loyal to the state in which they live, but they claim adapted forms of cultural autonomy for the cultivation of their language and culture, as well as genuine participation in all areas concerning them. More than twenty years after the adoption of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Foundation Convivenza is interested in the benefits that this Convention and similar international instruments have provided for the small peoples living without their own state as minorities.

After a first meeting on the small peoples without their own state with over 40 participants in 2015 (Scuol Recommendation), the Foundation Convivenza is organising a follow-up seminar in October 2020. The seminar is under the patronage of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and in scientific collaboration with the EURAC Research in Bozen/Bolzano. It will take place from 21 to 24 October 2020 in Müstair, Canton of Grisons, Switzerland. Should the Corona crises not allow the realisation in October 2020, the conference will be taking place in early 2021.

The seminar for small peoples bases on a survey that has already been sent to representatives of small peoples from across Europe as well as public officials. During the conference in October 2020, the same representatives of the civil organisations of the small peoples, as well as the respective governmental representatives, will then elaborate further on the results of the survey. The seminar will be organised in workshops on political and constitutional rights, educational and cultural promotion, as well as media and society. The mutual exchange of experience during the seminar will allow formulating concrete recommendations of good governance. Finally, the Foundation Convivenza is planning a respective publication.

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