

Annual Report 2021

In the year 2021 the pandemic posed again a great challenge for the Convivenza Foundation. However, despite all inconveniences, the Foundation successfully carried through all its activities as planned.

Above all, the Convivenza Foundation finalized and published on its website its very own multi-stakeholder methodology that enhances its mission to offer a dialogue platform to develop and implement sustainable solutions for minority and diversity issues. The methodology is based on the approach of the Governmental Learning Spiral[®] and was adapted for the Foundation's purpose and summarized in a practical manual. The manual is designed for self-study and serves as a detailed memory aide in order to organize innovation and learning processes in the framework of the Foundation's activities. The Convivenza Foundation is now in a position to offer advisory services to third parties on how to apply the methodology in minority and diversity issues as well as other governance-related policy challenges.

The Convivenza Foundation applied the methodology for the first time in its seminar about "Small Peoples without their own State". The event was held from October 20 till 23 2021 at the municipality of Müstair in the Canton of Grison, Switzerland. It was jointly conducted with Eurac Research and was under the auspices of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Council of Europe. The seminar was sponsored by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Canton of Grison, the municipality of Müstair, the Biosfera, the Lia Rumantscha as well as the Raiffeisen Bank and the Cantonal Bank of Grison.

The event was attended by 35 experts from 15 European countries, representing a dozen small communities without a kin-state such as the Aromanians, the Frisians, Sorbs, etc., They shared their linguistic, cultural, and economic experiences and searched for new innovative measures to improve their lives and institutions. Part of the seminar was a well visited public event with local and traditional folk music, which was presided by the Government Councilor Dr. Jon Domenic Parolini, Head of the Department of Education, Culture and Environmental Protection of the Canton of Grison. The results of the seminar are reflected in the »Müstair Declaration«, and can be downloaded at the Foundation's website. Further information about the outcomes will be published in the forthcoming Volume 6 of the Convivenza Foundation's book series.

On November 24 2021, the Convivenza Foundation organized in collaboration with the Alliance Française de Berne a lecture with the former Belgian Ambassador Baron Dr. Johann Swinnen about «The Rwandan genocide, 25 years later: what we do know and what we still do not know». The conference with over 100 distinguished guests was held at the Schulwarte in Berne, followed by an «Apéritif Dînatoire» at the Cercle de la Grande Société de Berne.

On October 24 2021, the Convivenza Foundation had its first face-to-face full cast board meeting at the Eurac Research building in Bozen, Italy, since its recomposition in 2020. At this occasion, the board decided to publish Volume 6 of the Foundation's book series in 2022, which is pre-financed by the Directorate of International Law of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. In addition, it approved the planning of a book launch in winter 2022/23 and to engage in a project about the development of a digital strategy that enhances the cooperation among cultural and linguistic communities without a kin-state. This will be done in collaboration with the PEN-Club International and the Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN.

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.



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President of the Convivenza Foundation

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