

AGSM

Working Group of Slavic Minorities



Imprint

© All rights reserved: 2023 FUEN – Federal Union of European Nationalities
www.fuen.org

First edition (German version)

December 2019

Editorial

Matic Germovšek Žnidaršič

Editing, Proofreading

Dianne Penny

English translation 2023

Barbara Lečnik, Urša Vidic

Layout

MARGO Graphic Design

Published by:

FUEN / AGSM Coordination Schiffbrücke 42

D-24939 Flensburg

Phone: +49 461/12855

Email: agsm@fuen.org

Homepage: <https://agsm.fuen.org>



Geleitet durch:



aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages

Table of contents

Imprint

1. Words of welcome
2. Overview & map of member organisations
3. Slavic minorities introduce themselves

[KASHUBIANS IN POLAND.....10](#)

[MOLISE CROATS IN ITALY.....12](#)

[BURGENLAND CROATS IN AUSTRIA.....14](#)

[CROATS IN SERBIA.....16](#)

[LEMKOS IN POLAND.....18](#)

[MACEDONIANS IN ALBANIA.....20](#)

[MACEDONIANS IN GREECE.....22](#)

[POLES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC.....24](#)

[POMAKS IN BULGARIA.....26](#)

[POMAKS IN GREECE.....28](#)

[RUSSIANS IN ESTONIA.....30](#)

[CARPATHO-RUSYNS IN THE UKRAINE.....32](#)

[RUSYNS IN HUNGARY.....34](#)

[SERBS IN CROATIA.....36](#)

[SLOVAKS AND CZECHS IN ROMANIA.....38](#)

[SLOVAKS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC.....40](#)

[SLOVAKS IN HUNGARY.....42](#)

[SLOVENES IN ITALY.....44](#)

[CARINTHIAN SLOVENES IN AUSTRIA.....46](#)

[SORBS IN GERMANY.....48](#)

[CZECHS IN CROATIA.....50](#)

[CZECHS IN SLOVAKIA.....52](#)

[BELARUSIANS IN ESTONIA.....54](#)

[MONTENEGRINS IN ALBANIA.....56](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ESTONIAN UNION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES”.....58](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)

[UMBRELLA ORGANISATION “ASSEMBLY OF NATIONALITIES OF UKRAINE”.....59](#)



Dear readers,

I welcome you on behalf of the Federal Union of European Nationalities. Our organisation, which in 2019 celebrated its 70th anniversary, is the main advocate and the largest umbrella organisation for Europe's autochthonous national minorities, nationalities and language groups. Under its umbrella it currently unites more than 100 member organisations from 35 European countries, with new members joining every year. FUEN is a mutually supportive organisation representing the interests of European minorities at regional, national, and particularly European level.

With offices in Flensburg, Berlin and Brussels, we are the voice of minorities within international organisations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and OSCE. Our aim is to preserve and promote the identity, linguistic diversity and immense cultural heritage that minorities offer.

In recent years, FUEN has achieved significant success. In 2019, our anniversary congress, which is the largest gathering of European minorities, with over 270 participants from all around Europe, was held in Bratislava. Work on the Minority SafePack Initiative – arguably FUEN's most ambitious project – continues. We have gathered 1,128,385 statements of support for the promotion and protection of the culture of European autochthonous national minorities and language and have presented our ideas to the European Commission.

We have several plans and projects for upcoming years, including the major sports and cultural event EUROPEADA – the European football championship of the autochthonous, national minorities where we have the support of UEFA, Forum of the European Minority Regions, several working groups meeting and.

We are especially proud of FUEN's language and thematic working groups. There are currently five working groups, the oldest of which – the Working Group of German Minorities – was founded in 1991.

In Europe's recent history and in various regions, Slavic communities have faced each other in armed and political confrontations. I am particularly pleased to see that member organisations representing very different communities are working together in AGSM – the Working Group of Slavic Minorities – to address what unites them and help them overcome the differences they once saw as divisive. The AGSM, like all our working groups, works to build bridges not just between minority groups but also between minority communities and the states and majority societies in which they live.

I have appreciated being a guest at multiple Working Group of Slavic Minorities' meetings, where I have met enthusiastic and dedicated representatives and learnt a great deal about the different groups' daily lives and struggles. I have attended a number of meetings, including memorial events and folk festivals. These have been meticulously planned and executed with exceptional hospitality.

I am certain that the working groups will expand the network of minorities based on the concept of solidarity, whilst promoting the exchange of ideas and competencies, devising problem-solving strategies, and generally fostering the interests of Europe's autochthonous minority groups.

I wish all members of the Working Group of Slavic Minorities many more successful meetings, memorable events, and valuable collaborations to strengthen the bond between their organisations and within the European family of minority communities!

Loránt Vincze

President of FUEN

Member of the European Parliament



**Dear AGSM family,
Dear friends,**

Let me say a few words about the history of AGSM:

Even before the reunification of Germany, we, the Lusatian Sorbs, felt a strong need to belong to this European minority organisation. At the same time, we have taken up the cause of winning the cooperation of further Slavic member organisations from the Eastern and Southern European countries. By 1992, the first FUEN congress ever was held by us in Cottbus in Lusatia.

This was the reason why we considered founding a Slavic working group under the FUEN umbrella. After several discussions with the Presidium and with the decisive support of Mr. Goßmann, State Secretary in the General Federal Ministry of the Interior, we succeeded in convening the AGSM in 1996. The Domowina – The Association of Lusatian Sorbs – has, as a member organisation, agreed to prepare and conduct the annual seminars. We have held 20 seminars, and each time one seminar was held in Lusatia and one at a local Slavic member organisation.

The most important aim of the seminars was to exchange experiences and to learn about positive examples of the preservation and maintenance, as well as the use, of minority language and culture.

Thus, we have, among other things, exchanged experiences on language teaching methods for children, ways of revitalising minority languages, successful school models and education as a self-governing model. The agenda has also included topics ranging from models of cultural autonomy, political participation, and committee work to minority language in the media. Last but not least, the digitisation of minority languages, especially for Non-Kin-State minorities, is also an important topic for the future.

The most important outcome of the seminars, however, has been the transfer and application of the positive experiences of other minorities to one's own situation, and modifying these accordingly, thus generating increased motivation within one's own context. With this in mind, we will continue to utilise AGSM seminars going forward. And on that note, I would like to wish all member organisations and participants every success.

Bernhard Ziesch

Former spokesperson and founder of AGSM



**Dear members of AGSM,
Dear readers,**

Belonging to the Lusatian Sorbs, which is one of the smallest Slavic non-kin state minorities, I know, how important solidarity and support is. This solidarity we Sorbs in Germany get every day from our closed neighbours in Poland and the Czech republic. The spirit of support and mutual understanding is also the basis of the activities of the FUEN Working Group of Slavic Minorities. In a world of increasing tensions and conflicts it must be our major interest to focus on common topics and on the balancing of interests.

Alfons Mucha, the Czech painter of the Slovanská Epopej (The Slav Epic), wrote in 1928: "We must live in the hope that humankind will draw together and that the better we understand each other the easier this will become."

AGSM provides a great opportunity to live cultural and linguistic diversity. We can learn from each other with respect about the history of Slavic minorities, which often lead to suppression and conflicts. An important lesson from the past is that national rebirth does not emerge on their own. It is an important task for the future to work for open, plural and fair societies. Furthermore, we must work together to ensure that minority rights are maintained. Currently, we are experiencing tendencies to reverse what has been achieved. There is a gradual or overt dismantling of democracy and the rule of law.

Restricting minority rights is not just an issue that affects a particular country, but it affects all of us in Europe. It is about the order of peace and freedom for all of us. It is important to make every effort to further secure minority rights. In addition to cultural exchange, I see therefore the enormous importance of political exchange and coordination within AGSM.

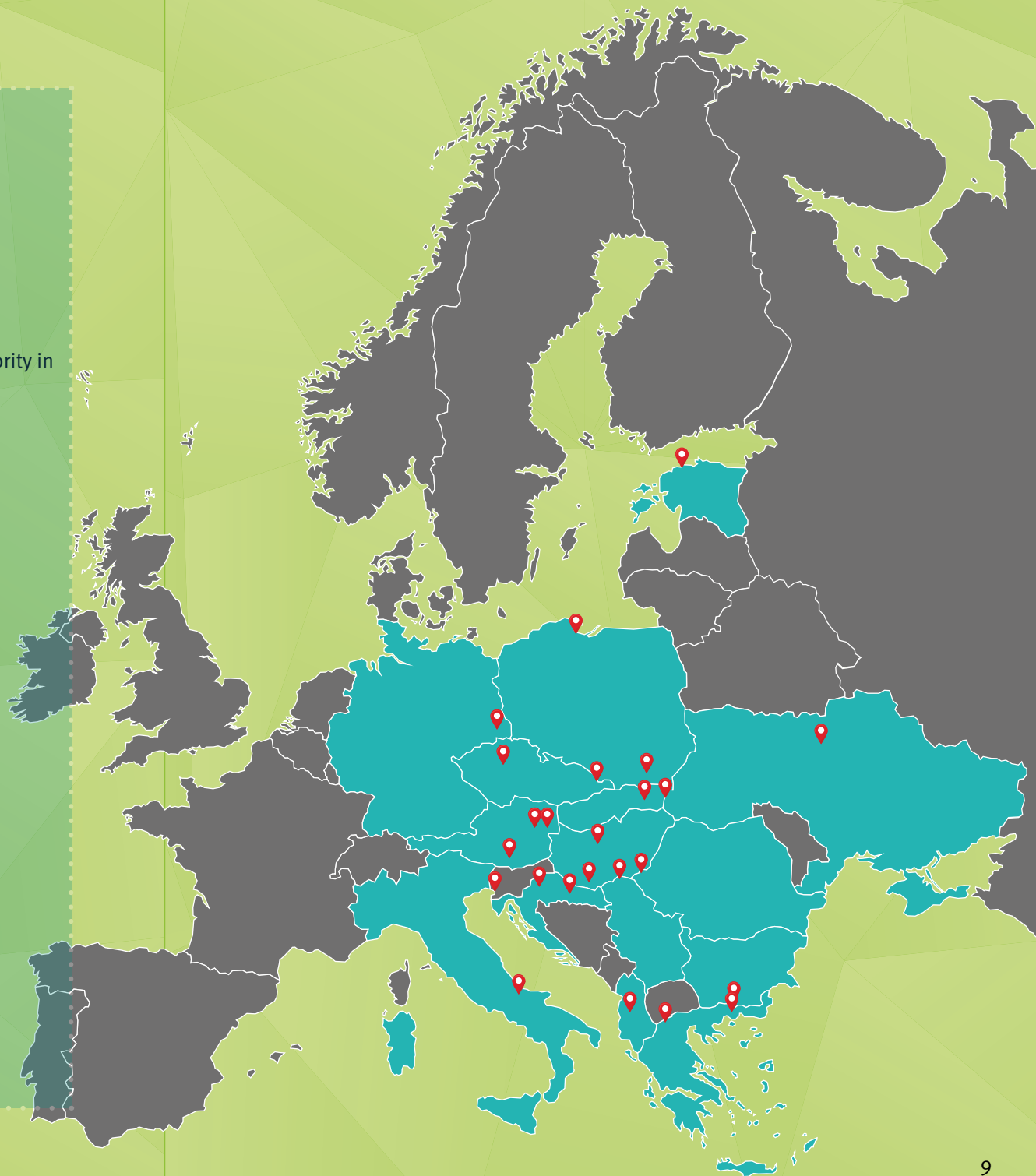
An ongoing important task is to open new possibilities of public presence and mutual exchange. This brochure is one building block, in addition to the website and a newsletter, to present our Slavic minorities to the brought public.

I look forward to many personal meetings and a successful cooperations. Wutšoby žěk za wašu dowěru. Wjaselim se na gromadne žěto.

Dr. Hartmut S. Leipner

Spokesperson of AGSM

1. Croatian Cultural Association in Burgenland
2. National Council of Carinthian Slovenes
3. Community of Carinthian Slovenes
4. Croatian Centre for Culture, Education and Politics
5. Macedonian Association “Ilinden” – Tirana
6. DOMOWINA – Union of Lusatian Sorbs
7. NGO Russian School of Estonia
8. National Self-Government of Slovaks in Hungary
9. Coordination Council and Representative of the Czech Minority in Croatia
10. Serb National Council in Croatia
11. Confederation of Slovene Organisations in Italy
12. Slovenian Cultural and Economic Association
13. Union of the Slovenes in Italy
14. Society of Carpatho-Rusyns in Ukraine
15. National Self-Government of Rusyns in Hungary
16. Democratic Alliance of Croats in Vojvodina
17. Foundation “Agostina Piccoli”
18. Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania
19. European Institute – Pomak
20. Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic
21. Union of Educational and Charitable Societies in Estonia
22. Association of Belarusians in Estonia
23. Rainbow: Party of the Macedonian Minority in Greece
24. Panhellenic Pomak Association
25. Slovene Union in Italy
26. Association of Lemkos in Poland
27. Kashubian-Pomeranian Association
28. Czech Association in Slovakia
29. Montenegrin Community In Albania “ZCGA” - Elbasan
30. Estonian Union of National Minorities
31. Public Organisation “Assembly of Nationalities of Ukraine”



Kashubians in Poland

The Kashubians are of Pomeranian origin and are the last Slavic Pomeranian community to retain its own culture and language. The Kashubians mostly inhabit northern Poland near the Baltic Sea, an area that was formerly part of Eastern Pomerania and then Western Pomerania, and thus historically alternately under Polish and German rule. This is mirrored in the language, which contains several terms derived from German, such as “Rumtopf”. The language has around 50,000 speakers and 50 dialectal variants. There are various hypotheses regarding how the name “Kashubian” came into existence. The sole certainty is that it was first referenced in a document in 1283. Assimilation and Germanisation influenced large areas of ancient Kashubia as well as numerous cultural and linguistic traditions. Only in the last 150 years has the minority’s sense of identity been resurrected. Kashubian is now taught in schools, with a number of groups preserving their cultural legacy and written language. Oskar Matzerath, in Günter Grass’ novel “The Tin Drum”, is possibly the most well-known Kashubian character in literature.

The Kashubian-Pomeranian Association is a non-governmental regional organisation comprising Kashubians (Pomeranians), Kociewiaczy, and others interested in the regional concerns of Kashubia and Pomerania in northern Poland. It was established in 1956 and has been a FUEN member since 1993. Its headquarters are in Gdańsk, Poland. The Kashubian Language Council (Kashubian: Radzëzna Kaszëbsczégò Jãzëka; Polish: Rada Języka Kaszubskiego) is a body within the Kashubian-Pomeranian Association that nurtures and promotes the Kashubian language. There has been a monthly newspaper, named “Pomerania”, in publication since 1963, and there are various weekly newspapers. The Kashubian language is also broadcast on radio and television. The most well-known Kashubian today is Donald Tusk, former Prime Minister of Poland, former President of the European Council, and former President of the European People’s Party.



The Kashubian-Pomeranian Association
Kaszëbskò Pòmòrszczé Zrzeszenié
/ Kaszëbskò Pòmòrszczé Zrzeszenié

ul. Straganiarska 20-23
PL-80837 Gdańsk / Danzig
Poland

www.kaszubi.pl
biuro@kaszubski.pl

Telefon: +48 0583012731
Facebook: [Zrzeszenie Kaszubsko-Pomorskie](https://www.facebook.com/ZrzeszenieKaszubsko-Pomorskie)

Hello – **Witój**
Welcome – **Witòj**
How are you? – **Jak sã mosz?**
Fine, thank you. – **Dobrze, dzäkùjã.**
My name is... – **Móm na miono...**
A particularly funny word:
szërmëcel / dżıldzëzna (chaos),
dżiblówka (swing)

Molise Croats in Italy

The Croatian minority in the Italian region of Molise dates back to the 15th and 16th centuries, when the Croats fled from Ottoman invaders.

Croatian settlements were established along the entirety of Italy's Adriatic coast, from Marche to Puglia. Croats were warmly welcomed in what were generally sparsely populated districts and villages. Today, however, the Croatian minority lives only in the small region of Molise. The Croatian minority comprises roughly 2,200 individuals, dwelling in the villages of Montemitro, Acquaviva Collecroce, San Felice del Molise, and Tavenna. The villages are located inland, in a region of natural, historical, and archaeological importance. There are, for example, holy sites from the Roman and Samnite eras.

About half of Molise Croats speak the original Croatian language, whose preservation is a particularly difficult current challenge. Furthermore, Molise Croats have not been formally recognised as a minority and hence have no claim to legal and political representation. Their only legal protection is due to their status as a linguistic minority. Molise Croats mostly campaign for the preservation of their language and customs through non-governmental organisations. However, official institutions recognise their affiliation with the Croatian minority and maintain contact with Croatian diplomatic and political representations. Social and cultural activities mostly focus on the community's traditions and origins.

The **“Agostina Piccoli” Foundation**, which was formed in 1999 and has been a member of FUEN since 2018, organises events primarily to preserve the language; it supports numerous linguistic and historical research initiatives. The language of the Molise Croats, who call themselves “Kroate iz Moliza” in their mother tongue, is a Croatian dialect distinguished by centuries of isolation from other Slavic languages. The language is frequently referred to as “na-našo” (our way). One of the organization's most significant events is the literary competition, with the publication of prose and poetry in Molise Croatian.



Hello – **Zdravo**
Welcome – **Dobro dol**
How are you? – **Kako grede?**
Fine, thank you. – **Dobro, huala.**
My name is... – **Ja se zovem...**
A particularly funny word/saying:
Naše čeljade su dol iz one bane mora.

Foundation “Agostina Piccoli” Fondazione „Agostina Piccoli“

Via Marconi SN
I-86030 Montemitro
Italy

<http://www.mundimitar.it>
fondazione.piccoli@gmail.com

Telefon: +39 0874 877747
Facebook: [Minoranza.Linguistica.Croata](https://www.facebook.com/Minoranza.Linguistica.Croata)

Burgenland Croats in Austria

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the ancestors of the Burgenland Croatian minority in Austria emigrated to Austria from various parts of Croatia. The territory of the Burgenland Croats was divided, due to changes in the borders following the First World War, and they therefore currently live in Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic.

Croats dwell in villages dispersed throughout the entire province of Burgenland. Many Burgenland Croats settled in Vienna during the interwar period, and this ethnic group remains to this day. This minority population in Burgenland, Vienna, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic is believed to comprise 50,000 to 60,000 people. They are recognised as an ethnic group in Austria, although they do not have their own political representation. Article 7 of the Austrian State Treaty of 1955 safeguards the rights of ethnic groups. Today, the most difficult challenge is strong assimilation.

The ethnic group's weekly published media include Hrvatske Novine and the church daily Glasnik; there are also other publications, such as Glasilo (by HKD), published four times a year. Austrian National Radio transmits for 42 minutes every day, while Dobar dan Hrvati in Croatian is broadcast every Sunday. In addition, there is a commercial TV broadcaster that transmits programmes for the minority.

The Burgenland Croats, or Gradišćanski Hrvati, vary in language and customs. Linguistically, they are classified into two categories, „Čakavci“ and „Štokavci“ – distinguished by how they say the word “what”, whereby one group says “ča” and the other “šta”.

The Burgenland Croat language has been standardised and varies from the present Standard Croatian – the official language of Croatia.

organisation of events, concerts, lectures, and singing/recitation competitions for children and young people, language weeks, the publication of CDs, and, most importantly, the creation of their own website. Every year, the association hosts the traditional Burgenland Croat Ball in Vienna. The Croatian Centre for Culture, Education and Politics considers itself an intercultural institution, working with several associations and institutions from Vienna, Burgenland, other federal provinces, and adjacent countries. It provides fresh views and opportunities for the ethnic group's growth, as well as facilitating collaboration with other communities and the majority population. It was established in 1994 and has been a FUEN member since 2012.



Hrvaško kulturno društvo na Gradišćanskem
Hrvatsko kulturno društvo u Gradišću

Dr. Lorenz-Karallstraße 23
A-7000 Eisenstadt/Željezno
Austrija / Austria

www.hkd.at
ured@hkd.at

Telefon: +43 268266500
Facebook: [Hrvatsko kulturno društvo u Gradišću](https://www.facebook.com/Hrvatsko.kulturno.drustvo.u.Gradišću)

Hrvaški center za kulturo, izobraževanje in politiko
Hrvatski center za kulturo, obrazovanje i politiku

Schwindgasse 14
A-1040 Wien
Austria

<http://www.hrvatskicentar.at>
ured@hrvatskicentar.at

Telefon: +43 1 504 63 54
Facebook: [Hrvatski Centar](https://www.facebook.com/Hrvatski.Centar)

The **Croatian Cultural Association** in Burgenland (HKD) is dedicated to the preservation, protection, and consolidation of the Croatian ethnic group in Burgenland, Vienna, Slovakia, and Hungary. Its main vision is “being able to live the Croatian identity in Austria – with equal rights, equal opportunities, and without fear.” The organisation has been in existence since 1929 and became a member of FUEN in 1958. The HKD and the numerous Croatian associations are involved in a wide range of activities. These include: the publication of books (including children's books), the creation of an online dictionary,

Hello – **Zdravo**
Welcome – **Dobro došli**
How are you? – **Kako ide?**
Fine, thank you. – **Hvala, dobro.**
My name is... – **Zovem se ...**
Funny words:
čmrlj = Hummel
pošešuknut = someone foolish

Croats in Serbia

Geographically, the autonomous region of Vojvodina in northern Serbia is defined by the course of the Danube, the Fruška Gora mountains, and the country's oldest national park of the same name.

Culturally, it has always been diverse: in addition to Serbs, Hungarians, Slovaks, Romanians, Bulgarians, and other ethnic groups, it is home to 2.4% Croats and Šokci Croats (Shokats), as well as some Bunjevci Croats (Bunjevats). Thus, Croatian is one of the province's six official languages, and the provincial parliament produces publications in Croatian as well as the other official languages. The Croatian minority has been formally recognised since 2002. Subotica, the second biggest city in Vojvodina, is the regional centre for the Croatian minority. Because of its cultural variety, the city has earned the moniker "city of tolerance". In Subotica, various Croatian associations and two Croatian political parties have been established.

The minority celebrates a number of traditional holidays. Bunjevci Croats, for example, hold a carnival before the start of Christian Lent, with traditional pastries, among other things. In Subotica, the harvest festival is observed towards the end of the harvest season, when straw crafts are made and thanksgiving services held.

The Democratic Alliance of Croats in Vojvodina - was founded in 1990 in the city of Subotica. Its aim was to unite the interests of all Croats in Vojvodina through a common political organisation and to help shape the democratisation process of the then-young parliament of the Republic of Serbia. The alliance has been a member of FUEN since 1993. The party swiftly established branches in neighbouring municipalities, as well as a youth wing.



Hello – **Bok**
Welcome – **Dobrodošli**
How are you? – **Kako si?**
Fine, thank you. – **Dobro, hvala.**
My name is... – **Moje ime je ...**
Funny words:
najnezainteresiraniji

Demokratsko združenje Hrvata v Vojvodini
Demokratski Savez Hrvata u Vojvodini

Beogradski Put 31
SRB - 24000 Subotica

www.dshv.net
office@dshv.net

Telefon: +38 124524977
Facebook: [DSHV - Demokratski savez Hrvata u Vojvodini](https://www.facebook.com/DSHV-Demokratski-savez-Hrvata-u-Vojvodini)

The Lemkos in Poland

The Lemkos are one of Poland's nine recognised national minorities. The 2002 census reported 5,863 Lemkos in Poland, with a population share of 0.01%. They originate from the Lemko region (Polish: Łemkowszczyzna) in the Beskids, a mountain range in the Western Carpathians. This hilly region in south eastern Poland runs from the town of Salinka and the San River in the east to the mouths of the Solyanka and Proprad rivers in the west. Other parts of the Lemko region can be found in Slovakia and Ukraine. After World War I, the Lemko Rusyn Republic existed for a few months before being annexed by Poland.

During "Operation Vistula" in 1947, the Lemkos were forcefully resettled in various parts of Poland, including Lower Silesia, Pomerania, and Masuria, in order to foster assimilation. Not all Lemkos consider themselves an independent minority; some consider themselves to be Carpatho Rusyns, while others see themselves as part of the Ukrainian minority. Thus, a Lemko newspaper is published as a supplement to the Ukrainian weekly newspaper Nasze Słowo. Other periodicals appear independently four times a year.

Children at minority schools can be taught in the Lemko native language – a West Slavic dialect of Russian – and 295 students took part in such classes in 2005/06.

The Museum of Lemko Culture, located in the village of Zydranowa, is a vital site for the minority in coming to terms with its history and expressing its identity.

Since its establishment in 1989, and since 1996 as a member of FUEN, the **Lemkos Union** has been dedicated to the development and promotion of Lemko national consciousness. Cultural and educational activities are centred on the minority's place of origin and other geographical regions. Special events include the annual social and educational gathering "Lemkiska Vatra", conducted under the slogan "through tradition into the future", the publication of the quarterly journal Vatra, and language teaching.

**Društvo Lemkov na Poljskem /
Об'єднання лемків**

ul. Jagielly 2
PL-38-300 Gorlice
Poland

www.lemkounion.republika.pl
lemkounion@poczta.onet.pl

Telefon: + 48 18 353 29 06
Facebook: [Zjednoczenie Łemków](https://www.facebook.com/Zjednoczenie_Lemkow)

Macedonians in Albania

The Macedonian minority arose in the country's border regions with the coming of the country's independence and the founding of the Kingdom of Albania in 1912, whose borders still exist today. Settlement areas include Golo Brdo, Debar Pole, Gorijska, Mala Prespa, and Gora. Today there are also members of the Macedonian minority in the country's main cities. In the entire Republic of Albania, around 120,000 people are members of the minority, known in Macedonian as Македонско национално малцинство во Република Албанија.

Although the Macedonian minority is officially recognised, it is not well protected. Schools for native speakers are few in Golo Brdo, Gora, and Vrbnik, among other places, and Macedonian is not officially spoken in the major towns where many Macedonians dwell.

Similarly, while the national minority is represented in a variety of media, this is far from sufficient in fulfilling demand. There are two monthly newspapers, Ilinden and Prespa Daily, while the Macedonian association Sonce operates the bilingual web portal Makedonium. The Korç radio station has been broadcasting in Macedonian since 1991.

Since 2017, there has been a Macedonian station run by a public service broadcaster, and this broadcasts five days a week.

Musical traditions are nurtured by folk dancing and music ensembles in Golo Brdo, Mala Prespa, Gora, and Vrbnik. Macedonians are represented in political and legal matters by the nationwide organisation "Ilinden", which has its headquarters in Tirana, the organisation for the protection of Macedonian rights in Albania, "Prespa Society", the political-cultural association "Mir", the ethno-cultural association "Gora", and the society "MES" (Macedonian Aegean Society).

The most important festivals of the Macedonian minority in Albania are the Orthodox holidays associated with the old calendar, which – besides Christmas, Easter and New Year's Eve – include Vasilica, Epiphany, and the holy days of St. Cyril and Methodius, St. Clement of Ohrid, St. Naum of Ohrid, St. Transfiguration, Kurban Bayram, Jeter Bayram, and Letnik. There are also historical holidays such as 2nd August to commemorate the Macedonian people's "Ilinden" uprising against their Ottoman overlords, 8th September, which marks Macedonia's Independence Day, and 23rd October, which marks the Day of the Macedonian Revolutionary Struggle.

The Macedonian Association "Ilinden" – Tirana was founded in 2009 with the goal of protecting the Macedonian minority across the Republic of Albania. It became a member of FUEN in 2015. The association's primary assignments are to preserve and strengthen Macedonian identity in the ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious, historical, and state spheres. The continued existence and integration of Macedonians into the political system and institutions of Albania are also key to its activities. These objectives are met largely through press and media work, as well as through the organisation's own publications, and cultural and educational activities.



Hello – Здраво
Welcome – Добредојдовте
How are you? – Како си?
Fine, thank you. – Добро
благодарам
My name is... – Моето име е...
A particularly funny or
complicated word: Цагуриџиња

**Macedonian Association "Ilinden" –
Tirana /
Македонско Друштво "Илинден" -
Тирана**

Michal Grameno 183
Tirana
Albania

www.ilinden-tirana.com
drustvo.ilinden.tirana@live.com

Telefon: +355 69 240 1778
Facebook: [МАКЕДОНСКО ДРУШТВО
"ИЛИНДЕН"-ТИРАНА SHOQATA MAQE-
DONASE "ILINDEN"-TIRANË](#)

Macedonians in Greece

The Macedonians are a South Slavic ethnic group mostly found in the region of Macedonia in northern Greece. The situation of the minority in the country is impacted by political tensions between Greece and its northern neighbour Macedonia (since 2019, the Republic of Northern Macedonia). The Greek state lays claim to the entire territory of Macedonia and denies the region cultural autonomy. Only one minority is officially recognised in Greece: the Muslim minority in Western Thrace. This makes Macedonians one of Greece's most disadvantaged populations. The minority is systematically oppressed and its existence denied by Greek politicians and nationalists. As a result, many Macedonians are afraid to practise their culture or even identify themselves as Macedonians. Not only are the rights and the protection of the minority neglected, but so are its universal human rights, such as press freedom and freedom of expression. Macedonian is thus absent in the public sphere, administration, and school system. The language is only preserved in the family sphere. The Aegean Macedonian dialect is sometimes considered a language in its own right, related to Macedonian and Bulgarian.

“Rainbow”, the political party of Greece’s Macedonian minority, was created in Florina in 1995 and has been a member of FUEN since 2002. The party is dedicated to the recognition and rights of Greece’s Macedonian minority. It is also active at the European level as a member of the European Free Alliance in the European Parliament. The party has participated in municipal elections in Greece since 2002, but not in national parliamentary elections, due to budgetary constraints. So far, one party representative has been elected to office at the local level. The political manifesto of the “Rainbow” party, issued in 1997, outlines the party’s desire to work for peace and European integration with all democratic and anti-nationalist forces in Greece, with a specific emphasis on the status of minorities.

**“Rainbow” – Party of the Macedonian minority in Greece /
Виножито (Vinožito) ПОЛИТИЧКА
ПАРТИЈА НА МАКЕДОНСКОТО
МАЛЦИНСТВО ВО ГРЦИЈА**

Hello – **здраво / Zdravo**
Welcome – **Добредојдовте /
Dobredojdovte**
How are you? – **Како си / Kako si**
Fine, thank you. – **добро,
благодарам / Dobro, blagodaram**
My name is... – **Моето име е /
Moeto ime e**

Stefaunou Dragoumi 11
GR-53100 Lerin-Florina
Greece

www.florina.org
vinozito@otenet.gr

Telefon: +30 2385046548
Facebook: [EFA Rainbow/ЕСА Виножито/](https://www.facebook.com/EFA-Rainbow/)
[ΕΕΣ Ουράνιο Τόξο](https://www.facebook.com/EFA-Rainbow/)

Poles in the Czech Republic

Unlike the other minorities of the Czech Republic, the Polish minority is concentrated in a single geographical location, Cieszyn or Cieszyn Silesia (Těšínské Slezsko). The reason for this is because the region was a part of Poland from 1938 to 1945.

The area is also known as the Olsa Region, after the river of the same name. It forms part of the border between Poland and the Czech Republic. According to the 2001 census, there are 51,000 Poles in the Czech Republic, accounting for 0.5% of the total population.

The proximity to the mother state as well as a sympathetic media and educational situation, promote the minority's language and culture. Furthermore, the aforementioned Polish-Czech border area was declared a Euroregion in 1998. This region comprises 12 municipalities on the Polish side and 16 municipalities on the Czech side, thereby fostering transnational exchange. The training of Polish teaching staff and Polish education in general in this area, where Poles make up as much as 8% of the population (in the Frýdek-Místek District), are to a good standard.

The Polish Cultural and Educational Union has 16,000 members, and there are 80 local associations, including Klub Polski and the Association of Polish Teachers.

In 2007, the House of National Minorities was established in Prague, where, in addition to the Polish minority, eleven larger and smaller national minorities are represented.



The **Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic**, which was created in 1990 and which joined FUEN in 1994, serves as the umbrella body for their cultural organisations. The Congress oversees the activities of 30 Polish minority associations in the Czech Republic. It is the publisher of the “Głos ludu. Gazeta Polaków w Republice Czeskiej” newspaper, which comes out three times a week, with a circulation of 6,000 copies. It is also the primary body of the minority's political, cultural, and media representation. With Vision 2035, the congress established new targets for cultural development in the Cieszyn area. One of the current successful projects is “Bibliotheca Tessinensis”, which makes available historical, literary, and contemporary publications about the region.

Hello – **Cześć**
Welcome – **Witamy**
How are you? – **Jak się masz?**
Fine, thank you. – **Dobrze, dziękuję**
My name is... – / **Moeto ime e**
Моето име е
A well-known tongue-twister:
Chrząszcz
W Szczepieszynie chrząszcz
brzmi w trzcinie
I Szczepieszyn z tego słynie.
Wól go pyta: „Panie chrząszczu,
Po cóż pan tak brzeczy w gąszczu?”

Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic /
Kongres Polaków w Republice Czeskiej

Komeńskiego 4
CZ-737 01 Czeski Cieszyn
Czech Republic

www.polonica.cz
kongres@polonica.cz

Telefon: +420 558711453
Facebook: [Kongres Polaków w Republice Czeskiej](https://www.facebook.com/KongresPolakowwRepubliceCzeskiej)

Pomaks in Bulgaria

Historically, Thracians used to live in the regions the Pomaks now inhabit. Thus, the most frequent explanation of their origin is that they are Thracian descendants. Other researchers see the Pomaks as Slavs Islamized under Ottoman rule. Pomaks today are predominantly Muslims who speak a Slavic language. Bulgaria's secession from the Ottoman Empire and the establishment of the Bulgarian nation-state in 1878 marked the beginning of the traumatic history of the Pomaks. They were humiliated by the Bulgarian majority, forcefully Christianized, assimilated, deported, and displaced. Today, the Pomaks live in five Balkan countries. The majority, almost four million, live in Turkey. In Bulgaria, Pomak numbers were last tallied in a census 70 years ago. There have been no official statistics since then. According to census data, the number of Pomaks in Bulgaria decreased from 500,000 to 135,000 between 1878 and 1934. It is estimated that 250,000 to 300,000 Pomaks live in Bulgaria today. The minority is not recognised or politically represented.

Due to the Bulgarian state's relocation policy in the last century, practically all Pomaks from the country's north have resettled in Turkey. The Rhodope Mountains in southern Bulgaria are home to the bulk of this minority. Pomaks who fled to Turkey rebuilt their villages in the highlands. The majority of Pomaks therefore reside in rural mountain villages. Isolation has been beneficial to the Pomaks in terms of preserving their identity, culture, and religion, but it also impedes their economic advancement.

The Pomaks speak a South Slavic language that is closely related to Bulgarian and Macedonian. Many Arabic and Persian terms were introduced into the language through the Old Ottoman language. The Pomaks refer to themselves as Pomaci or Pomaško malcinstvo v Bolgarije – the Pomak minority in Bulgaria.

The European Institute Pomak, created in 2012 and a FUEN member since 2017, mostly operates through internet media. However, hackers have repeatedly targeted the Institute's website. Other Pomak cultural associations in Europe, such as the Pomak Cultural Exchange Centre, the Pomak Cultural Association Hamburg, and Facebook pages like Pomak Soul, Pomaknews, Pomakistan, and Pomakajans, are also active on the internet. There are no educational establishments or associations for Pomaks in Bulgaria.

The European Institute Pomak has held working meetings with Pomak representatives in Greece and Turkey. The major focus of the work is for the Bulgarian government to recognise the minority. The Pomaks will be included in the official questionnaire for the next census.



Hello – **Selam**
Welcome – **Dobre si došol.**
How are you? – **Kak si?**
Fine, thank you. – **Jesm hu-
bave.**
My name is... – **Mene zavot.../
Mojeso jume e...**

**European Institute – ПОМАК /
ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ИНСТИТУТ ПОМАК**

ul. Chavdar voyvoda 10A
4700 Smoljan
Bulgaria

Email: asan_m@abv.bg
Telefon: +359 89867 5532

Facebook: [ПОМАК - EUROPEAN IN-
STITUTE \(ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ИНСТИТУТ -
ПОМАК\)](#)

Pomaks in Greece

Greece is one of the five countries in which Pomak settlement areas are dispersed. As a Muslim ethnic group split by national borders, the Pomaks have a unique position in the Balkan region, which is defined by the struggles of diverse nationalities to build their own nation states. The Pomaks were allegedly Islamized under Ottoman rule, which is the source of the most widely accepted version of the origins of the minority's name: "pomak" is claimed to signify "torture" or "forced Islamisation" in Bulgarian, which is quite close to the language of the Pomaks. Another explanation is that it stems from "pomagam", which means "to help", since they converted to Islam and therefore assisted the Muslim invaders in governing the state. The Pomaks have mainly lived loyally under the foreign domination of various ethnic groups throughout history.

The censuses of 1951 show that there were 18,700 Pomaks in Greece at the time; currently, there are around 30,000. Censuses, however, can be tricky. What they record depends on the emphases of the surveys and how religious, ethnic, or linguistic minorities are differentiated. This has led to contentious conclusions in the instance of the Pomaks.

The majority of Pomaks in Greece live near the Bulgarian border in Western Thrace, where numerous villages have a majority Pomak population. Many Pomaks, as well as Turks and Greeks, dwell in Komotini, Xánthi, and Dídimotiko. Many fled the nation and their native settlements in Xánthi and Rodópi during the Greek-Turkish population exchange. The remaining communities are mostly secluded and remote.

The Greek Constitution of 1975, as revised in 1978, guarantees protection of life, human dignity, and freedom for all Greek citizens. However, for a long period in the 20th century, the Greek government attempted to block Pomak cross-border interactions under the guise of national security. Furthermore, Pomaks were denied building licences, and use of their names was outlawed.

In Greece, there is a rapprochement of the Pomaks with the Turkish minority; no classes are taught in Pomak and Muslim religious classes are taught in Turkish.

No radio programmes are broadcast in the Pomak language, and printed media is scarce. The Centre for Pomak Studies in Komotiní publishes a newspaper; however, the attempt to replicate the Pomak language in Cyrillic is not well received.

Since its establishment in 2009, the **Panhellenic Pomak Association** has represented Greece's Pomak minority, and it became a member of FUEN in 2019. The Association is based in Komotiní. It is dedicated to the preservation of Pomak culture and language. The weekly publishing of a Pomak newspaper is an important element of its activities. The association has roughly 2,000 members.

Hello – **Selam**
Welcome – **Dobre si došol.**
How are you? – **Kak si?**
Fine, thank you. – **Jesm hu-
bave.**
My name is... – **Mene zav-
ot.../Mojeso jume e...**

**Panhellenic Pomak Association /
ΠΑΝΧΕΛΕΝΙΤΣΕΣΚΙ ΠΟΜΑΤΣΚΙ ΣΕΓΙΟΥΣ**

Platia Emporiou 45
GR-67100 Xanthi
Greece

kepoer@yahoo.gr

Telefon: +30 697 809 1225

Russians in Estonia

Estonia has been inhabited by both Estonians and Russians (Slavs) from the earliest times. In Estonian, the word “venelased” refers to the Russian lineage from the Wends’ tribes, the forebears of the Slavs. In Tallinn, in Old Russian writings, the city is referred to as Kolywan. There have been Russian settlements there since the Middle Ages. Tartu (formerly Yuriev) was established in 1030 by the Russian ruler Yaroslav the Wise. Tallinn is home to many Russian sights, including the Kadriorg Palace, built to honour Tsarina Catherine I, and the associated park, as well as the orthodox Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.

The 17th and 18th centuries saw a large influx of Russian Old Believers into the Prichudye region (today’s towns of Kallaste and Mustvee) on the coast of Lake Peipus, as did the time following the 1917 revolution. There were additional migratory movements under the Tsarist Empire (1710–1917) and again during the Soviet era (1940–1991).

In Estonia, the Russian minority accounts for 25% of the population (330,000 persons in total). However, only people with Estonian citizenship are considered members of the minority. According to the Council of Europe, 85,000 persons in Estonia lack citizenship; this accounts for around 6% of the population.

Following the demise of the Soviet Union, Estonia’s Russian minority was denied political, linguistic, religious, and cultural civil rights. Those who spoke out against this policy faced persecution and oppression.

The Russian minority frequently encounters difficulties in establishing its political rights and interests. For example, barely 3% of “non-Estonians” are employed in government offices. Due to Estonia’s citizenship policy, Russians are represented in parliament by individual members of Estonian parties. As a result, the political interests of the Russian population are not directly represented in parliament. In 1998, Estonia ratified the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. However, it has yet to join the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

According to the reports of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the media landscape is still strongly fragmented linguistically, with different ethnic groups consuming different media (whether local or international). The amount of Russian-language programming produced by public broadcasters is insufficient. The aim is a better collaboration with representatives of the Russian minority on matters relating to the promotion of the Russian language on both local and national radio and in television programming.

From time to time, the Russian minority conducts exhibits, festivals, and balls. The Slavic Wreath Festival is very well-known, and is celebrated by Ukrainians and Belarusians, who present their dance and singing traditions. Every year, an international general knowledge competition in Russian is organised. The minority speaks Russian, and there are no local dialects. The Russian national minority in Estonia calls itself Русское национальное меньшинство Эстонии (Russkoye natsionalnoe menshinstvo Estonii).

The NGO **Russian School of Estonia** which was established in 2010 and has been a member of FUEN since 2017, works to preserve the right of Russian minority children to education in their native tongue. It organises scientific conferences and round-table discussions. The emphasis is on assisting parents in ensuring that their children’s right to an education in Russian is upheld. In 2019, for example, a decision was made to close the only Russian school in the town of Keila. The group advocated for the minority and was in support of starting a judicial case to prevent the closure. The **Union of Educational and Charitable Societies in Estonia** was founded on 24 February 1923. The union has been a member of FUEN since 2001.



Russian School of Estonia / Некоммерческое объединение “Русская школа Эстонии”

Tuukri 19
EE-10152 Tallinn
Estonia

www.venekool.eu
pravlenie@venekool.eu

Telefon: +372 58 011 645
Facebook: [Russkaa Skola Estonii](https://www.facebook.com/RusskaaSkolaEstonii)

Union of Educational and Charitable Societies of Estonia

Союз Славянских просветительных и благотворительных обществ

Mere pst 5
EE-10111 Tallinn
Estonia

<http://vk.com/veneliit>
igor@lindakivi.ee

Telefon: +372 6418441

Hello – Привет
Welcome – Добро пожаловать
How are you? – Как дела?
Fine, thank you – Хорошо, спасибо
My name is... – Меня зовут ...
A particularly funny or complicated word: шиншилла (chinchilla)

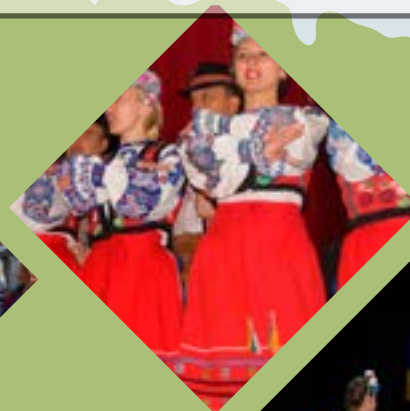
Carpatho-Rusyns in Ukraine

The Carpatho-Rusyns, also known as the Rutheni, are an East Slavic ethnic group who speak the Rusyn language as their native language. They are descended from an East Slavic group that has lived in the northern regions of Eastern Carpathia since the early Middle Ages. Their homeland, Carpatho Ukraine (Transcarpathia), is a historical border region that comprises south western areas of modern day Ukraine, north eastern regions of Slovakia, and south eastern parts of Poland (the Lemkos in Poland are partly classified as Rusyns). According to the latest national census, around 10,000 individuals of Rusyn descent live in Ukraine, out of an estimated two million globally. Because they are regarded as a subgroup of the Ukrainian population by several census authorities, the official count may differ significantly from the real figure.

The Carpatho-Rusyns, or Rutheni, have always been subject to greater neighbouring powers, but in the nineteenth century a Rusyn national movement was formed that underlined the ethnic group's own identity and literary language. Their first political representation was formed during the 1848/49 uprisings. Following the fall of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy in 1918, numerous Rusyn groups were faced with political challenges. Following World War I, the Carpatho Rusyns temporarily formed two separate states. In the 1920s and 1930s, a dispute arose between Carpatho Rusyns who supported Russia and those who supported Ukraine. They were annexed to Ukraine after the Second World War. The advent of Soviet rule represented a historical low point for the minority, as it was not awarded official minority status; this situation continues to this day. Other nations, however, acknowledge and protect the Rusyns as a minority.

The dialects of Rusyn language differ so greatly, due to the minority's significant fragmentation, that they are in effect recognised as independent languages.

Since 1999, the **Carpatho Rusyn Society** in Ukraine's Transcarpathian region has represented the interests of Rusyns within FUEN. In Ukraine, the society is devoted to the acknowledgment and equal rights of Rusyns, particularly in terms of education and development. The society meets in the city administration's "houses of culture" in three municipalities in the Transcarpathian region. The society engages in public life through cultural events such as a minorities festival, scientific and literary competitions, and a television channel. A periodical that was published on a contributions only basis had to be cancelled recently.



Hello – (Dobryj dyn', daj Bozhe).
Добрий динь, дай Боже
Welcome – (Krasno pryhla-shayete). Красно приглашаємо
How are you? – (Yak sya mayesh?). Як ся маєш?
Fine, thank you. – (Dyakuvu, dubri). Дякуву, дубрі
My name is... - (Ya sya klychy...). Я ся кличу...
Particularly funny or complicated words: "pachmahy" (like a pair of pants), "fusykli" (socks) "potya" (bird)

**Society of Carpatho Rusyns in Ukraine/
Общество карпатських Русинів**

per. Universitetsky 6/20
UA-88 000 Uzhgorod
Ukraine

yevhenzhupan@gmail.com

Telephone: +380 312642984

Rusyns in Hungary

Rusyn nationality in Hungary officially was acknowledged only in 1991. According to the last census in 2022 7.109 people confessed as rusyn. It is not a real data because there are approximately 1.500 people who are not European Union citizens. Our nationality is represented by nationality spokesperson in the Parliament since 2014.

Rusyn language is taught only in St. Peter Greek Catholic Primary School in village Mucsony where our student and work books are used. As there are students in high schools who speak rusyn last year we received a request from education office to compile maturity exam on two levels. To help the education and for science purposes we published The Rusyn - Hungarian, Hungarian – Rusyn vocabulary for students in 2018 and three editions in 2021: Carpathian Rusyn place-names, The Rusyn grammar, The Rusyn - Hungarian, Hungarian – Rusyn vocabulary of technical terms. In 2020 two collections of rusyn folk songs were published. Several another editions were published before such as Fruci - The album of rusyn painter Dr. atanas Fedinecz, Rusyn Foods and so on.

The last most important scientific event was in September 2022 in the House of Parliament. During the conference named The rusyn studies of our days fifteen lectors from six countries held lectures on the themes of rusyn linguistics, history, literature, political situation in different countries and the future of rusyn studies.

The last biggest religious event was held in November 2023 in the St. István Temple, which was the National Meeting of Greek-Catholic Choirs, where eight choirs from different countries took place.

The **National Self-Government of Rusyns** in Hungary is a representative institution of Rusyns in Hungary. The government performs the representation of the nationality, save and support our political and cultural interests, preserve heritage, culture and language, traditions and celebrations. We have five fixed national celebrations per year: Memory of academic Antal Hodinka, celebration of Ferenc Rákóczi II., Rusyn National Day, Indulgence feast and Masterpieces of Rusyn Art. On each of them many rusyns participate so we can meet each other, talk on our rusyn language. On the event called Masterpieces of Rusyn Art every year we present rusyn music, songs, folk dresses, paintings of rusyn artists, rare books on rusyn language from previous centuries and also new books. Besides this our community try to held as much as possible events – folk and gastro fests, exhibitions, book presentations, scientific lectures. About all events, news reports, our twenty year old Rusyn World newspaper on Rusyn and Hungarian languages every second month. All the activities were supported by Hungarian Government.



**National Self-Government of Rusyns in Hungary /
Всeдержавное Русинське
Самосправованя - Országos Ruszin
Önkormányzat**

1147 Budapest, Gyarmat u. 85/B

ruszin.onkormanyzat@gmail.com

Tel./Fax: +36-1-468-26-36

www.ruszin.com

Serbs in Croatia

Serbs settled in the territory of present day Croatia between the beginning of the 16th and the end of the 17th century, but it should be noted that migration was a wide spread phenomenon at that time. Serbs, mostly farmers and soldiers, lived in large numbers all along the border with Bosnia. The first migratory movements were to villages in the Žumberak Mountains.

As a social institution and geographical reference point, the area called Krajina played a crucial role for 350 years as a significant military bastion in the wars of Central Europe against Turkey. This role clearly separated its population from social modernisation processes, which were thus delayed into the 20th century. In addition, the area's modest resources meant that it was agriculturally overpopulated.

Serbs and Croats living in the same area and under foreign rule had little opportunity for major conflicts, apart from the religious divide between them. Conflicts began to arise in the second half of the 19th century, when national ideologies gained prominence.

Today, there are between 150,000 and 200,000 Serbs in Croatia, but their numbers are steadily decreasing due to forces working against ethnic identity, especially among younger people in urban areas.

According to the Republic of Croatia's current political legislation and its Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities, Serbs are represented at all levels of government.

The biggest challenge faced by Serbs and one against which they are relatively powerless as a minority, is the issue of demography.

In Croatia, the Serbs have several traditional print media: *Novosti* (weekly), *Bijela pčela* (White Bee, children's monthly), *Prosvjeta* (newspaper of the leading national cultural institution) and *Izvor* (monthly magazine published in Vukovar). They also have their own radio stations and a start has been made on creating their own television programmes in a part of their residential region, in Eastern Slavonia. The central cultural institution of the Serbian minority in Croatia is the Serbian Cultural Society "Prosvjeta", which was first founded in Glina during the Second World War. In the Republic of Croatia, the Serbian minority is represented in the curricula only at the level of primary education, and this is rather lacking in quality and quantity.

The Serb minority in Croatia inherited the traditions and beliefs of the Serb Orthodox Church and celebrates its religious holidays. It has also strongly supported the traditions of anti-fascism in Croatia since the Second World War and commemorates the significant events and personalities associated with these.

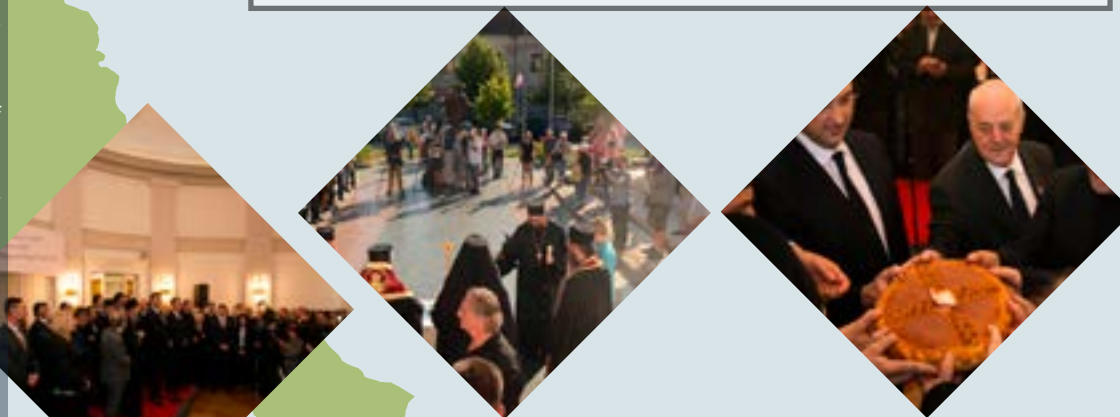
The Serbs speak the Serbian language of Krajina, a Slavonic dialect, and are themselves called Srbi u Hrvatskoj in this language.

The **Serb National Council (SNV)**, the national coordinating body for Serb national minority councils, is a democratically elected political, consultative and coordinating body. It acts as the self government mechanism for Serbs in the Republic of Croatia in matters concerning their human, civil and national rights, as well as in matters concerning their identity, participation and integration into Croatian society.

The SNV is the umbrella organisation of Serbs in Croatia, a network comprising 144 local councils. The organisation is involved in political work and in the development and preservation of Serb culture and language. It aims to influence education and social policy, rural development, and fair regional development in Croatia.

The SNV's calendar of events includes several dozen cultural, scientific, political and commemorative events. The most notable of these is the Christmas reception, which is attended by the entire Croatian political elite and Serbian representatives from the region.

Of particular importance are the commemorations of the Serbian victims of the Second World War and the victims of the 1991–95 war.



Hello – **Zdravo**
Welcome – **Dobro došli**
How are you? – **Kako si?**
Fine, thank you. – **Dobro, hvala.**
My name is... – **Moje ime je...**
A particularly funny word:
Džabalebaroš (someone who wastes time)

Serb National Council in Croatia / Srpsko narodno vijeće

Gajeva 7
HR-10 000 Zagreb
Croatia

www.snv.hr
ured@snv.hr

Telefon: +385 14811198
Facebook: [Srpsko narodno vijeće](https://www.facebook.com/Srpsko.narodno.vijece)

Slovaks and Czechs in Romania

The first Slovaks that came to Romania moved there from central Slovakia and towns like Sarvaš, Bekes Csaba and Tothkomlos near Nădlac. This happened at the beginning of the 19th century. Their descendants live today in the regions of Arad and Timiș.

Slovaks who came mainly from the eastern parts of Slovakia live today in the Bihor region, Transylvania. However, one cannot speak here of immigration in the traditional sense of the word, because until 1918 both Slovakia and Transylvania in Romania were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It was only through the imposition of modern state borders that the Slovaks in Romania became a national minority.

Relations with other nationalities in this region have always been good. Today, about 17,000 Slovaks and 2,500 Czechs live in Romania. Most Czechs live in Caraș-Severin and Mehedinți.

The historical and cultural centre for the Slovaks is in the town of Nădlac and for the Czechs in the town of Moldova Nouă.

Both ethnic groups are recognised and represented in local and central bodies. They have legal protection, and these laws are respected. For example, two schools with Slovak as the language of instruction are financially supported by the state.

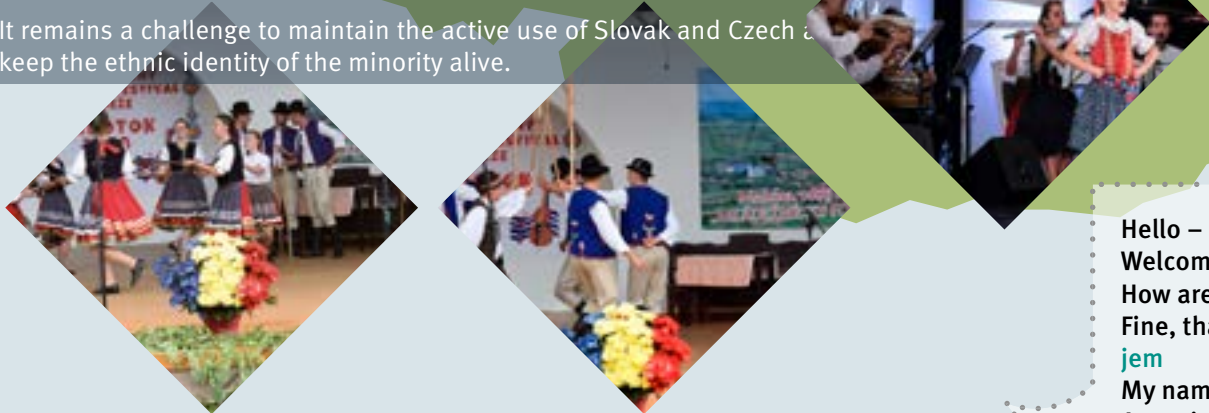
It remains a challenge to maintain the active use of Slovak and Czech and keep the ethnic identity of the minority alive.

Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania (UDSCR), founded in 1990 and a member of FUEN since 2019, publishes a newspaper called *Naše Snahy*.

It also runs educational institutions, from kindergarten to secondary school, where lessons are taught in Slovak, while Czech is offered as an elective subject in public schools in Caraș-Severin and Mehedinți.

In the course of the year, there are about 100 cultural events organised, including the *Prehliadka slovenských ľudových piesni CEZ NADLAK JE...*, *Mládežnícky folklórny festival*, *Festival českej menšiny v Rumunsku* and also *Medzinárodná vedecká konferencia Rok 1918 a dolnozemsí Slováci*. Educational and scientific work are also on UDSCR's agenda. Currently, identity strengthening and education have priority in the activities.

Both ethnic groups have preserved their mother tongues in the form of regional dialects. In these languages they call themselves *Slováci* and *Češi* or *Slovenská menšina* and *Česká menšina*.



Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs from Romania / Demokratický zväz Slovákov a Čechov v Rumunsku

Hello – **Dobrý deň**
Welcome – **Vitajte**
How are you? – **Ako sa máte?**
Fine, thank you. – **Dobre, ďakujem**
My name is... – **Volám sa...**
A particularly difficult or funny word in your language: **Kotrmelec**

Independentei street, No 36
RO-315500 Nădlac
Romania

www.udscr.com.ro
office@dzscr.ro

Telefon: +40-257-473003
Facebook: [Udscr Nădlac Dzsčr Nadlak](https://www.facebook.com/UdscrNadlacDzschrNadlak)

Slovaks in the Czech Republic

The Slovaks in the Czech Republic became a national minority virtually overnight on 1 January 1993, with the peaceful division of Czechoslovakia. Following independence from the Soviet Union, Slovaks and Czechs had initially founded a joint state, as both nations doubted their own ability to survive. The larger part of the Slovak citizenry lives in Prague, Brno, Olomouc, Karviná, Tábor, Kladno and Western Bohemia.

The Slovak minority amounts to about 184,000 people, of whom about 100,000 have a Slovak passport.

The 1999 Citizenship Act allows members of the Slovak minority to have dual citizenship. Altogether, the minority makes up 1.8% of the total population.

Given their long common history, there are few tensions between the Czechs and the Slovak minority, even though the minority issue in the Czech Republic is subject to rather insufficient regulation. However, this is also due to the strong assimilation of the Slovaks into the Czech Republic, as well as the moderate policies of the Czech government in this area.

From the very beginning, there has been a Slovak programme on Czech radio, called Stretnutie, and the Association of Slovaks publishes a magazine called Korene (Roots). However, Slovak is on the decline in the public sphere and in the media, so in order to preserve the language and cultural identity, a number of Slovak cultural associations have been founded, such as the folklore association Šarvanci. Although the Slovak language is no longer taught in Czech schools, many civil servants still speak Slovak, which makes it easier for the minority to deal with official and administrative matters.

The **Association of Slovaks in the Czech Republic** was founded in 1992 and joined FUEN in 1999. The association carries out a number of activities geared towards meeting the cultural and social needs of the Slovak minority and strengthening and developing national consciousness.

Maintaining good relations between the majority and the minority by promoting reciprocity between Slovaks and Czechs, participation in public life in the Czech Republic and mutual cooperation and support, are also under the association's remit.

Within the Association of Slovaks in the Czech Republic there is an analytical group composed of intellectuals and scientists, both Slovaks and Czechs, who generate scientific publications in the series "A good read by Slovaks and Czechs".



Hello – Dobrý deň
Welcome – Vitajte
How are you? – Ako sa máte?
Fine, thank you. – Dobre, ďakujem.
My name is... – Volám sa...
A particularly complicated proverb: A tie vrabce z toho tŕňa štrnk brnk do tŕňa.

**Association of Slovaks in the Czech Republic /
Obec Slovákov v Českej republike**

Vocelova 602/3
120 00 Praha 2
Czech Republic

[http://www.slovaci.cz/
dan.nem@centrum.cz](http://www.slovaci.cz/dan.nem@centrum.cz)

Telefon: +420 235 514 542

Slovaks in Hungary

The Slovaks came from the overpopulated areas of Upper Hungary in the Austro-Hungarian Empire to what is now Hungary, which had been destroyed and depopulated under Turkish rule, in the 17th century. They founded hundreds of towns and villages there. After the Second World War, a population exchange took place between Czechoslovakia and Hungary, in the course of which 73,000 ethnic Slovaks left Hungary. The current settlement areas of the Slovaks in Hungary form geographical and linguistic islands, mainly located near Békéscsaba and Szarvas and Tótkomlós, in the Southern Great Plain of Hungary. Slovaks also live in central Hungary, for example in Pilis, Bakony and Nógrád, and in the north east in Mátra, Bükk and the Zemplén Mountains. Some Slovaks also live in Budapest. The 2011 census counted 17,692 Slovaks.

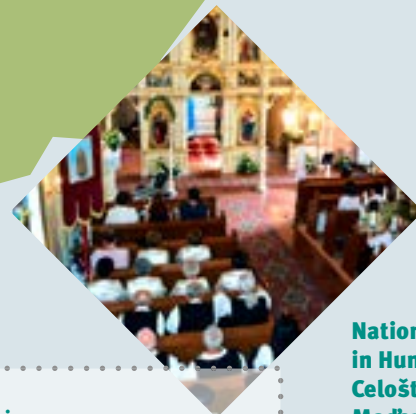
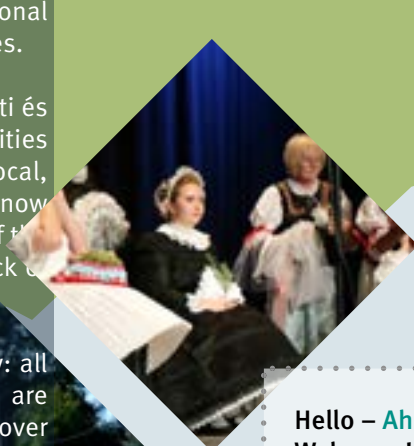
The second half of the 20th century brought change for the minority. In 1961, education in Slovak was abolished. The deterioration in the educational situation was accompanied by a decline in active language use in families.

The 1993 Act for the Protection of National and Ethnic Minorities (Nemzeti és etnikai kisebbségek jogairól) opened a new chapter in the life of minorities in Hungary. With it, a system for the self-government of minorities at local, regional and national levels was created. Minority cultural activities are now financially secure. However, the increasing loss of the native language of the Slovaks in Hungary remains problematic, an issue reinforced by the lack of teachers of the Slovak language.

The Slovak diaspora in Hungary is characterised by its internal diversity: all three dialects of the mother tongue (Western, Eastern, Central Slovak) are spoken. Slovaks live in 11 of Hungary's 19 regions, or, more precisely, in over a hundred municipalities.

The Slovak minority is represented in the printed media by the weekly publication *Ludové Noviny*, which has been in circulation since 1957, and the associated internet portal www.luno.hu, published by "SlovakUm". Hungarian radio broadcasts daily programmes in Slovak. On Hungarian television, "Domovina" is broadcast once a week. The Slovak theatre Vertigo, a cultural institution, the Slovak Documentation Centre, five bilingual primary and two secondary schools and an educational centre are run by the National Minorities Self Government body. Slovak National Day is celebrated by the minority in Hungary on 5 July.

The **National Self Government of Slovaks in Hungary (CSSM)** started its work around 2000 and has been a member of FUEN since 2004. CSSM has gradually taken over the management of the above mentioned institutions and media, in part from its predecessor organisation, the Association of Slovaks in Hungary. Subsequently, the non profit organisation "Legatum" was founded to provide technical and financial



Hello – Ahoj.
Welcome ! – Vítaj!
How are you? – Ako sa máš?
Fine, thank you. – Dobre,
ďakujem
My name is... – Volám sa...
Posebno smešna ali težavna
beseda: zmrzlina (ice cream)

**National Self Government of Slovaks
in Hungary /
Celoštátna slovenská samospráva v
Maďarsku**

1114 Budapest, Fadrusz u. 11/A
Hungary

[www.slovaci.hu/index.php/sk/
oszo@slovaci.hu](http://www.slovaci.hu/index.php/sk/oszo@slovaci.hu)

Telefon: +36 1 466 9463
Facebook: [CSSM - OSZO](https://www.facebook.com/CSSM-OSZO)

Slovenes in Italy

About 80,000 Slovenes live in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, mainly along the Italian Slovenian border, which extends over 32 municipalities, including Trieste, Gorizia and Cividale. Representatives of the Slovene minority sit on the municipal councils of Trieste and Gorizia. The Slovene minority can be found in the Karst region, a plateau of Cretaceous limestone deposits spanning Italy and southern Slovenia. The settlement area further extends along the coast of the Gulf of Trieste, across the confluence of the Vipava River and the “emerald river” Soča, and the valleys Nediža (Iudrio), Ter (Torre), and Rezija (Resia) at the foot of the Kanin Mountain. It also includes the Kanal Valley (Valcanale) near the pilgrimage site of Svete Višarje (Monte Lussari).

The Slovene minority has representatives at the municipal level and in the Regional Council of Friuli-Venezia Giulia. A representative of the Slovene minority also sits on the Italian Senate. Relations with the Italian state have historically been complicated, especially when fascism prevailed in Italy after the First World War. Slovenes in Italy are granted certain rights by the “Law on Slovenes” (Law No. 38) of 2001.

The current challenges are the recognition and use of the Slovene language in the public sphere and administration and also the appointment of a representative in the Italian parliament.

The Slovene minority in Italy has a daily newspaper, Primorski dnevnik, two weekly newspapers, Novi Glas and Novi Matajur, the Dom newspaper, which is published twice a month and a cultural magazine, Mladika. The national broadcaster, RAI, broadcasts an all-day radio programme and an evening television programme in Slovene.

The Slovene minority is integrated into the national school system, where lessons are also held in Slovene language.

Slovene organisations organise numerous cultural, artistic, sporting and religious festivities and events. The cultural and festive highlight is the Slovene Culture Day, which is held every year at the beginning of February.

Slovenes in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region speak Slovene, but the dialects in rural areas vary from place to place. The Karst dialect, the Gorizia dialect and the dialect in Benečija/Veneto (in the former province of Udine) are worth mentioning, and the dialect from the Resia Valley is particularly noteworthy. The Slovene dialect in the Kanal Valley is also spoken by some Slovenes in Carinthia/Koroška, Austria.

In Slovenian, the minority calls itself Slovenska manjšina v Furlaniji Juljski krajini/Italiji.

Confederation of Slovene Organisations (SSO) coordinates and represents its members in the public sphere in both the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Slovenia. SSO works for the preservation and learning of the Slovene language and the promotion of national consciousness. An important core issue, as mentioned above, is the appointment of a representative in the Italian Parliament. SSO cooperates with its members based on the rich ethnic, linguistic and cultural heritage of the Slovene people which have been actively and equally creating the general social appearance of the region between the Adriatic Sea, the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, the valley the River Vipava and the Julian Alps for centuries. It is member of FUEN since 2019.

Slovenska skupnost in Italy is the political party representing the Slovenes in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region. It was founded in 1963, has been a member of FUEN since 1988 and, together with other regional and minority parties, forms the European Free Alliance (EFA) in the European Parliament. Even before the Slovene Union was founded, there were parties in the cities of Trieste and Gorizia, some of which then merged to form the present party.

The Slovenian Economic and Cultural Association (SKGZ) in Italy was founded in Trieste in 1954. The SKGZ at the regional level brings together organisations, institutions and individuals. It is an independent, non-party organisation of Slovenians in Italy and has no profit-making objectives. The fundamental guiding principle of the organisation is to strive for democratic relations between people and nations, for the protection of human dignity, solidarity, prosperity and peace. It operates in the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and has offices in Trieste, Gorizia and Cividale and is member of FUEN since 2022.

Council of Slovene Organisations / Svet slovenskih organizacij

Via del Coroneo 19
I- 34133 Trieste/Trst
Italy

<http://www.ssorg.eu>
dbor@ssorg.eu

Telefon: +39 39 040 3481586
Facebook: [Svet slovenskih organizacij](#)
Twitter: @SsoSvet
Instagram: All-Slovenian

Slovene Union / Slovenska Skupnost

Ulica / Via G. Gallina, 5/III
IT-34122 Trst/Trieste
Italy

www.slovenskaskupnost.org
info@slovenskaskupnost.org

Telefon: +39 0481537447
Facebook: [SSk Slovenska Skupnost](#)

Slovenian Cultural and Economic Association Slovenska kulturno-gospodarska zveza SKGZ

Hello - **Živijo!**
Welcome - **Dobrodošel**
How are you? - **Kako si?**
Fine, thank you. - **Dobro, hvala.**
My name is... - **Ime mi je ...**
A particularly funny word:
šjfrca (ladle), **kndjrga** (chair)

Carinthian Slovenes in Austria

Slavic-speaking groups settled in the southern border region of Austria in the 6th century. The traditional settlement area essentially comprised the valleys of Rosental, Jauntal and Gailtal (Rož, Podjuna, Zila). Along with the development of the nation state, there were extensive Germanisation efforts in the 20th century and a clear decline in the Slovene speaking population, apparent mostly from a look at the censuses. Although the Slovene minority is protected by law, a climate of hostility towards minorities prevailed for a long time. Only in the last two decades has the situation improved.

The last census, in 2001, recorded 13,109 Slovene-speaking Carinthians, though the results are considered controversial. The Slovene minority is protected and recognised under international law, constitutional law and ordinary law. It is also politically represented by the Ethnic Group Advisory Council. However, the greatest challenges of the ethnic group are precisely the implementation of these legally established rights and the preservation of the minority language.

The Slovene language in Carinthia is characterised by great diversity. Linguists differentiate between local dialects, which can differ greatly from each other and the standard Slovene language. In some cases, research has also identified a supra-regional Carinthian-Slovene colloquial language. The four main dialect groups based on geography in Carinthia are Jauntaler (podjunsko), Rosentaler (ročansko), Ebriacher (obirsko) and Gailtaler (ziljsko).

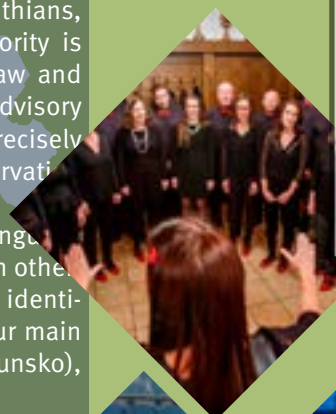
Carinthian Slovenes have two cultural umbrella organisations: the Christian Cultural Association and the Slovene Cultural Association. There is also a Slovene or bilingual cultural association in almost every village in the Carinthian Slovene settlement area, as well as in the regional capital of Klagenfurt, in Vienna and in Graz. There is a bilingual school system for primary schools and the first level of secondary schools, there is also the Slovene general secondary school as well as the bilingual federal school of business administration and the higher educational institution for economic professions in St. Peter. The ethnic group has a half-hour programme in their own language on national radio, as well as an all-day private frequency radio programme. The national broadcasting service ORF has its own Slovene editorial department. In the field of printed media, there are two weekly newspapers, the church newspaper "Nedelja", and the "Novice", the latter published by two organisations representing the group.

The **Community of Carinthian Slovenes (SKS)** is a non-partisan representative organisation with the main aim of representing the interests of ethnic Slovenes in Carinthia. The association supports and promotes projects addressing language preservation, education, and economic strengthening, as well as social responsibility and tolerance within society. It organises the language initiative with taster and basic courses in Slovene and runs the successful project "Patronage for Multilingualism". Annually, it awards the Julius Kugy Award and publishes the bilingual journal "Skupnost", read quarterly by 3600 member households.

The **Council of Carinthian Slovenes (NSKS)** is an organisation associated with the Christian world view. It strives to strengthen the identity of Carinthian Slovenes on the basis of the Austrian constitution and to contribute to a fruitful coexistence between the two ethnic groups in Carinthia. Every year, together with the Christian Cultural Association, it awards the Tischler Award and the Einspieler Award.

Other events include the annual school project Slomejci, the Žogarija school event and EUROPEADA 2020.

Current challenges include finding a systemic solution to the financing of printed media for ethnic groups, an increase in the promotion of ethnic groups, a bilingual education system from crèche to the Matura (Abitur) secondary school exam and the expansion of bilingual jurisdiction.



Community of Carinthian Slovenes Skupnost Koroških Slovencev in Slovencev

Neuer Platz 10
A-9020 Klagenfurt/Celovec
Austria

www.skupnost.at
office@skupnost.at

Telefon: +43 463 59 16 59
Facebook: [SKUPNOST](https://www.facebook.com/SKUPNOST)

Council of Carinthian Slovenes / Narodni Svet Koroških Slovencev

Viktringer Ring 26
A-9020 Klagenfurt/Celovec
Austria

www.nsk.at
office@nsk.at

Telefon: +43 4 63512528
Facebook: [NARODNISVET](https://www.facebook.com/NARODNISVET)

Hello – **Dober dan**
Welcome – **Pozdravljeni**
How are you? – **Kako Vam gre?**
Fine, thank you. – **Hvala, dobro.**
My name is... – **Moje ime je...**
A particularly funny tongue-twister:
če bi bk bka bek ubil bi bk bek bil

Sorbs in Germany

The Sorbs are a Western Slavic group who settled in their land about 1400 years ago. Their officially recognised “ancestral settlement area” is defined in laws and ordinances of the states of Saxony and Brandenburg.

The Sorbs live in the east of the Federal Republic of Germany in the triangle between Berlin, Görlitz and Dresden. Their cultural and administrative “capitals” include Cottbus in Lower Lusatia and Bautzen in Upper Lusatia, although their language is mainly heard in everyday life in the “core settlement area” between Kamenz, Hoyerswerda and Bautzen. In central Lusatia, Schleife is the linguistic and cultural centre.

The Sorbs were germanised from the 10th century up until recent times and have never been able to found their own state.

According to official figures, there are around 60,000 Sorbs. These include the Upper Sorbs in Upper Lusatia in Saxony and the Lower Sorbs/Wends in Lower Lusatia in Brandenburg. The two groups differ linguistically and culturally. The Sorbian people are recognised as a national minority in Germany. In addition to their language, they have an officially recognised flag and anthem. Sorbs are generally German citizens. Their language and culture are protected by the respective state constitutions.

There is an Upper Sorbian daily newspaper, Serbske Nowiny, a Lower Sorbian weekly newspaper, Nowy Casnik, the Sorbian cultural monthly, Rozhlad, the children’s magazine Płomjo, the Catholic magazine Katolski Posoł and the Protestant church newspaper Pomhaj Bóh. There is also Sorbian radio on the stations MDR and RBB, both of which also produce a monthly TV programme. There are a number of cultural organisations and institutions. These include: Foundation for the Sorbian People, Witaj Language Centre, German Sorbian Folk Theatre, Sorbian National Ensemble, Domowina Publishing House, Sorbian Institute, Sorbian Museum in Cottbus and Bautzen and others. In the course of the year, the Sorbs celebrate approximately 30 festivals and cultural events, although there are regional differences. The bird wedding in January and the Sorbian Wendish carnival “Zapust” are particularly impressive. There are two written languages (standard varieties), Upper Sorbian (hornjoserbšćina) and Lower Sorbian (dolnoserbšćina), but a distinction is usually made between Lower Sorbian, Upper Sorbian and the group of border dialects in between. The Lower Sorbian language is under acute threat of extinction. While Upper Sorbian (Serbja) is closer to Czech and Slovak, Lower Sorbian (Serby) is more similar to Polish.

Obstajata dve standardni različici lužiške srbšćine, gornje- in dolnjelužiška srbšćina, najpogosteje razlikujejo med omenjenima dvema in narečji, ki so nekje med njima. Dolnjelužiška srbšćina je trenutno zelo ogrožen jezik. Medtem ko je gornjelužiška srbšćina (Serbja) bolj podobna češčini in slovaščini, je dolnjelužiška srbšćina (Serby) bližja poljščini.

The Union of Lusatian Sorbs, “**Domowina**” – **Bund Lausitzer Sorben e.V.**, founded in 1912 and a member of FUEN since 1990, has a very broad base, with about 180 member associations spanning 18 regional and professional associations. Its activities are thus very diverse and range from concrete cultural presentations to political work.

Acute topics are the issue of young talent, including the passing on of the language to the next generation, the lack of Sorbian speaking teachers and continuation of existing projects, as well as new challenges, such as structural change due to the declining lignite industry and digitalisation.



Hello – **Hallo**
Welcome – **Willkommen**
How are you? – **Wie geht's?**
Fine, thank you. – **Danke, gut.**
My name is... – **Mein Name ist...**
A special, funny or complicated word in your language:
Wjewjerčka (squirrel)

Domowina – Union of Lusatian Sorbs / Domowina – Zwjazk Łužiskich Serbow z. t.

Postplatz 2
02625 Bautzen / Budyšin
Germany

www.domowina.de
sekretariat@domowina.de

Telefon: +49 3591 550102
Facebook: [Domowina](https://www.facebook.com/Domowina)

Czechs in Croatia

Czechs began to move to Croatia in the 18th century, in the times of the Austrian monarchy. Ivanovo Selo is the oldest Czech village in Croatia, founded in 1826. In 1930, about 40,000 Czechs lived in Croatia, but the number began to decrease as the Czechs became more assimilated. As of 2011, 9,641 Czechs were living in Croatia – about 65 percent of them in Bjelovar-Bilogora County, mostly in the town of Daruvar, the Czech minority's centre of social and cultural activities. The Association of Czechs in Croatia and other Czech institutions are located here. In the village of Končanica, Czechs actually form the majority of the population. An important and worthwhile destination in the Czech settlement area is the Ethnographic Collection of the Czech National Minority in Ivanovo Selo.

The Czechs in Croatia – Češi v Chorvatsku – the Czech minority in Croatia – česká menšina v Chorvatsku – speak Czech – český jazyk. Today they are one of the best organised Czech minorities in the world. The Association of Czechs organises hundreds of cultural, educational and professional events.

Bilateral relations between the minority and the majority have always been good and remain so. The Czech minority is represented in the Croatian Parliament by a joint deputy with the Slovak minority. The Czech minority has political representatives at the regional and local levels, and its rights are enshrined in the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (2001). Members of minorities have the right to express their nationality, use their language and enjoy cultural autonomy. They also have the right to elect their political representatives. The biggest problems today are assimilation and emigration, especially of young, qualified professionals.

The publishing house NVI Jednota publishes the weekly newspaper Jednota, a children's magazine, Czech language textbooks, historical and literary works by minority authors and other printed material. Jednota reports on the general cultural, social and political activities of the Czech minority in Croatia. Radio Daruvar broadcasts a daily half-hour programme in Czech.

The **Coordination Council and Representative of the Czech Minority in Croatia**, founded in 2003 and a member of FUEN since 2011, looks after 32 associations (Česka beseda), Czech schools, publishing and the cultural heritage of the Czech minority. In Croatia, there are two Czech primary schools, one four-year Czech school, two kindergartens and one secondary school with a Czech branch. The Council for School Affairs works for the Czech Union. The Czech Union and its members organise hundreds of cultural, educational and professional events; the oldest and largest festival of the year is the Dožínky harvest festival.

The Coordination Council represents the interests of the councils and representatives of the Czech minority in Croatia. It organises regular meetings, exchanges of information and experience, presentations and campaigns. It monitors the implementation of the law and the realisation of the rights of persons belonging to the minority. It also monitors the approval and implementation of all laws relating to Czech nationality at state, regional and local levels.



Hello – Ahoj!
Welcome – Víťame vas
How are you? – Jak se máš?
Fine, thank you. – Dobře,
děkuji.
My name is... – Jmenuji se...

**Coordination Council, Representative
of the Czech Minority in Croatia**

Trg Kralia Tomislava 7
HR-43500 Daruvar
Croatia

damir.malina@inet.hr

Telefon: +385 43 331 029

Czechs in Slovakia

The Czech minority in Slovakia – česká menšina na Slovensku – came into being when Czechoslovakia was divided into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. Members of this minority, as well as historical sites pertaining to the Czechs in Slovakia, are spread throughout the country.

The Czech Association in Slovakia has bases in eleven Slovakian cities. These are: Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Trenčín, Žilina, Martin, Zvolen, Liptovský Hrádok, Poprad and Košice, where the Association is located. The Czechs in Slovakia are not directly represented by any political party, as the challenges of the minority are represented in other ways.

The Czech minority comprises 37,000 inhabitants of Slovakia. A large number of them speak both Czech and Slovak.

The **Czech Association in Slovakia** has 1300 members. It was founded in 1994 and joined FUEN in 2003. In addition to the headquarters in Košice, there are branches in Bratislava, Trnava, Trenčín, Martin, Liptovský Mikuláš and Stará Ľubovňa. The newly founded association Česká omladina na Slovensku is focused on working with children and parents.

The association has its own magazine, *Stříbrný vítr*, which is published every two months. It organises numerous exhibitions, discussions, educational programmes and concerts for members, as well as for the public and the Slovak majority. A special event is the Days of Czech Culture in Košice. The association also has a women's choir that performs in Slovakia and abroad.

The association sees its main task as preserving the Czech language and the cultural memory of Czech traditions in Slovakia.



Hello – Ahoj
Welcome – Vítej / Vítejte /
How are you? – Jak se máš / máte
Fine, thank you. – Dobře, děkuji.
My name is... – Jmenuji se...
A particularly complicated saying:
**Třístatřicettři stříbrných
stříkaček, stříkalo přes tři-
statřicettři stříbrných střech.**

**Czech Association in Slovakia /
Český spolek na Slovensku**

Hlavná 70
SK- 04001 Kosice
Slovakia

www.ceskyspolek.sk
csnske@zoznam.sk

Telefon: +421 055 / 6255 217

Belarusians in Estonia

The 2001 census counted 16,891 Belarusians in Estonia, or 1.2 per cent of the total population. Overall, almost one third of the Estonian population is a member of a national minority. Most Belarusians came to the Estonian Soviet Republic as labour migrants, settling mainly in the urban environment of Tallinn or in the Ida-Viru district. Many Belarusians declare Russian as their mother tongue. There are local associations and a Belarusian cultural centre with Sunday school in Tallinn.

Minorities that exceed 3000 people have the right to local cultural autonomy. In the young Republic of Estonia, there was already an autonomy law in the 1920s that granted special rights to minorities, but the legal situation for minorities became more complicated during and after the time of the Soviet Republic. In 1998, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities came into force in Estonia, but the country has not signed the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. A government programme for integration into Estonian society has been running since 2000, but the focus is on promoting Estonian language skills.

The Association of Belarusians in Estonia has been a member of FUEN since 2004.

Hello – Pryvitannie
Welcome – Sardečna
zprašajem
How are you? – Jak spravy
Fine, thank you. – Viełmi dobra,
dziakuj
My name is... – Mianie zavuč

**Association of Belarusians in Estonia /
Valgevenelaste liit Eestis**

Uus Str. 19-8
EE-10111 Tallinn
Estonia

ninsavin@mail.ru

Telefon: + 372 5134280

Montenegrins in Albania

The Montenegrin minority is one of the oldest minorities living in the Republic of Albania. This minority can be said to consist of three groups located in different historical periods. The first group includes the Montenegrin families who have been living for several centuries in the area of Shkodra on the border with Montenegro. The second group includes the Montenegrin families who came after the population exchange according to the international agreements between the Kingdom of Albania and Yugoslavia in 1934. And the third group includes the families of Montenegrin political immigrants who came after the 2nd World War, mainly families with Stalinist beliefs, opponents of Tito's Yugoslav regime. These families settled in the main cities of Albania.

For historical reasons (the forced inclusion of Montenegro in 1918 in the then Kingdom of Serbo-Croatian-Slovenian and then in Yugoslavia) this minority was known as the Serbo-Montenegrin minority until 2017 when the Montenegrin minority was recognized as a separate minority from the Parliament of Albania. Today, it is thought that 30-35 thousand Montenegrins live in the territory of Albania. Efforts are being made to open kindergartens and primary schools in the professional language, and it has been 3 years since RTSH 2 broadcasts news in the Montenegrin language in the news edition in the minority languages.

The Association of Belarusians in Estonia has been a member of FUEN since 2004.

Hello – **Pryvitannie**
Welcome – **Sardečna**
zapašajem
How are you? – **Jak spravy**
Fine, thank you. – **Vieľmi dobra,**
dziakuj
My name is... – **Mianie zavuć**

Association of Montenegrin Community in Albania "ZCGA" - Elbasan /
Zajednica Crnogoraca u Albaniji -
Elbasan

Lagja Aqif Pasha
Rr. Vasil Taja. Nr45 Elbasan
Albania

<https://www.facebook.com/marinko.culafic>

Umbrella organisation

»Estonian Union of National Minorities«

The **Estonian Union of National Minorities (ERÜ)** was founded in 1998 and joined FUEN in 2001.

The aims of the organisation are to represent national minorities at state and local government level, to protect their national cultural identity and to strengthen cooperation between nationalities, both within and outside of Estonia. One of the most important tasks of ERÜ is to contribute to the democratisation and appropriate development of Estonia, to the best of its ability.

The Union carries out a wide range of activities in the fields of culture, education and integration and organises various festivities. These include Estonian Independence Day, National Diversity Day, Tallinn Old Town Days, Days of Related Peoples, football matches, exhibitions, seminars, language courses, scientific lectures, educational and information events for children, the Estonian Peoples' Forum, an "Ethno-Fair" and concerts.

In line with its statutes, ERÜ represents the interests of Estonian minorities, promotes the dissemination of the native languages, culture and ways of life of minorities and helps preserve minority identities and customs. The Estonian Union of National Minorities ensures that the rights of the minorities laid down under the Estonian Constitution and the Act on the Cultural Autonomy of National Minorities are respected. It also participates in the development of inter ethnic relations. The Union supports the exchange of information and experience between national associations in order to promote their work on the ground.

Going forward, the Union will strive to strengthen youth work and cooperation with international organisations, and to foster adaptation to global changes and developments. Furthermore, the Union will focus on the preservation of cultural heritage and languages. Self-financing remains a challenge.
financiranje lastnega društva.

Estonian Union of National Minorities / Eestimaa Rahvuste Ühendus

Pärnu mnt. 6
EE-10148 Tallinn
Estonia

<https://rahvused.ee>
office@nationalities.ee

Telefon: +372 6440234

Public organisation

“Assembly of Nationalities of Ukraine”

The public organisation **Assembly of Nationalities of Ukraine** is a large multi ethnic structure uniting more than 50 nationalities/ethnicities and 120 organisations. The Assembly is responsible for strengthening friendship and solidarity between the different ethnic groups living in Ukraine and for protecting their interests and human rights. Its activities include round tables, conferences, seminars, cultural and educational events, festivals and concerts, as well as the monitoring of xenophobia and racism. The organisation has been a member of FUEN since 2015.

Public organisation “Assembly of Nationalities of Ukraine” / Громадська організація «Асамблея Національностей України»

30 Street Yaroslavov Val, 14-D, Office
90-91
UA-01030 Kiev
Ukraine

assemblykiev@ukr.net
www.aseembly.org.ua

Telefon: +380 (44) 253 38 88
Facebook: [Асамблея Національностей
України](#)

Coordination & activities of the AGSM

The AGSM was established on the initiative of the Slavic minorities as a solidarity community under the umbrella of FUEN. Together they address specific focal points with the aim of preserving and developing the everyday lives of minority people. It has transpired that Slavic communities are often confronted with very similar challenges on the ground. As many are relatively small, they often have limited opportunities for political participation and are financially weak and administratively underrepresented. The task of this working group is very demanding in its nature, as it unites many different Slavic peoples (from the Lusatian Sorbs in Germany, to Russians in Estonia, to Ruthenians in Ukraine and Molise Croats in Italy). As there is no single Slavic language, the AGSM identifies itself through the diverse yet closely related cultures, traditions and languages of its minorities.

In order to actively shape its activities, the Working Group of Slavic Minorities meets twice a year: during the annual FUEN Congress, as well as during its annual conference, the Seminar of Slavic Minorities in Europe. Within the framework of lectures, situation reports, discussion rounds and on-site visits, Slavic minorities exchange information on their current situation, experiences and the latest developments at the annual conference, working together on solutions. Until 2017, the umbrella organisation of the Lusatian Sorbs, Domowina, organised the annual meeting of the AGSM; since then, the coordination of the Working Group of Slavic Minorities has been the responsibility of FUEN.

The increase in funding of FUEN by the Federal Republic of Germany has enabled the AGSM to establish its own coordination office for Slavic minorities; this is seen as elementary progress in the efforts, pursued now for several years, to establish a central coordinating function. This development will enable the AGSM to communicate, plan and execute activities much more effectively and efficiently. The post of AGSM Coordinator is intended to be a strong central point of contact for the concerns of Slavic minorities, supporting members throughout the year and providing opportunities for further growth.



Contact information

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a member of the Working Group of Slavic Minorities, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can also visit our new AGSM web portal for more information and the latest news, or to subscribe to the newsletter:

FUEN / AGSM Koordinator Matic Germovšek Ž., Carinthian Slovene
E-mail: agsm@fuen.org
Web: www.agsm.fuen.org

Schiffbrücke 42
D - 24939 Flensburg
Phone: +49 461 12 8 55
E-mail: info@fuen.org
Web: www.fuen.org

Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

- is the main representative of, and largest umbrella organisation for, Europe's autochthonous national minorities, nationalities and language communities. It currently brings together more than 100 member organisations from 35 European countries, with new members joining every year.
- is a mutual support community representing the interests of European minorities at regional, national and especially European level.
- maintains a large network of European regions, policy makers, scientific institutes, cultural and educational institutions, youth organisations, media and other stakeholders.
- works for the preservation and promotion of the identity, language, culture, rights and traditions of European minorities.
- is the voice of minorities at international organisations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the OSCE.

In recent years, FUEN has expanded and consolidated its team and presence, with three offices, in Flensburg, Berlin and Brussels. The success of the FUEN coordinated European Citizens' Initiative Minority SafePack has given the organisation much greater visibility and a more consolidated position.

FUEN is led by the Presidium, which is elected by the Assembly of Delegates and which consists of the President, six Vice-Presidents and the President of JEV (ex-officio). Since the 2016 FUEN Congress in Wroclaw (Poland), the Presidium has been led by Loránt Vincze, a member of the Hungarian community in Romania.



Sources

Kashubs in Poland

<http://www.kaszubi.pl> <https://www.polish-online.com/polen/staedte/kaschubei-kaschuben.php>
<https://www.fernweh.de/kaschubei-polen.html> FUEN koledar 2020

Burgenland Croats in Austria (Hrvatskicentar)

<http://www.hrvatskicentar.at>

Croats in Serbia

<https://www.dshv.rs> <http://timetravel.mementoweb.org/list/2010/>
<http://webrzs.statserb.sr.gov.yu/axd/en/opstinski/2008/03.pdf>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrMPBDR58TI>

Lemkos in Poland

<http://www.lemko.org/lih/whoarewe.html>
<http://www.carpatho-rusyn.org/lemkos/goc.htm>
<https://www.fuen.org/de/members/Association-of-Lemkos-in-Poland>
Leiserowitz, R. (2008) Die unbekanntten Nachbarn: Minderheiten in Osteuropa. Christoph Links Verlag

Macedonians in Greece

<https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/mazedonien-nordmazedonien-101.html>
<http://www.florina.org/>
<https://www.hrw.org/reports/pdfs/g/greece/greece945.pdf>

Poles in Germany

<https://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/migration/kurz dossiers/256398/polnische-diaspora>
<http://www.zpwn.org>

Poles in the Czech Republic

<https://bt.kc-cieszyn.pl/>
<https://polonica.cz3>
Leiserowitz, R. (2008) Die unbekanntten Nachbarn: Minderheiten in Osteuropa. Christoph Links Verlag

Pomaks in Greece

<https://www.gfbv.de/de/news/die-pomaken-in-griechenland-272/>
<https://www.fuen.org/de/members/Panhellenic-Pomak-Association/GR>
Apostolov, M. (2018) Religious Minorities, Nation States and Security: Five Cases from the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean

Carpatho-Rusyns in Ukraine

Marc Stegherr: Rusinisch. V: Lexikon der Sprachen des europäischen Ostens (= Wieser Enzyklopädie des europäischen Ostens. Band 10). Izdal Miloš Okuka / Gerald Krenn. Wieser, Celovec 2002
FUEN koledar 2020

Slovaks in the Czech Republic

<https://www.fuen.org/de/members/Association-of-Slovaks-in-the-Czech-Republic/CZ>
<https://www.radio.cz/de/rubrik/spezial/ploetzlich-minderheit-slowaken-in-tschechien>
<http://www.slovaci.cz/>
Nonnemann, A. (2003) Internationale Minderheiten in Tschechien. Universität Lüneburg
Leiserowitz, R. (2008) Die unbekanntten Nachbarn: Minderheiten in Osteuropa. Christoph Links Verlag

Carinthian Slovenes in Austria

www.nsk.at
www.skupnost.at

Belarusians in Estonia

Leiserowitz, R. (2008) Die unbekanntten Nachbarn: Minderheiten in Osteuropa. Christoph Links Verlag

Ukrainian Umbrella Organisation

<https://www.fuen.org/de/members/Public-Organization-Assembly-of-Nationalities-of-Ukraine-UA>

Disclaimer

Content that is not explicitly marked with a different source has been provided to the publisher directly by the member organisations. Despite careful checking, we cannot guarantee that the information provided in this brochure is up-to-date, correct or complete. Content related to member organisations reflects the opinion of the organisation or its representatives, and not necessarily that of the publisher.

References and links

The publisher is not responsible for any content linked or referred to from their pages (“hyperlinks”) – unless they have full knowledge of illegal content and are able to deter visitors to their site from viewing those pages.

The publisher hereby expressly declares that at the time of linking, no illegal content was discernible on the linked pages in question. As publisher, no responsibility is taken for influence on the current and future design, content or authorship of the linked pages. The publisher therefore expressly distances themselves from all content of all linked pages that has been changed since the link was created. For illegal, faulty or incomplete content, and especially for damages resulting from the use or non use of such information, only the provider of the linked page in question is liable; the publisher merely refers to the respective publication via the links.

FUEN Flensburg / Flensburg
Schiffbrücke 42
D-24939 Flensburg
+49 461 12855

FUEN Berlin
Kaiser-Friedrich Straße 90
D-10585 Berlin
+49 30 364 284 050

FUEN Brussel / Bruxelles
Rue d'Arlon 25
B-1050 Bruxelles, Belgium
+32 2 6271822