

## Annual Report 2025

2025 was a rather quiet but nonetheless very work-intensive year. Most notably, the CONVIVENZA Foundation finalized Volume 7 of its book series entitled “How to Solve Problems in Governance – Theory and Practice of the Governmental Learning Spiral: A Method for Innovation and Learning in Governance”, written by Raoul Blindenbacher with a foreword by Bidjan Nashat. The book complements the Foundation’s manual, which sets out the modus operandi according to which the organization conducts its projects.

During the year, the Foundation was again present at various national and international forums. The most important event was a lecture organized in collaboration with the Institute of Federalism of the University of Fribourg, featuring Peter Hilpold, Professor of Public International Law, European Law, and Comparative Public Law at the University of Innsbruck and Full Professor of International Law at the University of Pavia. His lecture, entitled “Vertreibungen, Selbstbestimmung und das Völkerrecht – einst und jetzt”, took place at the University of Fribourg on October 14, 2025.

In connection with this lecture, the name index of the CONVIVENZA Foundation’s network was updated and expanded to include new individuals interested in being informed about the Foundation’s activities. Today, this index comprises more than 250 names and addresses and now serves as a basis for inviting a broad audience to the Foundation’s events.

On June 6, 2025, the University of Innsbruck, with the support of the CONVIVENZA Foundation, organized a conference entitled “30 Years of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) – Time for a Reform?” Romedi Arquint, Vice President of the Foundation, spoke at the event on “Unity Gives Power.” Furthermore, the board members Günther Rautz and Romedi Arquint represented the Foundation at the Annual Congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), held in Bolzano/South Tyrol from October 23 to 26, 2025.

An important activity in 2025 was the preparation work of the third seminar on small peoples without a state. This event will constitute the third cycle of the Governmental Learning Spiral, following the first cycle in 2015 and the second one in 2021. The seminar will bring together representatives of around a dozen small cultural, linguistic, and religious communities from Europe. Its aim is to review the measures developed and implemented since the second seminar and to seek improved and, where

appropriate, new measures to strengthen the living conditions and institutions of small peoples. The seminar is expected to take place in 2026/27.

Finally, the Foundation's Board held two meetings: an online meeting on March 25, 2025, and a face-to-face meeting on October 14, 2025, at the University of Fribourg.



Raoul Blindenbacher PhD, MSW  
President of the CONVIVENZA Foundation

Berne, January 2026