

## Annual Report 2020

1. As for everybody else, the year 2020 has been a great challenge for the Convivenza Foundation. All its face-to-face events had to be postponed to the following year. Among them are “Give a Voice to the Small Peoples without their own State”, a seminar organized under the auspices of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Council of Europe, as well as the lecture by Ambassador Baron Dr. Johann Swinnen about «The Rwandan genocide, 25 years later: what we do know and what we still do not know», carried out in collaboration with the “Alliance Française de Berne”.
2. Despite all the difficulties, the Convivenza Foundation was able to conduct, under the leadership of EURAC Research based in Bozen/Bolzano, Italy, a survey with representatives from over 20 Small Peoples without their own state in Europe and Eurasia. The goal of the study is a general assessment of the situation of minorities and should identify proven strategies for preserving linguistic and cultural identity as well as point out deficits and urgent needs that are essential for survival. The evaluation of the questionnaire is under way and will be published on the Convivenza website in 2021. The survey results are foreseen as the backbone for the content preparation of the Seminar on the Small Peoples.
3. As pointed out in our Jubilee Edition of the Convivenza Series Volume 5, one of the Foundation’s past experiences has been that the generation and dissemination of knowledge about diversity issues is a necessary but not sufficient condition to fully meet its mission. In order to leverage its impact, the Foundation chose the Governmental Learning Spiral© GLSp as its underpinning working method that focuses the combination of know-how development and application in one integrated course of action. To benefit from the GLSp methodology in its future activities, the Foundation is currently customizing the approach to the particular needs of the Foundation’s operations. This work is expected to be terminated in Spring 2021.
4. On April 21, 2020 the Foundation decided at its virtual Board meeting to review its organizational structure and to adapt it to the new pandemic-related circumstances. Among these decisions are the adoption of new allowance regulations, reviewing the Foundation’s deeds and moving the office from the Institute of Federalism IFF of the University of Fribourg

to Hans-Ruedi Hübscher, a former State official with the Swiss Federal Department of Justice and Police and currently Executive Director of the Carnegie Rescuers Foundation (Switzerland). We should like to thank Jean-Pierre Blickle and Yvonne Heiter-Steiner from the IFF for their services and warmly welcome Mr. Hübscher in his new function.

5. To increase the international nature of the Foundation, the Board chose Jan Rielaender, Head of Multidimensional Country Review at the OECD Development Centre in Paris, and Bidjan Nashat, Director, Global Program Quality and Impact at Save the Children International in London/Washington, as new members. We are very proud to have these internationally renowned experts in our circle and look forward to working with them to advance the Foundation's cause to develop and implement solutions for minority and diversity issues. In conjunction with moving our office, Eva-Maria Belser, the Co-Director of the IFF, decided to step down as a member of the Convivenza Board. We should like to thank her for her contributions and wish her and the IFF all the best for the future.



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President of the Convivenza Foundation

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