



## **GIVE A VOICE TO THE SMALL PEOPLES WITHOUT THEIR OWN STATE**

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

After a first meeting regarding the small peoples without their own state with over 40 participants in 2015 (Scuol Recommendation), the Convivenza Foundation is organising a follow-up seminar in October 2021. The seminar is under the patronage of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and in scientific collaboration with the EURAC Research in Bozen/Bolzano. It will take place from 21 to 23 October 2021 in Müstair, Canton of Grisons, Switzerland.

The seminar for small peoples bases on a survey that has already been sent to representatives of small peoples from across Europe as well as public officials. During the conference in October 2021, the same representatives of the civil organisations of the small peoples, as well as the respective governmental representatives, will then elaborate further on the results of the survey. The seminar will follow the methodology of the governmental learning spiral with the core themes being “Autonomy, Participation, and Collective Rights”, “Education, Official Use of Language, and Media”, and “Awareness of Rights and Protection”. The mutual exchange of experience during the seminar will allow formulating concrete recommendations of good governance. Finally, the Convivenza Foundation is planning a respective publication.

For questions, please contact [office@convivenza.ch](mailto:office@convivenza.ch)