

ANNUAL PROGRAMME



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES



2011

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

European Centre
for Minority Issues (ECMI)

Director:
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Tove H. Malloy
ECMI Director

FOREWORD

With this publication, the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) presents its research and action projects for 2011. This is the first time the ECMI Team has compiled its project ideas for general dissemination. The aim of this publication is to share with the general public knowledge about the efforts in research and action that we find worthwhile pursuing in the next year.

We predict that 2011 will bring greater awareness about certain topics in minority research, such as indicators, diversity management and the Communist legacy, ethnic reconciliation and ethnic mobilization, language pluralism as well as minority social capital. The most interesting trends in minority research are promoted by the ongoing paradigm shift from studying minorities as objects to studying them as subjects. Of course, every research cluster strives to be a heart of its disciplines while also aiming at inter-disciplinarity. Moreover, many of our research efforts are cross-cluster thus ensuring the inter-disciplinary approach from the start. In addition, we always seek to design cross-cultural programmes where the topic is so hot that it is necessary, such as with our new Belarus Programme. But most important, all our research projects aim to culminate in recommendations for action. The overall ECMI effort is therefore rooted in the team-spirit that must define any modern, pro-active institution with the finger on the pulse. We also believe this attracts talents and binds talents. Thus, our Internship and PhD programmes are now closely related to the projects, and interested candidates are welcome to consult this publication to get a closer look at what ECMI will offer them in 2011.

The structure of this publication follows the new research structure of the ECMI – the formation of research clusters – but also provides information about projects undertaken by our Regional Associates in Georgia and Kosovo. Finally, we have included brief information pieces about our recurrent and annual activities.

I hope you will find this publication useful. We welcome comments any time.



Piloting Indicators for the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM)

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this project is to support the Advisory Committee to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities with a practical tool kit of minority indicators. This tool kit shall assist the Advisory Committee in assessing the quality of implementation of minority rights.

BACKGROUND

In 2008, the Secretariat to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities began working on indicators to better assess the impact of minority protection mechanisms in the member states of the Council of Europe. A preliminary study to conceptualise policy indicators that can measure the performance of standards for the individual members of a minority group has been worked out already. As a next step in this process the above project has been developed.

OUTPUT

A handbook consisting of an index of indicators for each article of the FCNM with an explanatory narrative and suggested data sources, a paradigm questionnaire for each indicator and a vocabulary with annotations.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Conceptualization of project and consolidation of research team.

TIMEFRAME

The project is estimated to run for three years.

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» Partners

European Academy Bolzano (EURAC)

The concept of Non-territorial autonomy

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Feeding into the greater framework of questions on territoriality, the aim of this project is to provide for a new perspective on how cultural and ethnic diversity is conceptually organized and accommodated in relation to the notion of autonomy on non-territorial grounds. Through description, comparison and critical assessment of the above ideas and of their utilization, a set of proposals concerning amelioration of the existing institutions and dissemination of good practices is envisaged to fuel further academic discussion of this topic.

BACKGROUND

The term 'non-territorial autonomy' and similar notions seem to have been employed basically as practical categories in law, politics and civic activism. In addition, non-territorial autonomy is being occasionally used as a category of analysis in a variety of interpretations. Until recently there has been relatively little research on how institutions called non-territorial autonomy really function. Also little research has been done on contextualization of non-territorial autonomy and its comparison with notions and ideas in proximity including multiculturalism, group rights and power-sharing. There is no academic consent about the ways the term 'non-territorial autonomy' could apply and the limits of such applicability.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

A workshop will bring together scholars from various disciplines, who are able to discuss the notion's application as a category of analysis and the contexts and limits of such application. The disciplines law, politics, public administration and sociology will be covered, with a special focus on scholars who study the concrete practices of what could be called Non-Territorial Autonomy.

TIMEFRAME

The project runs from 2010-2012.



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» Alexander Osipov (osipov@ecmi.de)

Partners
» European Academy Bolzano (EURAC)

JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

Minorities and Non-Discrimination on the Ground of Residence

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The project seeks to analyze European jurisprudence as well as public policies concerning differential treatment of persons with respect to their residence and/or of territorial units and local communities.

BACKGROUND

The issue has been raised in legal studies before, but with no special reference to minorities. The goal of this project is to examine whether these practices concern minorities and to analyze in what circumstances the goals of minority protection could be achieved through securing fair treatment of territorial communities.

METHODOLOGY

The project envisages research on a comparative analysis of legal and public policy (lobbying) cases concerning claims for equal treatment of persons irrespective of their territorial affiliation and fair treatment of territorial communities in development planning and public administration. The focus shall be on the real or potential effects of these undertakings on ethnic minorities. Particularly, the applicability of the notion of 'multiple discrimination' is examined.

TIMEFRAME

Throughout the year of 2011.

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The Limits of differentiation in treatment of different minority groups

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The basic goal is to provide description and a critical assessment of the modes of equality based on ethnicity. The topic allows for discussing the limited applicability of the contemporary interpretations of social equality and discrimination. The project will show how anti-discriminatory arrangements and minority protection could be combined institutionally, in particular in Central and Eastern Europe.

BACKGROUND

The idea of a 'sliding scale' as put forward by Fernand de Varennes means that the positive obligations of states with respect to minorities stipulated particularly in FCNM are still lacking criteria of necessity and sufficiency and thus remain conventional on an ad hoc basis. The idea of discrimination between minority groups means that minority groups may be treated differently (particularly, be recognized in different ways or be granted different amounts of subsidies) for a variety of reasons; both legitimate and illegitimate reasons. There is little jurisprudence on this matter. These issues are still elaborated upon insufficiently in a theoretical perspective.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

ECMI will host and supervise PhD students in social philosophy or law who are working on complex and still relatively neglected issues related to both the areas of minority protection and non-discrimination.

TIMEFRAME

In 2011-12. The research agenda will be developed in 2011. In 2012, the first PhD students are expected to come to ECMI.



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JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE



Bilateral Treaty Commissions

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The project seeks to identify and analyze the deficiencies and challenges in the bilateral treaty commissions with a special focus on the minority regimes. The overall aim is to provide a research based assessment of the work of the bilateral treaty commissions in the field of minority protection.

BACKGROUND

In the beginning of the 1990s, a number of bilateral treaties concerning good neighbourliness and good relations were concluded in Central and Eastern Europe. These treaties contain bilateral obligations on minority protection. The treaties do not have a legal implementation mechanism, but they establish political monitoring bodies – the so-called bilateral treaty commissions. The effectiveness and efficiency of these commissions has rarely been critically assessed.

OUTPUT

Treaties are selected on geographical ground and are supposed to address different types of bilateral treaty commissions. Assessments of individual commissions in their own rights as well as the comparative evaluations are envisioned. The assessment includes both the legal setup and the actual implementation.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Interviews with relevant experts with the selected bilateral treaty commissions.

TIMEFRAME

2011

» **ECMI Contact person:**
Ulrike Barten (barten@ecmi.de)

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The Role in Diversity Management of Institutions Inherited from the Communist Past

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The project seeks to arrange a multidisciplinary discussion on the issues of whether the effect of Communist institutions is still persistent and of what should and could be done with this legacy. The project includes a conference on Communist/Soviet legacy in ethnic policies and its impact on the current regimes of minority protection. The project's incentive is the assumption that Communist regimes invested a lot in diversity management in their own way, and the institutions and norms established may still affect the existing state of affairs. The practically relevant output is a set of recommendations concerning deficiencies in minority protection.

BACKGROUND

The project seeks to identify the cases where the ideas of minority protection are applied contrary to their substance, elaborate the criteria for the selection of such cases, and analyze the causes and consequences. This research agenda provides for discussing the limited applicability of the notions related to minority protection as well as the distinction and interdependence between discourses and practices.

OUTPUT

A conference and an anthology.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Negotiations with the potential partner and key contributors. The preliminary plan envisages a multidisciplinary conference to be held in 2012.

TIMEFRAME

2011-12



ECMI Contact person:
» Alexander Osipov (osipov@ecmi.de)



POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

Domestic and transnational ethnic mobilization in Poland

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The project aims at gaining a deeper insight into the struggles to establish the content of Polish collective memory and into minority-majority relations in general by looking at how the references to historical episodes are seized upon by minority members and their adversaries in political debates on ethnic issues.

BACKGROUND

To explore the patterns of growing ethnic minority groups' presence in the national public spheres, this project undertakes a qualitative analysis of the types of claims put forward by minority groups. It focuses first on Poland that has recently joined the European Union and is inhabited by a large number of small ethnic and national groups. Drawing on the analysis of public debates in a national quality newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the project examines the patterns and content of minorities' arguments and the claims' embeddedness in the national history, culture and socio-political situation. In particular, it explores the role played by past ethnic conflicts in the current ethnic debates in Poland.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

The newspaper data for Poland has already been gathered and coded. The next step involves a qualitative analysis of claims.

TIMEFRAME

2010-2011

» **ECMI Contact person**
» Joanna Jasiewicz (jasiewicz@ecmi.de)



Transnational ethnic mobilization

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The project will shed light on the role played by minorities' transnational involvement in enhancing their political and social participation.

BACKGROUND

This project explores ethnic minorities' involvement in activities that cut across state boundaries. It draws upon a burgeoning transnational networks literature that suggests that embeddedness in transnational ties carries broad implications for members of ethnic groups. It is argued for instance that European integration has opened up new opportunities for action only to those actors that have been able to create a new type of capital reaching beyond the borders of the nation-state. The role of transnational networks in facilitating ethnic organization, enhancing solidarity and social integration will thus be examined in details.

METHODOLOGY

The project focuses on selected ethnic minority groups in both Eastern and Western Europe. First, it involves a comparative descriptive analysis of minorities' transnational engagement looking at the number and types of linkages that ethnic groups have fostered with similar ethnic communities abroad and with supranational institutions, such as the European Union, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. Further, the project examines whether transnational involvement exerts an impact on minorities' action (social and political participation in particular) and on ethnic groups attitudes (towards the ethnic majority and European institutions).

OUTPUT

Establishing the mechanisms of transnational networks' impact on minority groups' action.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

To be developed.

TIMEFRAME

2011-2012

» **ECMI Contact person:**
» Joanna Jasiewicz (jasiewicz@ecmi.de)





POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

The impact of regional integration processes on minorities'

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this project is to conduct a cross-national comparison of the impact of regional integration processes in Europe on minority groups' activism.

BACKGROUND

This project explores the ways in which political and cultural institutional changes shape ethnic agency in diverse national settings. It draws on diverse theoretical tools, paying particular attention to the findings of new institutionalism, which emphasize that the institutional environments exert an impact on people's perceptions and actions. The project examines how the accelerating processes of regional integration impact upon ethnic groups' political and cultural opportunities for action. Specifically, the European integration project will be closely examined as regards their role in enhancing ethnic transnational and domestic activism.

METHODOLOGY

Adopting a comparative and process-tracing approach, the project involves an extensive qualitative analysis of secondary sources (legislation, press, documents produced by ethnic organizations), expert interviews with key informants in respective institutions responsible for ethnic relations and semi-structured interviews with minorities' representatives.

CONCRETE OUTPUT AND ACTIVITIES ARE CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED.

TIMEFRAME

2011-2012

» ECMI Contact person

» Joanna Jasiewicz (jasiewicz@ecmi.de)

Minorities and New social media

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The project's broader aim is to observe whether the usage of digital media facilitates domestic and global activism, triggers the creation of broad social networks and provokes changes in ethnic organizations.

BACKGROUND

The interconnectedness of contemporary societies is facilitated to great extent by the popularization of modern technologies, most importantly, of the internet. The ease with which individuals, social groups and institutions may nowadays contact one another ignoring the borders of the nation state is transforming the social, cultural, and political tissue of European societies. Technological changes offer novel opportunities for action to the civil society. In particular, new internet tools provide platforms for contact, cooperation and socialization for minority groups' leaders and common ethnic minorities' members.

METHODOLOGY

This project focuses on the types of new media that ethnic minorities seize on, examines how these media are used and what implications the usage of new social media carries for ethnic minorities, their social, economic and political integration, and for the society as a whole. In particular, it is worth to explore whether the new social media stimulate the spread of democracy within ethnic groups (through easier access to digital media by underrepresented in traditional ethnic organizations categories such as women) and outside ethnic settings, by promoting tolerance towards diversity. The project involves a quantitative and qualitative content analysis of web pages used by minority groups. It will look at diverse internet sources, such as facebook, twitter, blogs and information websites (such as Wikipedia), to name just a few. The research also entails interviews with the web sites' designers and internet users to discover the authors' objectives and users' common practices related to the usage of new social media.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

A workshop.

TIMEFRAME

2011-2012

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» Joanna Jasiewicz (jasiewicz@ecmi.de)

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Party Consolidation and Representative Democracy in Ethnically Divided Societies

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This project analyses the relationship between individual candidates and the political party by looking especially at ethnic issues in the electoral campaigning in three countries: Latvia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Estonia

BACKGROUND

Elections force voters to decide upon the competency of candidates. On the other side of the ballot box, from the candidates' perspective, campaigns force political actors to draw up the balance sheet or to challenge that of other actors, as well as require parties and candidates to identify their goals and outline their policies. Our project takes as its starting point the premise that parliamentary elections are central moments in the life of democracies. It is during parliamentary elections that the issues of individual candidates' accountability, social agenda of the next government and society's expectations of political regime are being shaped. Thus institutions alone do not make a fully functioning democratic political system. Elections provide the opportunity to judge the performance of the government and to evaluate the proposals for future policies made by competing political parties.

OUTPUT

The project will produce a new data set derived from elite surveys of parliamentary candidates.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Under development.

TIMEFRAME

2011-2013

» **ECMI Contact person**

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» **Partners**

University of Bath (UK), Saar Poll (Estonia)
BISZ (Latvia), Prism (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Reconciliation in Europe

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This project aims to take stock of past and present examples of historical reconciliation in Europe in various geographic areas.

BACKGROUND

Different perceptions of history have always played an important part in interethnic conflicts. Divergent national histories that are seemingly exclusive are seen as obstacles for successful reconciliation. Nationalist historical narratives are utilized as weapons in ongoing conflicts or installed as landmines that aim at worsening interethnic relations. Therefore, those who are working on conflict transformation are trying to employ methods of historical reconciliation that aim at narrowing the gap between those exclusive perceptions.

METHODOLOGY

It will be analyzed what reconciliation measures were introduced with respect to perceptions of history. Technical and sustainability evaluation will try to analyse the long term impacts that reconciliation policies had in the past.

OUTPUT

To be determined.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Workshop bringing together scholars working in the field of reconciliation.

TIMEFRAME

2011-2013

ECMI Contact person
» Jan Asmussen (asmussen@ecmi.de)

SECURITY
&
CONFLICT



State Building versus State Renovation- Strengthening traditional Institutions

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This project analyses existing institutions and their acceptance level on behalf of various ethnicities. It aims to assess if, and how, the international community can find ways and means to restructure state-building tools and measures by strengthening traditional institutions rather than creating new ones. The project will revisit past examples of international led state-building in order to assess the question, if in so-called "failed states" conditions pre-existing before the collapse of state structures played any significant role in the planning of state-building measures.

BACKGROUND

The international community in many cases did away with traditional institutions and instruments that were in place in so-called "failed states" and that might have had a potential not only to sustain a failed state, but that could sustain reforms better.

METHODOLOGY

Cases in which institutions that pre-existed were incorporated in the new design will be compared to those cases where a state-building was done by introducing completely new structures and institutions. Both models will then be assessed in respect to their comparative results in terms of creation of sustainable and stable conditions. The project will include a particular focus on those societies that emerge from a violent inter-ethnic conflict. Here it will be analysed, if minority-majority relations have been addressed in a way that suits all communities. Here again the project aims at finding an assessment, if traditional institutions are more suitable to provide for trust or if new ones need to be created.

OUTPUT AND ACTIVITIES ARE CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED.

TIMEFRAME

2010-2013

» ECMI Contact person
» Jan Asmussen (asmussen@ecmi.de)



Minority Logic in Conflicts

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This research project aims to study the options advocated for by minority groups that seek to reframe and/or redesign the existing political institutions to allow the existing social reality to be reflected in political institutions and social processes.

BACKGROUND

Individual political activism is said to be triggered by structural constraints individuals face while interacting with the social world and hence are keen to see changed, facilitating the processes of social change. By distinguishing the types of minority activisms that counter the existing constraints we will be able to assess whether the minority communities seek to address the issues of inequality by redressing the institutional designed preventing the emergence of potentially new forms of inequalities, or by altering the institutional favouritisms and hence securing access to scarce resources for in-group.

METHODOLOGY

This is done in three related steps. First we analyse the types of contention preferred by minority groups when facing liberal democratic political institutions. We distinguish critical and noncritical types, whereby critical contention provides incentives for reform and update of institutions, and noncritical contentions results in minority preference for 'exit' strategy in dealing with their exclusions. Second, we analyse policy response to contentious claims of migrants and minorities tracing the institutional preferences in dealing with non-dominant groups; these can either result in inclusion of minority groups in the dialogue on democratic reform, or their alienation from political structures serving, as they are, largely the majority. Thirdly, we look at the specific logic and legitimacy shared by minority groups excluded from dialogue with democratic institutions, as well as marginalised within the minority communities proper. The overall results will allow us to distil the set of actions allowing to address the "hard to reach" categories of minorities excluded from and marginalised in their communities.

OUTPUT

The project will analyse policies and provide a blueprint for estimating the impact of minority marginalisation on the overall stability of a host society whilst looking at the strategies picked up by minority groups to contest the existing social order.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Under development.

TIMEFRAME

2010-2013

MINORITY
SECURITY
&
CONFLICT

» **ECMI Contact person**
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» **Partners:**
University of Marburg
(lead partner)
Universities of Cluj, Viadrina,
Helsinki and Göteborg

Consultative and Coalition-Type Bodies

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this project is to show a way to address the interpretations of 'conflict' in regional (sub-national) and local policies as well as distinction between symbolic and instrumental policies.

METHODOLOGY

Description, comparison and critical assessment of the practices of local conflict prevention and reconciliation. Focus will be on measures undertaken to prevent tensions and clashes between neighbouring ethnic communities. The project also looks at post-conflict reconciliation between neighbouring ethnic communities as well as at the effectiveness of these undertakings.

OUTPUT

Dissemination of good practices and a set of recommendations concerning efficiency of consultative bodies and mediators.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

A workshop will be convened to address (1) interethnic representative bodies (minorities' assemblies), particularly created on constituencies' participation through elections or in similar ways; (2) interethnic coalition-type NGOs, principles of creation and fare representation as well as their efficiency; (3) consultative bodies for minorities, founding principles and efficiency. The pursued goal is to discuss the efficiency of such institutions and to single out good practices.

TIMEFRAME

2010-2012

» **ECMI Contact person:**
Alexander Osipov (osipov@ecmi.de)



The Value of Linguistic Diversity (VALIDI)

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The project analyses state language policies across Europe. The aim is to answer the question of whether political institutions supporting a core linguistic group provide avenues for normalisation of relations between minority/majority communities result in successful minority integration and quell incipient conflict over minority language use.

BACKGROUND

Previous studies of interethnic tensions across Europe have focused on minority resource mobilisation and the opportunities these have used to pursue ethno-political claims. Little investigation has taken place of state policies or national state design *per se* as catalysts of ethnic mobilisation. The literature on the politics of linguistic diversity treats language as a tool of the national state, reserving scarce non-linguistic resources for the members of the linguistic in-group.

METHODOLOGY

By looking at the policies of nation-states preventing flexibility in language practices for minority language speakers our study investigates the impact of language policies on social cohesion across Europe. From this background, we investigate whether the accommodation of ethnically and linguistically diverse societies stands a chance of success in the face of the unequal treatment of language communities by EU member-states.

OUTPUT

The project study will point out whether differences in language policy determine the minorities' access and effective participation in social, economic and political life.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Under development.

TIMEFRAME

2011-2014

CULTURE & DIVERSITY

» **ECMI Contact person:**
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» **Partners:**
» London School of Economics
University of Bath

Minorities without Homeland States

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The project looks at factors which determine social stability in multicultural societies by specifically comparing diverse minority groups across Europe: traditional minorities cross border ethnic groups and migrant communities.

BACKGROUND

Previous studies of interethnic tensions across Europe have focused on minority resource mobilisation. The recent access of post communist states to the EU gave rise to specific concerns that minority communities may play in destabilising the democratic developments of these states. It is from this point that we are looking at minority community groups across the range of EU member states to estimate the role played by minority groups on sustainable democratic development of societies in Western and Eastern Europe alike. The rise of political actors that appeal to right of centre sentiments of publics across Western Europe suggests that the place ascribed to minority communities in the EU will need radical redefinition in the near future to ensure stability of societies and polities.

METHODOLOGY

Three types of results are expected: First, we evaluate political institutions in the West and in the East as to their capacity to provide fora for minority communities to accustom themselves with the baseline of cultural diversity imminent to European social project. Second, we assess majority publics' reactions to minority social integration, political participation and cultural adaptation to assess perception of in/security which can be mobilised by opportunist political elites. Third, the analysis of minority networks and cross border initiatives looks at the processes of social change in their sending countries, which – as we posit – are predicated upon export of liberal values from the European continent into its immediate neighbourhood.

OUTPUT AND ACTIVITIES ARE CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED.

TIMEFRAME

2011-2013

» **ECMI Contact person:**
Timofey Agarin (t.agarin@ecmi.de)

» **Partners:**
University of Grenoble (F)
University of Kent in Brussels, University of Aberdeen (UK), a set of 12 additional partners from CEE, Maghreb countries and Turkey

National Minority Citizenship (MINCIT)

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Taking its starting point in a national minority citizenship model which is being forged in the Danish-German border region where two kin-state minorities and one language minority have created a new narrative of active citizenship, MINCIT will investigate whether the citizenship skills of these minorities are to be seen as a trend in Europe and whether it informs the European citizenship concept and thus European integration. While the overall goal of MINCIT is to inform the contemporary academic discourse on European citizenship with a model of national minority citizenship, the specific purpose is to research a number of national minority regions which appear to exhibit new citizenship behaviour similar to the one in the Danish-German border region.

BACKGROUND

There are 80-100 million Europeans who claim to belong to a national minority. Most of these are legal citizens of a national state. But a large part also declares allegiance to a neighbouring state. Decades and at times centuries have gone by where these national minorities have lived in a new home state due to border revisions while retaining cultural and national ties to the former home state, now kin-state. As proponents of bi-cultural and bi-national identities, these national minorities have overcome the syndrome of whether to show loyalty and allegiance to one nation and become accustomed to a "double daily plebiscite." It is therefore questionable to speak of a national identity and national allegiance to one state. As a minimum there must be two foci of allegiance. This poses potential challenges to the conventional concept of national citizenship as defined in terms of solidarity with a cultural group, loyalty to a national state and allegiance to the symbols and traditions of that national state. This is crucial in a time when, on the one hand, a European citizenship model is being defined, and, on the other hand, citizenship as Bürgerschaft is in decline. Policy makers as well as academic scholars are keen to define a new model of citizenship for Europe and in particular the territory of the European Union. At the same time, Europeans increasingly turn away from the political processes. Social movements mobilize outside the political processes in protest. Active and participatory citizenship remain theoretical constructs while disempowerment in the democratic process is taking hold thus risking the demise of a European tradition of democratic citizenship.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Theoretical and conceptual framing of a new model of national minority citizenship.

TIMEFRAME

2011-2013

» **ECMI Contact person:**
Tove Malloy (malloy@ecmi.de)

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Belarus Programme

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The programme seeks to initiate research and practice-oriented activities with regard to Belarus, and for this purpose (1) set up an information system for the collection and exchange of data on minority issues in Belarus, (2) do initial research on the state of minorities and minority policies in Belarus; (3) to provide for involvement of the Belarusian official institutions and civil society into the European minority agendas.

BACKGROUND

While Belarus is a large and strategically important country in the heartland of Europe, it remains a blind-spot on the Continent's map of ethnic minorities. Belarus is not a Council of Europe member, and even though it is a participating State of the OSCE it is not covered by the activities of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. Minority claims and minority organizations in Belarus are with few exceptions voiceless and invisible both within and outside the country. Major international minority and human rights NGOs do not operate in Belarus. In the meantime, the Belarus government has recently declared the country's integration into Europe as its strategic goal.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Assessment of current status (pilot phase 2011)

- Assessment of Belarus' status of legislation for the adoption of the Council of Europe minority protection conventions (FCNM, ECRML). A small-scale study of the capacities and operational modes of the Belarus minority-related national and local agencies would be part of this activity.
- Assessment of the state of interethnic dialog within Belarus.
- Assessment of the impact of cross border contacts and contacts with NGOs from the EU countries on the Europeanization of Belarus society.

Establishing focal point of knowledge (2011-2012)

ECMI is preparing to host a PhD student doing research on Belarus for a term of one year, most likely a student from the European Humanities University in exile in Lithuania. Researchers interested in Belarus will be affiliated with ECMI, preferably with nationalities eligible for entry to Belarus without a visa.

Capacity building efforts (2011-2012)

Upgrade competencies of the Belarus minority ombudsperson and offices on minority issues at the provincial level. ECMI's Training and Technical Assistance Unit is to set up working contacts with these offices to offer training on European minority governance standards, language policy and planning. Possible visits of the staff members to Germany /Schleswig-Holstein and to the German-Danish border region, or another EU country to be informed on minority related practices at all levels.

ECMI Contact person:

» Joanna Jasiewicz and
Alexander Osipov (emails see above)



ACTION





Promotion of Judicial Reform, Human and Minority Rights in Georgia

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The activities carried out aim at furthering the sustainable and credible governance on national minorities in Georgia in accordance with the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities with the primary aim of enhancing governance on national minorities, supporting the process of the implementation and monitoring of the FCNM as well as the National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration and Action Plan, and enhancing consultation between authorities and minority stakeholders in Georgia, at both the central and the local level, in the implementation and monitoring process.

BACKGROUND

The activities carried out by ECMI are part of Denmark's Caucasus Programme 2010-2013, which promotes judicial reforms and standards for human rights and national minority protection throughout Georgia. ECMI activities are implemented together with the Council of Europe. The component III of the Danish programme - Strengthening the state capacity in managing minority issues and enhancing public consultation on minority issues - is executed directly by ECMI.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

A number of activities are carried out under three main themes: 1) advancing the implementation of minority policies in accordance with European standards on minority protection in compliance with the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; 2) supporting the operational functioning of the Council of National Minorities (CNM) working under the aegis of the Public Defender of Georgia and aiding minority communities in voicing their issues and concerns in relevant fora; 3) establishing and encouraging dialogue between civil society organizations and municipal authorities, supporting local level implementation of minority policies – especially in the minority regions of Kvemo Kartli (multi-ethnic population) and Samtskhe-Javakheti (predominantly Armenian population) – and involving minority organizations in the monitoring of minority rights and civic integration.

TIMEFRAME

July 2010 – March 2013

» ECMI Contact person

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» National Partners

Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues (<http://www.smr.gov.ge>)
State Inter-Agency Commission on National Minorities
Council of National Minorities (PDO <http://www.ombudsman.ge>)
Administration of the President of Georgia (<http://www.president.gov.ge>)
Human Rights and Civil Integration Parliamentary Committee
(<http://www.parliament.ge>)
Municipalities in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli

Supporting the repatriation of persons and their descendants deported from Georgia in the 1940s

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The present project is designed to support the successful repatriation to Georgia of persons and their descendants deported in the 1940s, specifically to facilitate the process of resettlement and integration of deported families through an integrated programme of policy support, awareness raising, informational services, repatriation support and socio-economic assistance.

BACKGROUND

Upon becoming a member of the Council of Europe in 1999, Georgia committed to provide for the repatriation of the deported Meskhetian population before 2012. However, it was only in July 2007 that the Parliament of Georgia adopted the "Law on Repatriation of Persons Forcefully Sent into Exile from Georgian SSR by the former USSR in the 1940s" - the formal legal framework for the repatriation of persons deported from Georgia during and around the time of World War II and their descendants, i.e. mainly Meskhetians but also persons belonging to other groups such as Hemshins, Terekeme and Muslim Kurds. The Meskhetians, originally settled in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia, are one of the eight peoples who were collectively deported in the 1940s (along with the Chechens, Ingush, Crimean Tatars, and others), and whose question of rehabilitation and resettlement still remains unresolved. Following the passing of the law, an application process was established and currently applications for obtaining the status of repatriate are being processed. However, the Georgian government has yet to define its strategy and develop plans regarding the repatriation of the deported people.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

To enhance awareness on the issue of deported people and their repatriation, under the second component ECMI–Caucasus will conduct a series of public lectures and seminars on deported people and minority issues for students of higher education institutions throughout Georgia, as well as organize a paper competition and a student conference. An informational website will be established providing comprehensive information about the repatriation of the deported people and the Georgian legislation relevant for the repatriation process as well as information on the culture and history of the deported people, their life in Georgia and elsewhere. Seminars, round-table discussions and conferences will be held for regional civil servants and civil society representatives to raise their awareness on the deported people and the repatriation process. Finally, there are cultural initiatives planned under this component as well, which include a theme festival and a photo exhibition on the topic of deported people, and ethno-cultural diversity at large.

» ECMI Contact person
Tom Trier (trier@ecmi.de)

» Partner/s
Acción contra el Hambre (ACF)
<http://www.accioncontraelhambre.org>

TIMEFRAME

November 2010 – May 2012

GEORGIA



Empowering National Minorities through Developing Civil Society in Minority Regions

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This project aims at developing minority governance in Georgia by enhancing the capacity of minority civil society structures and facilitating constructive dialogue with the state institutions, as well as transferring the experience of practices of V4 countries on minority governance and cooperation between civil society actors and government bodies. Based on ECMI's previous experience and consultations with civil society and government agencies, under the present project, ECMI will strengthen the capacity of existing civil society organizations in minority-populated regions of Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli, with the aim to empower minority communities and create a space for articulating their concerns through. ECMI will also facilitate dialogue between the central/regional government and minority communities through organizing joint meetings and consultations. Finally, ECMI will organize seminars for civil society representatives with its partners, which will provide opportunity to learn about the experience of Visegrad 4 countries on minority governance, cooperation between the civil society and government agencies.

BACKGROUND

Within the framework of its earlier projects, ECMI has facilitated the establishment of umbrella organizations uniting civil society organizations and individual members representing ethnic communities residing in these regions, in particular, the Javakheti Citizens' Forum (JCF) and the Tsalka Citizens' Forum (TCF). Additionally, with the support of ECMI, a national level Council for National Minorities (CNM) was established under the auspices of the Public Defender of Georgia in 2005, which functions as a permanent consultative body that brings issues concerning national minorities in Georgia to the attention of the state structures and provides recommendations for the government on possible improvements of various aspects of minority governance in Georgia. The civil society structures and the minority council have in recent times become very effective facilities for communicating the problems of national minorities in Georgia to state authorities. The structures have enabled minority constituencies to articulate and put forward their concerns to state actors. The existence of such minority councils/fora coincides with the declared goals of the Georgian government, as formulated in a newly adopted concept on integration and tolerance of May 2009 (the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration and Action Plan).

TIMEFRAME

January 2011 – June 2011

» ECMI Contact person

Tom Trier (trier@ecmi.de)

» International Partners

Center for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK) <http://www.cvek.sk>
Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia (PDCS) www.pdcssk.sk

» Local Partners

Javakheti Citizens' Forum (JCF), Tsalka Citizens' Forum (TCF)

Supporting the Development and Empowerment of Civil Society Organizations Representing National Minorities in Georgia

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The project aims to empower minority communities by facilitating constructive dialogue between the relevant central and regional state structures and minority communities as well as to contribute to policy change through conducting research and providing recommendations for the relevant state institutions.

BACKGROUND

Unlike ECMI's previous initiatives, the present project does not primarily focus on Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli, which are the two regions of Georgia with a largest concentration of minority communities, but also seek to engage in other ethno-culturally diverse parts of the country which are frequently overlooked by both state and non-state actors. Through this project ECMI on the one hand will ensure that the positive experience and knowledge will be transferred from more developed civil society structures of Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions to the civil society organizations in Adjara and Kakheti that are at a rudimentary stage of development. On the other hand, ECMI will continue its efforts to bring policy issues of particular concern to the attention of relevant decision-makers.

OUTPUT

With this purpose ECMI has identified several topics of actuality on which comprehensive research will be conducted and recommendation elaborated to be presented to the relevant government agencies. These topics are mostly related to the ongoing educational reform and its effect on national minorities, political participation of national minorities, religious minority rights and the impact of media on interethnic relation in Georgia and analysis of media coverage of minority issues.

TIMEFRAME

March 2011- March 2012

GEORGIA

» ECMI Contact person
Tom Trier (trier@ecmi.de)

» Programme Associates
Javakheti Citizens Forum (JCF) and
Tsalka Citizen's Forum (TCF).

Enhancing Social Inclusion and Empowering Georgia's Romani Communities

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The project aims to enhance social inclusion of Roms by providing them with practical skills that will help them become more competitive on the labour market (vocational courses of tailoring, driving, etc.), to decrease illiteracy among adult Romani community members through organizing Georgian language and mathematics courses and to enhance the capacity of the rudimentary civil society structures working on Romani community issues in different regions of the country and the capital.

BACKGROUND

Seeking to continue its efforts to enhance social inclusion of the most marginalized ethno-cultural group in Georgia, the Romani community, ECMI-Caucasus continues its efforts to improve access to elementary education among Roma children, in particular those residing in Kobuleti (the autonomous republic of Adjara) and Dedoplistkaro (Kakheti region). ECMI-Caucasus has also facilitated the establishment of two civil society organizations in these settlements that serve the purpose of raising concerns of Roma community members.

TIMEFRAME

January - December 2011

» **ECMI Contact person**
Tom Trier (trier@ecmi.de)

Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To contribute to stabilising multi-ethnic relations in Kosovo this project will assist Kosovo in fulfilling its obligations under the Ahtisaari Comprehensive Proposal and bring Kosovo closer to meeting EU standards. Specific objectives are facilitating the participation of communities in the decentralisation process; supporting the effective implementation of the decentralisation process and strengthening local-level institutions.

BACKGROUND

Since December 2008 ECMI Kosovo has been engaged in implementing the project: "Supporting Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process" financed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. In 2011 ECMI Kosovo will implement the final phase of this project. The first phase of project activities took place before the municipal elections and focussed on increasing the awareness and involvement of community members on the decentralisation process. In this phase, ECMI Kosovo organised a series of grass root outreach activities targeting minority communities in the areas most affected by the decentralisation process, also ensuring the inclusion of marginalised groups such as women and youth. At the same time, ECMI Kosovo also supported relevant government institutions, including the Ministry for Local Government Administration, with expert advice and capacity building support. The second phase concentrated on supporting the organisation of local elections in the newly decentralised Serb-majority municipalities. ECMI Kosovo took a two-tiered approach, on the one hand supporting relevant institutions, such as the Central Election Commission of Kosovo and the Municipal Preparation Teams (MPTs), and on the other hand organising grass-root voter education activities for local communities members.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

The third and final phase has focussed on supporting the newly established Serb-majority municipalities. ECMI Kosovo has been particularly engaged in strengthening the links between citizens and local government structures, through expert advice and capacity building assistance for both municipal officials and civil society organisations.

TIMEFRAME

1 December 2008 – 30 June 2011

» ECMI Contact person
Adrian Zeqiri (zeqiri@ecmi.de)





Enhancing the Positive Impact of the Law for Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups in Kosovo

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The project has the overall objective to adopt a holistic approach to bridging the current gap between vulnerable and marginalised groups (VMG) in Kosovo and the laws and institutions designed to protect them, notably the judiciary.

BACKGROUND

While the legal framework for the protection of VMGs in Kosovo has been widely praised on paper, there is little evidence that individuals are feeling the benefits of those laws in their everyday lives. Sources continue to point to the unequal treatment of such groups in many areas, from discrimination on grounds of gender and disability, to restricted access for minority communities to essential services such as social security and health care, and access to public records.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Comprehensive information and outreach campaigns will be undertaken to inform citizens of their legal rights, and Legal Clinics (LCs) will be established in target areas throughout Kosovo. Crucially, legal aid activities will enable citizens to take full advantage of those rights, including through litigation. A strategic litigation component will develop jurisprudence under laws affecting VMG, raise judicial awareness of public interest issues, and stimulate public debate through media campaigns. Where laws or policies for the protection of VMG are inadequate, advocacy training will enable civil society to lobby relevant stakeholders for change.

TIMEFRAME

1 January 2011 – 31 December 2012

» ECMI Contact person
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» Local Partner
Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development (CLARD)



Institutional Support to the Kosovo Consultative Council for Communities

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This project aims to continue to support the full institutionalisation of the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) through the provision of technical support to the CCC, its Steering Committee, Secretariat and the permanent Working Groups.

BACKGROUND

Kosovo is currently undergoing a transitional period to establish an institutional framework that is rooted in the multi-ethnic values of its laws and Constitution. The realisation of these goals will be crucial both to long-term harmony in Kosovo society and to broader regional stability. Established by Presidential Decree on the 15 September 2008, and located within the Office of the President of Kosovo (OP), the CCC serves simultaneously as a forum for government consultation with communities on relevant issues, and as a mechanism for facilitating inter-community dialogue and enhancing intra-community cohesion. Composed of community representatives from both civil society and political parties, along with key government officials, it enables members of communities to influence the legislative process and to advance their needs and interests within government programmes and policies.

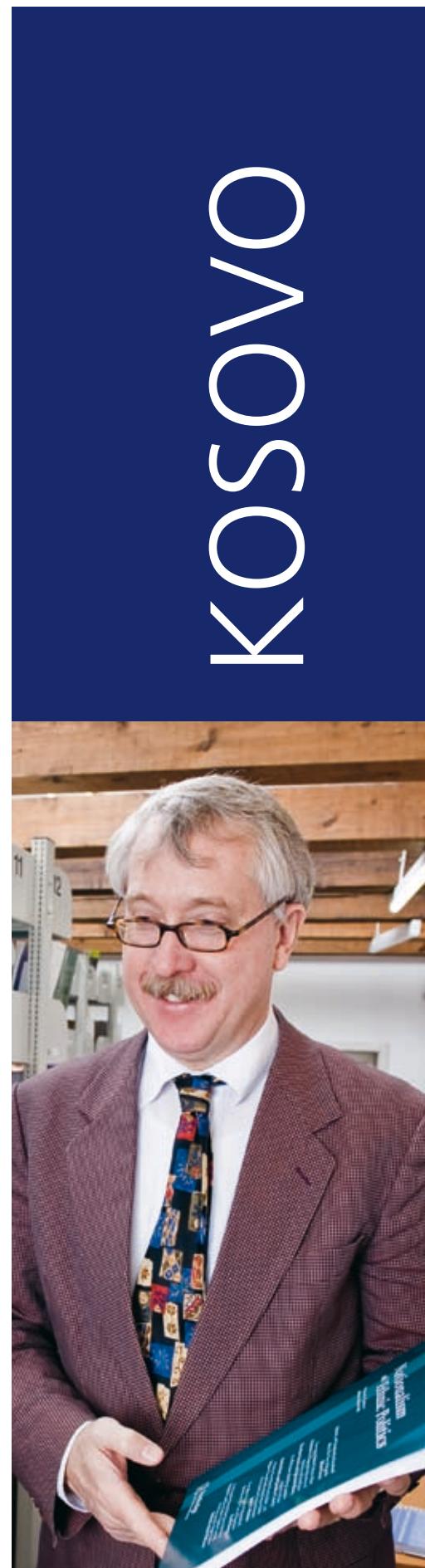
ACTIVITIES IN 2011

- Support to the institutionalisation of CCC engagement with the government, by developing a comprehensive mechanism for governmental consultation, to be formalised through an administrative instruction or Memorandum of Understanding
- Support to CCC follow-up mechanisms, particularly by targeting the strategic capacity of the working groups and the secretariat to plan, implement and evaluate their actions.
- Increasing Institutional visibility of the CCC, through the use of media and the development of outreach materials and a functioning website, thus enhancing the transparency and accountability of the CCC in relation to other institutions and local community representatives.

TIMEFRAME

February 2011 – December 2011

» ECMI Contact person
» Adrian Zeqiri (zeqiri@ecmi.de)





Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process

BACKGROUND

Over the past two years ECMI Kosovo has, with the support of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, worked to implement the project "Supporting Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process". Up to date this project has been a success and has convincingly worked towards achieving its immediate objectives and overall goal. ECMI Kosovo has reached a key stage, where the progress made can be consolidated into long-term sustainable improvements in inter-ethnic relations, stability and security.

The project is split according to geography due to the significant differences between north and south Kosovo in political circumstances and progress made regarding the decentralisation process.

South Kosovo - Since the start of ECMI Kosovo's engagement in late 2008, significant progress has been made in furthering the decentralisation process in south Kosovo: New municipalities have been established and an improvement in inter-ethnic relations in south Kosovo is perceivable. However, the progress remains fragile and incomplete. Citizens expect to see the promised results of decentralisation, real changes in people's daily lives, such as unemployment, poor infrastructure and lack of services. Unless such changes are realised, much of the trust gained will be lost. Therefore, ECMI Kosovo has proposed a strategic revision and extension of its support to communities affected by the decentralisation process in the south, focussing strongly on promoting sustainable development for all communities in the municipalities established through the decentralisation process

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

North Kosovo - The original (2008) project proposal explicitly excluded an immediate engagement in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North due to possible security threats. However, recognising the importance of Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, a mid-term review was foreseen to assess the possibility of extending the project to this municipality. ECMI Kosovo has analysed the situation and concluded that the time is right to initiate cautious but comprehensive support to local government reform in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North. ECMI Kosovo's support will focus on combining strong relations with relevant Kosovo institutions, with a grass-root approach of direct and non-political engagement with community members.

TIMEFRAME

January 2011 – December 2013

» **ECMI Contact person**
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Building Sensitivity for Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian Communities in Schools (Extension)

BACKGROUND

The Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) communities are the most marginalised groups in Kosovo, facing the highest rates of poverty, mass unemployment and lower levels of education. While these problems are interrelated, improving RAE education is the primary vehicle for their empowerment towards increased economic and social development. At the same time, RAE children face chronic challenges in their inclusion in the education system, including late or non-enrolment of children, low attendance, poor performance and high drop-out rates. To address these challenges, ECMI Kosovo in 2010, implemented a pilot project to increase sensitivity to the rights, interests and needs of RAE communities within the school learning environment, using a grassroots approach that engaged teachers, school directors, civil society organisations and parents from the RAE communities. This project was funded by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM).

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

ECMI Kosovo will, in close cooperation with the HCNM, develop a continuation of this pilot project.

KOSOVO

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RECURRING ANNUAL ACTIVITIES



ECMI CONSULTATIVE FORUM

In 2011, the ECMI will establish an electronic Consultative Forum as a platform for annual consultations on research and action projects. The aim of the Consultative Forum is to structure the dialogue so that it becomes transparent and inclusive. The role of the Consultative Forum is purely advisory. It will have no decision-making power or management responsibility.

It will invite stakeholders and civil society to submit comments electronically in writing.

» **ECMI Contact person**
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ECMI MINORITY ROUNDTABLE

Every year the ECMI invites the local national minority organizations in the border region to a roundtable discussion on a topic which has touched upon all of them in the past year and which is seen as relevance for understanding minority issues and minority politics. In 2010, the salient topic in the border region was the budget cuts proposed by both the Danish and the German authorities in the area of education. The situations developed differently north and south of the border. But the fact that the right to education became object of budget cuts is indeed a matter of concern both in terms of minority rights protection and minority identity. The ECMI Regional Minority Roundtable 2011 will invite the relevant minority organizations to discuss and jointly analyze the events and developments in the area of minority education which took place in the border region in 2010.

» **ECMI Contact person**
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RECURRING
ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

RECURRING ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

ECMI NON RESIDENT SRA MEETING

An important part of the ECMI's research capacity is the non-resident Senior Research Associate Network (SRAN) consisting of younger academic colleagues attached to university departments across Europe. This is a body of scholars in their own fields who have a research interest in minority issues. It is a multi-disciplinary body of experts which complements ECMI's core team of researchers by being integrated in the relevant research clusters as external ad hoc advisers and sparring partners for resident researchers. The SRAN participates in the ECMI's research projects and contribute to our publications. The SRAN supports our action projects and provide expertise and capacity building for our trainings and Technical Assistance contracts. The SRAN meets once a year. In 2010, a new SRAN was constituted and many new colleagues teamed up around the ECMI's new research clusters and learned for the first time about the new ECMI strategy. In 2011, the SRAN will meet to discuss in more specific detail how to integrate members into the ECMI's new research strategy which will be presented in the beginning of 2011.

» ECMI Contact person

Tove H. Malloy (malloy@ecmi.de)

ECMI REGIONAL ACADEMIC FORUM

The aim of the ECMI Regional Academic Forum is to discuss ways and means to make the experiences of the border region better known to our colleagues in Europe. Much excellent research is carried out by academic colleagues in the border region. Colleagues from universities, research libraries and independent institutions research and publish extensively on minority issues in the Danish-German border region. This research is extremely important for the ECMI which has a mandate to bring the success story of the border region to the rest of Europe. Unfortunately, most publications are in the local languages, thus making it difficult for the ECMI staff to disseminate it at international events and to our global networks. Each year the ECMI therefore invites academic colleagues from the border region to discuss minority topics relevant for an international audience of academic colleagues and how these may be disseminated to a wider audience in English. In 2010, at the first ECMI Regional Academic Forum, the topic of education was discussed and participants voiced a desire to make education a topic for 2011.

» ECMI Contact person

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ECMI ADVISORY COUNCIL (AC)

The ECMI's Advisory Council (AC) is a 15 member body of eminent experts in the area of minority studies appointed by the ECMI Executive Board in consultation with the founders of the Centre. The members of the AC support the ECMI mission by establishing contacts with persons, institutions and organizations, by assuming duties of representation and promotion of the ECMI activities to European institutions and in specialist circles. The overall aim of the AC's support to the ECMI is to help ensure the Centre's position as a leading research and competence institution in Europe in the area of minority issues and as a primary sparring partner for governments, international governmental organizations as well as the European Union in this field. The AC is thus seen as an added value to the ECMI's combined research and competence capacity as well as to the Centre's international networking capacity. The purpose of the AC is therefore to support the ECMI in its efforts to fulfil its mandate as stated in the Centre's mission statement. The tenure of each Council is three years. For membership and chairperson please turn to our website.

In 2010, a new Council was constituted during a meeting in December in Flensburg and a chairperson was elected. The AC also convened for a one-day conference debating the challenges to the area of minority studies in the 21st century. In 2011, the AC will be incorporated directly into the work of the research clusters. The next general meeting for the AC is planned for 2012.

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RECURRING
ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

RECURRING ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

ECMI AND SUMMER SCHOOL "NATIONAL MINORITIES IN BORDER REGIONS"

European history has linked many national minorities intrinsically to borders. Nation-building processes in 19th and 20th century European history had to be accorded with existing territorial structures. Borders and border revisions have shaped not only the identity of Europe but also the identity of individuals living through the history of redrawn borders and changing national belonging. Concepts of national inclusion and exclusion resulted in a more multifaceted map of a Europe of nationalities than political maps of Europe show. With European integration and especially EU policies of redefining "hard" borders into "soft" borders, national minorities may have new roles to play in an environment formerly very hostile to national minorities claiming allegiance to a foreign national state. Border politics in Europe pose new challenges as well as provide new opportunities to neighboring states not only in terms of minority governance but also in so far that in a globalizing world national minorities may provide the inter-cultural tools that the new border regime requires in order to develop a united Europe of diversity. At the same time, minority governance is still in the early implementation stage in many border regions. To explore the link between national minorities and border regions, the ECMI will offer a two-week summer school in 2011.

The summer school programme will explore national minorities in border regions from different disciplines including economics, law, human geography, anthropology, linguistics, sociology and politics. The aim of this interdisciplinary summer school is to integrate two subjects that are treated separately in order to offer a comprehensive picture of national minorities in border regions. The summer school is aimed at Master and PhD students.

» **ECMI Contact person**
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TRAININGS



MINORITIES IN CONFLICT ZONES

In 2011, ECMI plans to offer a short, intensive course for young diplomats preparing to deploy with national, EU and IO missions in conflict zones. The course will provide diplomats with basic information about minorities and raise their sensitivity about minority rights protection in situations of armed conflicts or mass disorders. Participants will be introduced to the European minority rights regime, the relevance of the United Nations system to minority protection as well as other international systems. They will also be familiarized with human rights monitoring and case studies will be discussed and analyzed. It is expected that the course will also be relevant for officers acting as back stoppers at HQ level.

MINORITY GOVERNANCE I

The Governance I is a theoretical course that will offer an introduction to the European system of minority protection as well as to relevant national systems and legislation. Issues of protection and promotion as well as compliance and implementation will be examined. Since the focus is public service delivery, state institution building through capacity building is the aim. The course will cover legal, political and social aspects of minority existence and how these aspects are mitigated through existing normative frameworks and political mechanisms. The target group is civil servants in developing democracies that are members of national and local authorities dealing with minority issues.

MINORITY GOVERNANCE II

Minority Governance II is a practical course offering training in practical tools of management of minority matters. Participants will get introduction to these tools through study visits to the public authorities in the Danish-German border region. Participation in Governance I is a prerequisite for taking this course. The target group is the same as Governance I, civil servants in developing democracies, that is members of national and local authorities dealing with minority issues.

MINORITY POLITICS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Minority Politics in Theory and Practice has members of minority councils as target group. These are members of both minorities and majorities. The course offers a condensed overview of the legal framework on minority rights in Europe before introducing the participants to the minority governance model in the Danish-German border region. The aim of the course is the strengthening of minority councils through on-site training, and participants will have the opportunity to meet civil servants dealing with minority matters in the border region.

MINORITY POLITICS IN PRACTICE

The Minority Politics in Practice is a practical training course offering skills enhancement and practical tools of activism and mobilization. The aim of the course is minority institution building and capacity building through minority-to-minority exchange. The course will offer training in monitoring and reporting, leadership and lobbying skills, as well as skills in press relations and Internet based activism. Since there is a strong focus on activism and mobilization, young members and upcoming elite members are a specific target group.

MINORITY RIGHTS FRAMEWORK I

The Minority Rights Framework I course targets civil society organizations, including NGOs and minority activist groups seeking to submit "shadow reports" to the Council of Europe's minority instruments (Framework for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Language Charter for Regional and Minority Languages). The aim of the course is capacity building introducing participants to the reporting procedures of the legal instruments and methods of compiling, drafting and submitting shadow reports.

MINORITY RIGHTS FRAMEWORK II

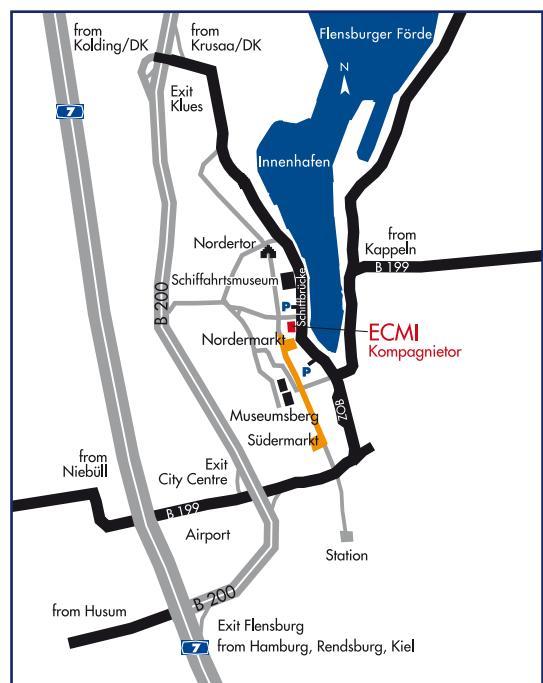
The Minority Rights Framework II targets civil servants in the Danish-German border region who are new to the area of minority governance. It is a short, intensive course introducing participants to the reporting procedures of the European legal instruments signed and ratified by Denmark and Germany. It examines methods of compiling, drafting and submitting reports to the Council of Europe.

MINORITY RIGHTS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE (E-COURSE)

The e-learning course on Minority Rights in Theory and Practice brings together many of the aspects offered in separate courses in an electronic platform. While the target group is people not able to attend live courses, the e-learning platform is open to all interested. A course will last several months and use new modern media tools in order to facilitate effective learning. The aim is capacity building through knowledge transfer without incurring costs to the participants.

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TRAININGS



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