

ANNUAL PROGRAMME



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

2012



European Centre
for Minority Issues (ECMI)

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Tove H. Malloy
ECMI Director

This publication contains ECMI's Annual Programme 2012. It is the second time we issue a programme in print. And this time, we wish to highlight where topical minority matters are taking us, and where we are putting our focus.

The Programme reflects our wish to maintain our position. We are Europe's key provider of high-quality minority research and policy-relevant minority analysis which is inspired by our direct contact with national minorities. The synergy between European standards of minority protection, our research, and our direct contact through action, is the core to the methodology that ECMI applies in all projects and programmes. We see this as a cyclic relationship going in both directions, and we illustrate it with the ECMI Synergy Wheel®.



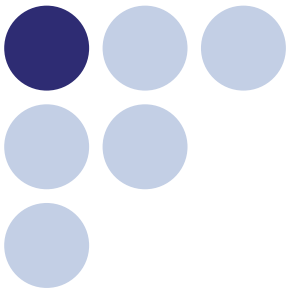
Another good reason for actively communicating our Programme to the public is that we want to show that we are not resting on our laurels. We want to be in dialogue with our stakeholders and partners. Thus, we welcome the constructive critique that our Programme might trigger.

2012 marks the 20 years since the establishment of the post and office of the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM). We celebrate the HCNM with a conference and a new training course on *Minorities and Conflict*. And 2012 also marks the 20th anniversary of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. We celebrate these with new publications.

While we continue a range of efforts begun in 2011, there is also innovative news in our Programme. In 2012, the *Conflict & Security* cluster expects to initiate studies in the potentially conflict provoking causal chain between environmental changes and deteriorating conditions for minorities' lifestyle and identity. Another new interesting project is nested in the *Politics & Civil Society* cluster. We wish to assess the extent to which minority monitoring is being re-politicized, and whether the ideal of the internationalization of minority protection is being undermined? And, while these lines are written we are exploring the feasibility of a Moldova Programme.

Finally, we are proud that our regional offices in Prishtina and Tbilisi and their action programmes are going strong and continue at full steam in 2012. The regional offices' programmes are also reflected within this publication.

Enjoy the reading!



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES

RESEARCH



FOREWORD



Justice & Governance digs deep in Conceptual and Institutional Challenges

The institutional legacy of the communists, the close ties between the notions of territory and ethnicity, and absent criteria of keywords in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM). These are examples of *excavation sites* of the *Justice & Governance* cluster as 2012 dawns.

Discrimination and inequality have many parents. ECMI's *Justice & Governance* cluster has an eye for the lesser known.

The steady and continuous work of the cluster continues its programme of uncovering the inherited conceptual and institutional shortcomings. Naturally, these shortcomings may appear as obstacles to minority protection.

More publications are expected in 2012.

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

Aim and objectives

The project has initiated a multi-disciplinary discussion on the issue of whether the effect of communist institutions is still persistent. The project included a conference in 2011 on the communist and Soviet legacy.

In 2012 the Justice and Governance cluster foresees to follow-up on the conference on communist and Soviet legacies in ethnic policies and its impact on the current regimes of minority protection.

Background

The project seeks to identify the cases where the ideas of minority protection are applied contrary to their substance. The criteria for the selection of such cases will also be elaborated. Further, the project will analyse the causes and consequences of these cases.

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

The Justice and Governance cluster expects to publish a book. The research network will continue.

Activities in 2012

Negotiations with book contributors about editorship of the book, as well as contacts with potential partners and sponsors are foreseen for 2012.

Timeframe

2012

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The Concept of Non-Territorial Autonomy

Aim and objectives

The network that was established at the ECMI-led workshop in June 2011 is carrying a discussion on the ways the notion of 'non-territorial autonomy' can apply in research and practice-oriented activities.

In 2012, the network seeks to launch new cooperative academic and applied projects, to carry on with discussions and to clarify the issue. More clear approaches will be elaborated to the usage of the idea and the related terminologies.

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 occasionally used as a category of analysis in a variety of interpretations.

Until recently there has been 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. This includes notions like '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 2012

In cooperation with the *Tom Lantos Institute* (Hungary) ECMI will organize a follow-up workshop for the network.

The workshop will bring together people from various disciplines; people who are able to discuss the notion's applicability as a category of analysis, and the contexts and limits of such application.

Output

The 2011 and 2012 workshops will result in a special issue of the *Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe* (JEMIE).

Timeframe

The project runs throughout 2012. The workshop takes place in March 2012.

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» Partner:
Lantos Institute



Minorities and Non-Discrimination on the Ground of Residence

Aim and objectives

This project focuses on differential treatment of persons with respect to their residence, territorial units, or both, in so far as it is relevant to minority protection.

The European and North American jurisprudence and public policies are the targets for analysis. Territorial confinement of minority protection in numerous European countries is also going to be examined.

Background

The project issue has not been raised in legal studies before. The research area of the project can be described as linkages between the notions of 'territory' and 'ethnicity' in public debates and policies concerning ethnic minorities. The related issues of promotion of equality, cultural policies, and categoriza-

tion of ethnic groups through territorial affiliations are also included.

Activities in 2012

The *Justice and Governance* cluster envisages a comparative analysis of legal issues and public policies. The analysis concerns claims for equal treatment of persons irrespective of their territorial affiliation. It also concerns fair treatment of territorial communities in development planning and public administration.

Output

An ECMI Working Paper ©

Timeframe
2012

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The Limits of States' Differentiation in Treatment of Different Minority Groups

Aim and objectives

The goal is to describe and critically assess the modes in which equality on ethnic ground is conceptually organized. The topic allows for discussing the limited applicability of the contemporary interpretations of social equality and discrimination.

The study may show the ways 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 the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (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 for a variety of reasons, both legitimate and illegitimate reasons. They may be recognized in different ways or be granted different amounts of subsidies. There is little jurisprudence on this matter. These issues are still

elaborated upon insufficiently in a theoretical perspective.

Activities in 2012

ECMI will host and supervise PhD students in social philosophy or law who are working on the selected issues.

Timeframe
2012

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Consultative and Coalition-Type Bodies

Aim and objectives

This project aims at empirical study and theoretic analysis of institutional arrangements designed to implement the notions of ethnicity-based 'participation' and 'representation'.

The project particularly focuses on ethnicity-based public consultative or representative bodies including multi-ethnic coalition-type umbrella organizations designed for the provision of interethnic dialogue and prevention of conflicts.

Background

The empirical part of the study intends to address effects of the normative and institutional setups of the *bodies*.

The intention is to find out when and how do which consultative bodies make a positive difference in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconciliation?

Perceptions and motivations of people involved, formal and informal mechanisms of exclusion and inclusion for certain categories or indivi-

duals, and major discursive patterns, are all issues in this context.

Activities in 2012

The project will provide a platform for a comparative crossnational study binding together legal, sociological and political science approaches.

The geographic scope will be the OSCE area in Eurasia. The principal investigators represent two or three research institutions. The team also includes researchers doing fieldwork in the selected countries and for contributing to the publication and to final recommendations.

The *Justice & Governance* cluster foresees to be looking for these partners throughout 2012.

Timeframe
Open ended

Output

Policy recommendations, publications in periodicals, and an edited volume are foreseen.

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Minorities and
Territorial Arrangements

Aim and objectives

The project addresses the variety of models under which linkages between ethnicity and territory are articulated, implicitly acknowledged, or conceptually organized.

It also initiates discussions on practical applicability of such models, inter alia on the outcomes already achieved and the prospects for the future.

Background

The project follows up on the *Expert Meeting on Territorial and Non-territorial Autonomy* in Bolzano/Bozen, November 2011.

Activities in 2012

The project addresses:

- the legal fundamentals of territorial autonomies and territorial development in Europe.
- policies and politics at all levels concerning territorial autonomies as well as their ethnic or cultural implications.

- issues of equality and discrimination on ethnic and territorial grounds as well as positive measures for the support of disadvantaged ethnic and territorial communities.
- conflicts and conflict settlements in relation to states, administrative and municipal bodies, and non-governmental actors on the issues concerning territorial titles and territorial developments.

Output

Submission of book proposal and publication of the proceedings and follow-up of the 2011 *Expert Meeting on Territorial and Non-territorial Autonomy* in Bozen/Bolzano.

Timeframe
2012

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- » **Partner:**
The European Academy of
Bozen/Bolzano (EURAC)

National Minority Citizenship

Aim and objectives

The overall goal of *National Minority Citizenship* (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 like the Danish-German border region appear to exhibit new citizenship behaviour. These could include but may not be limited to the border regions of Germany-Holland, Germany-Belgium, Germany-Poland, the Czech Republic-Poland and Poland-Lithuania.

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 in which 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 bicultural and binational identities, these national minorities have either overcome the 'daily plebiscite' syndrome of whether to show loyalty and allegiance to one nation, or they have become accustomed to a 'double daily plebiscite.'

It is therefore questionable to speak of national identity and national allegiance of these groups. 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.

Taking its starting point in the national minority citizenship which is being forged in the Danish-German border region where two kin-state minorities and a 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 informing the European citizenship concept and thus European integration.

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 EU. At the same time, Europeans increasingly turn away from political processes. Social movements mobilize outside 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 2012

A comparative study based on the political sociological narratives of the 'acts of citizenship' of national minorities compiled and analyzed through quantitative and qualitative data collection will provide the basis for a theorization of a new model of citizenship not yet conceptualized in Europe.

Timeframe
2012-13

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Conflict & Security focus on post-Conflict Management

What exactly makes a positive difference in post-conflict reconciliation processes? This is one of the key questions that open the *Conflict & Security* cluster's 2012 programme.

In general, ECMI tracks an increasing relevance of research and guidance in post-conflict situations. To play further into this theme, the cluster intends to co-develop specific courses on *Minorities and Conflict*.

The relevance is reflected in and supplemented by the *Justice & Governance* cluster that asks: when and how do which consultative bodies make a positive difference in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconciliation?

Environmental induced conflicts

Another focus is the highly topical and all-pervasive issue of the environment. In 2012, the *Conflict & Security* cluster initiates studies in the potentially conflict provoking causal chain between environmental alterations and changed conditions for minority lifestyle and identity.



Reconciliation in Europe

Aim and objectives

The overall aim of the project is to determine whether post-conflict reconciliation processes can be prescribed through policy making. Why do some post-conflict reconciliation processes work and others do not? A key objective is thus to identify parameters, variables and characteristics that lead to success and failure.

Background

Countries experiencing post-conflict trauma are often driven by outside forces to seek reconciliation through arbitrary restorative justice and policies that are inappropriate vis-à-vis the intercultural nature of the community.

Often, such policies are based on assumptions about closure, harmony and consensus. This may lead to protracted divisions rather than unity. At the same time as post-conflict communities experience a need to find shared visions for the future based on interdependence and positive relationships, they are also asked to deal with guilt and socioeconomic and political change of insurmountable proportions. The 'logic of reconciliation' in externally imposed policies is therefore not always addressing the pressing needs of post-conflict societies.

Methodology

Through a comparative study, the project will seek to assess the positive and negative impact of existing reconciliation processes in a number of case studies. Northern Ireland,



Kosovo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, but also 'older' conflicts will be in focus.

Following a first selection of case studies, the project will move further in the development of indicators, considered in both qualitative (e.g. a reconciliation barometer) and quantitative (e.g. interethnic marriages) dimensions, to assess the impacts of existing reconciliation processes.

Eventual gaps and possible good practices resulting from such research should then be functional in extrapolating useful lessons learned for the design and implementation of coherent reconciliation strategies.

Output

Identification of reconciliation patterns that have functioned in a positive way for the communities involved.

Activities In 2012

To be determined.

Timeframe

2012–14

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Environmental Induced Conflicts and Minority Rights

Aim and objectives

Through the development of this project ECMI would like to support the ongoing efforts undertaken by the international academic community in investigating the causal chain between environmental degradation and conflict.

Through the introduction of minority rights concerns into the international research agenda on this subject matter, ECMI hopes to raise awareness of a still under-developed thematic area of study.

Background

While public policies alone cannot by themselves constitute an effective response to environmental threats, the emerging consensus for a holistic approach to be undertaken by the entire international community is nowadays unanimously accepted. In this perspective, the inclusion of dedicated researches on the dyad 'minority-environment' is certainly auspicious.

With the intention of contributing to enhancing both international and national capabilities, the project will then explore the potentially dangerous linkages between environmental alterations and minority lifestyle and identity.

Methodology

Anticipated by a stocktaking exercise on the current research practices on the subject matter, the project will move on to undertake innovative research on the impact of governmental development activities, as well as cumulative climate changes, on minority lifestyle and cultural identity. This could be land degradation, deforestation, and etc.

Considering selected case studies, the present research efforts should finally elaborate an optimal standard for minority rights protection in environmentally altered scenarios.

Output

The project is aimed at supporting the international community's response mechanisms to environmental threats through the inclusion of thematic researches on the linkages between environment and minority rights issues. Research efforts should result in the development of a stocktaking report and research strategy for future academic initiatives on the topic.

Activities in 2012

Stocktaking exercise, selection of case studies and research strategy to be delivered by the end of 2013.

Timeframe
2012–13

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Developing the Training Course *Minorities and Conflict*

Aim and objectives

The aim of the project is to respond to the increasing demand expressed by the international community for specific courses on minority rights in conflict related scenarios.

With the intention to strengthen practitioners' knowledge and capacity to address the dynamics of minority-majority relations in conflict zones, ECMI in cooperation with other academic and non-academic partners has decided to design and implement learning and training initiatives in this thematic area.

Background

Minorities and Conflict is a course designed to assist young diplomats, international officials as well as NGO representatives understanding and assessing the role of minorities in conflict related scenarios.

The course provides insights into different types of conflicts and the various management approaches that are employed across the globe. By examining the types of actors and institutions that get involved in conflicts the workshop provides an overview of existing international protection regimes, dialogue mechanisms and quiet diplomacy.

Methodology

Minorities and Conflict combines face to face delivery with interactive sessions on selected case studies. The workshop will also include round-table discussions with well-known experts and personalities on conflict

management. The course outline will be conceived along specific standard sessions. These are for instance conflictology, minority protection regimes and diversity management. However, the agenda and contents of each workshop will be developed and tailored to the participants' needs and future assignments.

By participating to the training participants will also receive a dedicated set of material relevant for their work.

Output

By strengthening participants' knowledge and skills ECMI will indirectly support the work of the respective institutions in achieving goals set for their engagement at the field level.

Activities in 2012

The course will be delivered in July and the training strategy will be released by the end of 2012.

Timeframe
2012–13



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» **Partner:**
Initiative on Quiet diplomacy
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Exploring the Media and Storing Roma Inclusion Information

Media and Roma. These are key words in this year's *Culture & Diversity* programme.

In 2012 the *Culture & Diversity* cluster will take lead in expanding ECMI's role as a provider of Roma inclusion information.

The media are powerful. Particularly, television broadcasters are able to dig ditches respectively to build bridges between cultures and groups. The *Culture & Diversity* cluster wishes to explore and describe the extent of this well-known potential.

Media and Interculturalism

Aim and objectives

The project aims at exploring the role of the media as an intercultural tool. Through the selection of case studies, it will investigate the extent to which the media have served as an instrument of social cohesion, cultural cross-fertilisation, and promotion of information on minority as well as majority cultures. Particularly, media in the form of public service broadcasters (PSBs) are of interest.

Background

Special minority arrangements in media and education can effectively protect and promote cultural diversity, but they may also contribute to their ghettoization.

This risk can be offset by efforts of the PSBs to promote a sense of plurilingualism and multiculturalism in diverse societies. PSBs can then serve as intercultural tools. The concept of interaction between different cultures and

groups is stressed by the suffix 'inter' of 'interculturalism'. It involves the fostering of knowledge of the cultures and languages of both the majority and minorities, leading to respect and appreciation of diversity. The concept is based on the view that adaptability and efforts of interaction come not only from minorities but also from the majority.

Although new media are occupying an increasingly enhanced role in the lives of national minorities, providing them with an avenue for self-expression, PSB can be a factor of cohesion of diverse societies' multiple groups. Additionally, in many countries traditional media, particularly television, remain the main source of information.

The project recognises the special role of PSBs to serve the needs of the public-encompassing its numerous social strata and groups, including ethnic minorities, and as a factor of pluralistic communication. Obviously, the media can also serve the opposite – that of (majority) nationbuilding and as a conduit of



patriotic messages. In extreme cases, they can be used to foment national discord.

Output

A publication on media and interculturalism is foreseen.

Activities in 2012

A series of case studies will be selected to highlight cases of good practice of pluralistic media that reflect society's ethnic diversity and multiculturalism. Other cases will show hindrances to a pluralistic PSB.

Research will be undertaken on the basis of law and policies in selected countries, and possible provisions for representatives of minorities to participate in decision making on broadcasting at the national level. Particularly, the project will take into account the standards for PSB and media pluralism developed by the Council of Europe in national minorities' contexts.

Timeframe

2012–13

ECMI Roma analysis will be consolidated in the *Roma Inclusion Information Hub* reflected in the special

Roma Inclusion Information Hub

Roma homepage www.ecmirom.org, which will inform, document and review the Roma situation in Europe. 'Roma' is here used as a generic term covering many different groups.

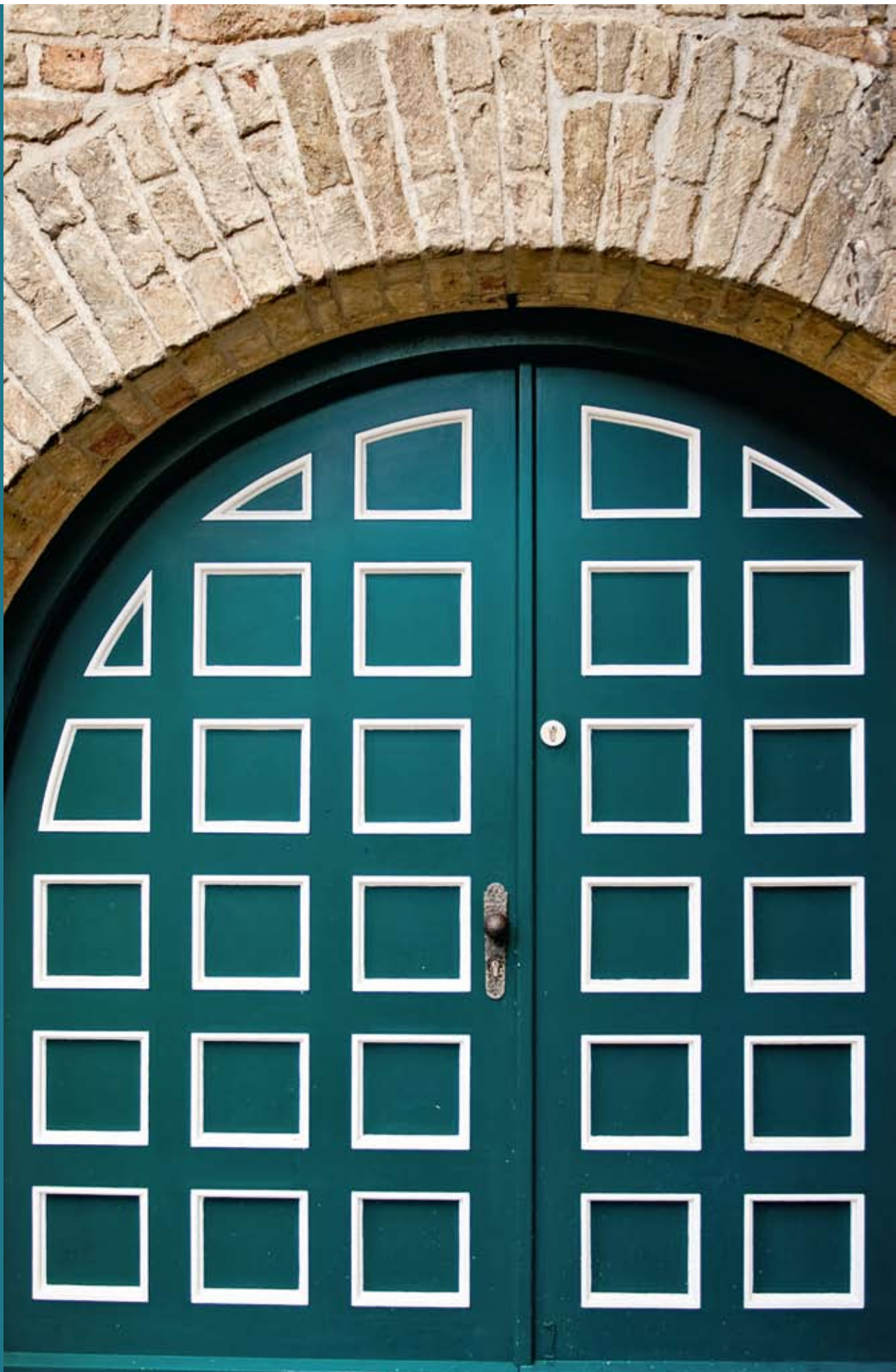
Particularly, the hub and website will focus on whether the recognition as a national minority furthers Roma inclusion and what impact the newly adopted European and national Roma strategies have on the improvement of Roma status.

As the largest transnational minority in Europe, Roma has been in the ECMI focus for several years, either through practice-oriented research in the Balkans or through action projects in the Balkans and in the South Caucasus. Roma issues have also been addressed in the EU supported study the *EU Open Method of Coordination: The Aspect of Culture in the Social Inclusion of Ethnic Minorities* (ECMI Report #60).

In many European countries Roma are treated rather as a social vulnerable group. Yet a number of states have recognized Roma through the international instruments such as Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and some have recognized Roma language under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), bringing forward the development of national strategies for Roma inclusion.

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The re-Politicization of Minority Monitoring

Aim and objectives

The project examines the monitoring processes of European minority instruments, such as the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) with a view to trace the political forces that seek to influence the outcome of such processes.

In unpacking the political side of monitoring, the project seeks to assess the extent to which the ideal of the internationalization of minority protection is being undermined.

Background

The international approach to settling minority-majority conflicts in the 20th century was established in 1920 with the adoption of the Minority Treaties that were monitored by the League of Nations. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was, however, adopted without addressing minority rights, and thus the international approach was abandoned.

After the events in the Balkans in the early 1990s, the international approach was revived, and especially the Council of Europe adopted a minority rights regime in the mid 1990s that elevated the standard setting in this area to the international level. The main reason for reintroducing the international approach was to safeguard against violation of human and minority rights at the state level.

By entrusting the oversight of minority protection to an international monitoring body, the likelihood that states would commit atrocious acts against minority groups was seen as diminished. The international approach requires, however, that states party to international minority standard instruments agree to international oversight and commit morally to try to improve national policies on minority protection.

In recent years, the willingness among states party to the European minority rights regime seems to have dwindled to the extent that states are blocking the outcome of the monitoring process so that the legally binding obligations are not respected

Activities in 2012

The first instrument to be examined is the Council of Europe’s FCNM. Specific case studies will be identified for mapping of the monitoring process and held in comparison with cases that do not experience slow-down or blocking in the process.

Timeframe

Open ended.

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Belarus, Moldova, and Indicator Toolkits for Minority Protection

Three programmes supplement the clusters' programmes in 2012. Specific focus on Belarus and Moldova is accompanied by the high profile *National Minority Indicators* project.

Two practical toolkits are on their way for the *Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for National Minorities (FCNM)* and for the *Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)*.

Across clusters, two country programmes are in focus in 2012. ECMI wishes to help developing the expert and practitioner communities dealing with minority issues in Belarus. And for Moldova, recommendations will be the result of analysing the country's efficiency in minority consultative mechanisms.

Minorities and Consultative Bodies in Moldova

Aim and objectives

The project aims at strengthening the consultative mechanisms for participation of national minorities in decision-making in Moldova.

It will focus on what currently are two salient aspects of decision-making; First, decision-making around cultural and linguistic matters, including the possible ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Language and the status of the Russian language in Moldova; Second, ongoing debates around the adoption of anti-discrimination legislation.

The project will stress the need for inclusive decision-making in the area of minority cultures and languages, as inextricably linked to the identity of national minorities. It aims at exploring avenues for the direct access for national minorities to legislative and executive bodies

at both federal and regional levels. This includes the Gagauz autonomy. It will further explore the hindrances to participation in the breakaway region of Transnistria, and facilitate contacts between the authorities in Chisinau and the de facto authorities in Tiraspol.

Background

Consultative mechanisms are key instruments for national minorities to participate in decision-making, particularly those affecting their interests.

In recent years Moldova has seen a decrease of opportunities for members of national minorities to participate in decision-making. These are now channeled exclusively through the Coordinating Council of Ethnic Cultural Organization, operating under a governmental institution – the Bureau of Interethnic Relations.



Dr. Federica Prina will anchor ECMI's high-profile indicator toolkit projects.

In order to protect and promote the rights of minorities, the full spectrum of minority organizations need to be integrated in decision-making, even those that are not formally part of the Coordinating Council. An additional issue is that of the 'efficiency' of participation, in the sense that minority views are not only listened to but also acted upon.

Output

The analysis of Moldovan minority consultative mechanisms, and of hindrances to effective participation, will lead to recommendations aiming at: enhancing the efficiency of consultative mechanisms; increasing the points of contact for consultation between minorities and legislative and executive bodies; and improving coordination among minority groups themselves.

Activities in 2012

The project will conduct research in existing consultative mechanisms in Moldova and in debates on cultural

and linguistic rights and non-discrimination legislation.

Further, it will advise on an inclusive process of preparation of ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

An event with parliamentarians and government officials will be organized. The event will deal with the meaning of effective participation. Particularly, it will focus on the areas of cultural and linguistic policies and the development of non-discrimination provisions.

An event with minority organizations will be organized as well. It will seek to enhance their ability to promote their interests through consultative mechanism.

Timeframe

2012–14

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National Minority Indicators

Aim and objectives

This project will describe piloting indicators for the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML).

The main objective of the project is to provide the FCNM *Advisory Committee* and the ECRML *Committee of Experts* with two practical toolkits of minority indicators, on an article by article basis.

This will empower the two committees in their periodic assessment of the implementation of the FCNM and ECRML standards in the states party to these instruments. The use of indicators can further be extended to states party themselves and minority groups.

The outputs of the project will provide a detailed description of indicators. They will offer a multi-dimensional and multi-domain approach to assessing the performance of each article. The overall goal is to improve the implementation of the FCNM and ECRLM. The indicators will aim at revealing to what extent the instruments' legal provisions are translated into practical implementation.

Background

Indicators for measuring the performance of international human rights treaties are increasingly a requirement in the assessment of the impact of legal standards. In the case of national minority standards, the Council of Europe's

Secretariat to the FCNM began its work on indicators in 2008. A preliminary study to theorize and conceptualize political indicators describing the performance of the FCNM was produced in the areas of legal and political adaptation of provisions in member states party to the instrument.

There are two logical follow-ups:

- to pilot performance indicators to assess the 'direct impact' of the FCNM's minority standards on the individual lives of persons belonging to national minorities.
- to initiate a parallel process for the other Council of Europe legally binding instrument of special relevance to national minorities; the ECRML.

To respond to this need, ECMI has designed a project to develop detailed indicators for both instruments.

In the case of the ECRML, the project is particularly timely given that October 2011 marked the thirty years' anniversary of *Recommendation 928* of the *Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*, calling upon states to support minority language use in public life and thereby initiating the ECRLM drafting process.

Methodology

Given the practical approach of the project, the indicators will aim at identifying the measures adopted by the state parties since ratification. These could be programmes and possible legal reforms to revitalise or stimulate minority language use.

However, the indicators will also aim at identifying their practical consequences and tangible effects. Hence, the approach followed will involve a policy-to-outcome assessment.

Output

- A handbook consisting of indicators for each article of the FCNM, a paradigm questionnaire for each indicator, and a vocabulary with annotations.
- An article-by-article publication on indicators.

Activities in 2012

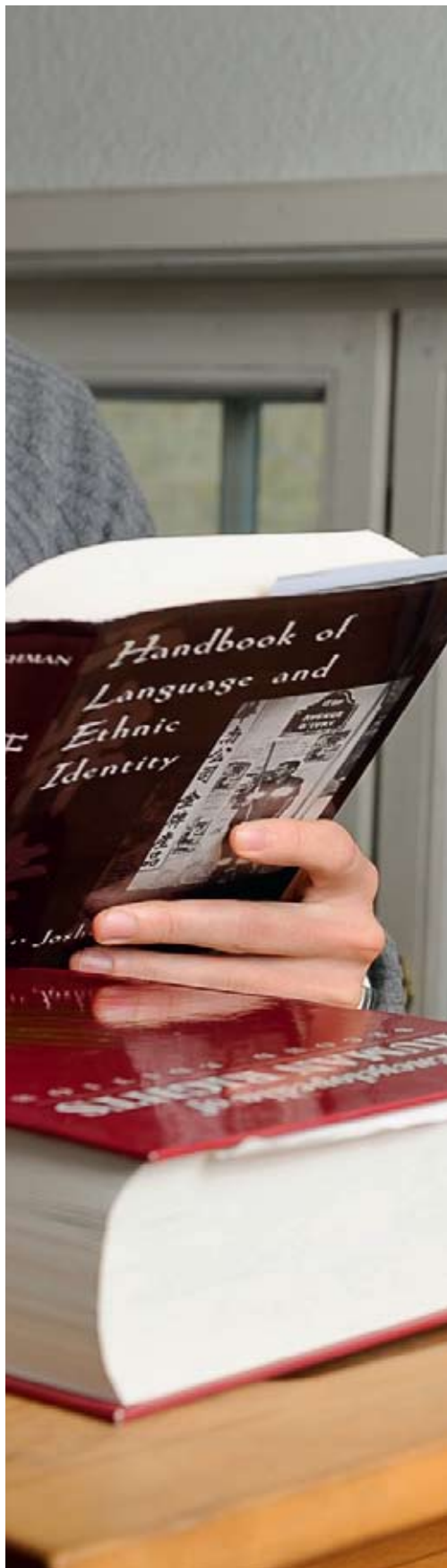
- One constituting steering group meeting in Strasbourg
- Kick-off and conceptualization meeting in Flensburg
- Two expert workshops

The project will be implemented by experts on minority protection and lesser used languages and by members of two steering groups. The experts will develop indicators together with ECMI and the steering groups' members will be active in the conceptualisation and review of the indicators. Professional evaluators will aid the formulation of methodologies and methods.

Timeframe 2012–15

The project will run for four years. The first two years will be devoted to the formulation of indicators and development of a toolkit, and the third year to the writing of a two volume publication on indicators.

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Belarus Programme

Aim and objectives

The programme seeks to invest in the development of expert and practitioner communities dealing with minority issues in Belarus. It also aims to facilitate communications on minority issues between Belarus and the rest of Europe.

The programme is run jointly by the clusters *Justice & Governance* and *Culture & Diversity*. This has the aim to address minority issues at various levels.

Background

The programme was initiated in mid-2011 in the framework of ECMI's contacts with Belarusian academics and civil society. ECMI's contacts address minority issues and work with existing minority organizations and governmental institutions in a transparent way.

Several activities took place in 2011. The activities included discussion roundtables with the state and regional institutions dealing with minority communities as well as with minority organizations. The purpose was to identify the most relevant aspects of policies in Belarus to comply with international standards. A study visit of the Belarus delegation to the Danish-German border region allowed for direct contact with local authorities and regional minority organizations.

Activities in 2012

The programme in 2012 envisages three roundtables with academics and practitioners on minority issues. They will take place in Minsk and in two regional centres.

A legal review of the national instruments of minority protection and promotion is also foreseen. In particular linguistic and cultural rights are in focus. Finally, the programme aims at publishing a guidebook on minority protection adjusted to the needs and interests of the Belarusian audience.

Timeframe

The project lasts until end of June 2012. The follow-up is being discussed with the stakeholders.

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ACTION



Workshop on human rights violations in Kosovo by ECMI Kosovo.
Photographer: Lars Burema



Awareness raising is part of ECMI Caucasus' continuous focus on repatriation of the deported Meskhethians.

The poster announces the photo exhibition: *The Unpromised Land – The Meskhethians' long journey home*. The exhibition was co-organized by ECMI Caucasus at the Tbilisi Literature Museum December 2-10 2011. Photo: Temo Bardzimashvili

Supporting the Repatriation of Persons and Their Descendants Deported from Georgia in the 1940s

Aim and objectives

The programme is designed to support the successful repatriation to Georgia of persons and their descendants deported in the 1940s. Specifically, it facilitates the process of resettlement and integration of deported families through an integrated programme of policy support, awareness raising, informational services, repatriation support and socioeconomic assistance.

Background

Upon becoming a member of the Council of Europe in 1999, Georgia committed to provide for the repatriation of the deported Meskhethian 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*. This is the formal and legal framework for the repatriation of persons deported from Georgia during and around the time of World War II and their descendants. It is mainly about Meskhethians but also about persons belonging to other groups such as Hemshins, Terekeme and Muslim Kurds.

The Meskhethians, 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.

Around 8,900 persons have applied for repatriation status within the two years period for submission of applications (2008 and 2009), and by late November 2011, 175 families have been granted repatriation status. In 2011, ECMI and its partner Acción contra el Hambre (ACF) has been implementing a complex programme to facilitate repatriation and prepare both government and civil society stakeholders for undertaking measures necessary in preparation of repatriation.

Activities in 2012

ECMI will continue providing support to the Ministry for Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia in processing and verifying applications, and will be providing expertise to the ministry and other relevant state bodies in enhancing government efforts to facilitate the repatriation.

To promote awareness on the issue of deported people and their repatriation, ECMI is conducting a series of public lectures and seminars on deported people and minority issues for students of higher education institutions throughout Georgia.

Moreover, an informational website is maintained, www.repatriation.ge, to provide comprehensive information about the repatriation of the deported people and the Georgian legislation relevant for the repatriation process.

Seminars, roundtable 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. ECMI is also organizing an academic essay competition and a student conference.

Finally, a number of cultural initiatives are planned under this component, which includes a theme festival and a photo exhibition on the topic of deported people, and ethnocultural diversity at large.

Timeframe

December 2010–June 2012

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» **Partners:**
Acción contra el Hambre (ACF)
(www.accioncontraelhambre.org)
Ministry for Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees
(<http://mra.gov.ge>)
ALPE Foundation, Georgia
(www.alpe.ge)



ECMI Implementation of Denmark's Caucasus Programme:

Promotion of Judicial Reform, Human and Minority Rights in Georgia

Aim and objectives

The programme aims 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 (FCNM).

It has the primary aim of enhancing governance on national minorities, supporting the process of the implementation and monitoring of the FCNM as well as Georgia's *National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration and Action Plan*. Further, it aims at 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 Georgia 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 is carried out directly by ECMI. Component III is about strengthening the state capacity in managing minority issues and enhancing public consultation on minority issues.

Activities in 2012

A number of activities are carried out within three main themes:

- advancing the implementation of minority policies in accordance with European standards on minority protection in compliance with the FCNM.

- 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.

- establishing and encouraging dialogue between civil society organizations and municipal authorities, supporting local level implementation of minority policies and involving minority organizations in the monitoring of minority rights and civic integration. This particularly in the minority regions of Kvemo Kartli with its multiethnic population and Samtskhe-Javakheti that is predominantly Armenian populated.

Timeframe

July 2010–March 2013

» **Contact:**
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» **Partners:**
Council of Europe
(www.coe.int)
Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues
(www.smr.gov.ge)
State Inter-Agency Commission on National Minorities
Council of National Minorities (under the Public Defender)
(www.ombudsman.ge)
National Security Council
(www.nsc.gov.ge/eng)
Human Rights and Civil Integration Parliamentary Committee
(www.parliament.ge)
Municipalities in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli

Enhancing the Positive Impact of the Law for Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups

Aim and objectives

This project aims to enhance the positive impact of the law for persons from vulnerable and marginalised groups in Kosovo (VMG), by undertaking strategic litigation, providing free legal aid, and conducting targeted advocacy activities.

Background

On paper, the legal framework for the protection of vulnerable and marginalised groups in Kosovo is very comprehensive. In recent years, numerous laws and strategies have been passed with the aim of protecting these groups.

However, to date there is little evidence that individuals are feeling the benefits of these laws and policies in their everyday lives. Sources continue to point to the unequal-treatment of VMG across Kosovo society, from discrimination on the grounds of gender or disability, to restricted access for minority communities to essential services. This is for instance access to social security, health and education care, and ongoing problems for returnees, internally displaced persons, and repatriated persons in accessing personal documents and public records.

Activities in 2012

The project aims to empower persons from VMG by raising their awareness of the legal rights and remedies to which they are entitled and, crucially, providing them with legal aid services to which they would not otherwise have access.

Through legal aid activities, the project will enable persons to take advantage of the rights to which they are entitled, for example, by granting them access to essential services such as health care or education, and to protect themselves against discrimination.

Moreover, the project will encourage the filing of court cases on important social issues, such as discrimination or non-implementation of laws by municipal authorities, and to create 'legal precedents', which will enhance the overall clarity of the legal framework in Kosovo.

Increased legal and judicial clarity will increase the likelihood that future victims of rights violations will bring their cases to court, as the chances of a case succeeding will be easier to assess.

Specifically, ECMI Kosovo will:

- Provide at least 1,000 members of VMG in Kosovo with free legal aid, including advice on legal matters, drafting of official letters, requests and protests, filing of lawsuits, lodging of appeals, obtaining of personal documents, and etc.
- Undertake 'strategic litigation' in cases of particular public interest, with the aim of clarifying the laws affecting VMG and creating concrete judicial precedents on important social issues.
- Conduct advocacy campaigns aimed at redressing identified shortfalls in the laws affecting VMG.

Timeframe

2011–January 2013

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Institutional Support to the Consultative Council for Communities

Aim and objectives

This project will provide technical and organizational support to the *Consultative Council for Communities* (CCC), its Steering Committee, Secretariat and its working groups. The objective is to ensure the CCC's institutional sustainability, to strengthen its consultative role and to increase its capacity to conduct minority representation.

Background

The CCC began in 2005 as an informal body attached to the Kosovo Delegation to the status negotiations, made up of representatives from minority communities.

The Council developed a *Framework for the Protection of Rights of Communities in Kosovo*, which provided a multilayered and interlocking system of constitutional and legal measures to ensure the full protection and enjoyment of individual and community rights for members of the minority communities in Kosovo.

The Framework was presented at the status negotiations, and later served as the foundation for the *Law on the Promotion and Protection on the Rights of Communities and their Members* (Law on Communities, 2008).

The CCC was legally established through Article 60 of the 2008 Kosovo Constitution, with the details of its mandate fleshed out in Article 12 of the Law on Communities.

The Council was formally established by Presidential Decree on 15 September 2008, and held its inaugural session on 23 December 2008.

Thus, the CCC is now a constitutionally-mandated institution, comprised of community representatives from both civil society and political parties, and key government officials. Through its mixed memberships, and its strategic location within the office of the president, it provides members of communities with a forum from which to monitor and influence the legislative process, and to advance their needs and interests within government programmes and policies.

Activities in 2012

ECMI Kosovo will implement the following activities in 2012:

- Support to the CCC Secretariat; publication of the 'Handbook on Administrative Procedures' for a long term usage by the CCC Secretariat and the CCC.
- Institutionalization of the CCC engagement with the Government; support to the CCC follow-up mechanism, outreach workshops with communities, supporting the CCC Secretariat on organizing the 'Nomination Process' for the new members of the CCC.
- Improving the Institution visibility, transparency and accountability of the CCC in relation to other institutions and local community representatives, press conferences; media workshops.

Timeframe 2011–12

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Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process

Aim and objectives

Building on the first phase of the *Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process* -project, this project II extension aims to contribute to stabilizing multiethnic relations in Kosovo. It furthers the socioeconomic and political inclusion of communities by supporting the municipal institutions and local communities.

The support is in the field of local economic development in the newly established municipalities of Gračnica/ Gračanicë, Klokot-Vrbovac/Kllokot-Vërboc, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë, Parteš/Partesh and Ranilug/Ranillug. It also supports the decentralisation process in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica North.

Background

Based on Ahtisaari's 'comprehensive proposals' and the *Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo*, the Kosovo Government and the *International Civilian Office* have since 2008 been engaged in implementing the decentralisation process.

This has resulted in establishment of four new municipalities during 2009 and 2010; Gračnica/Gračanicë, Klokot-Vrbovac/Kllokot-Vërboc, Parteš/Partesh and Ranilug/Ranillug. It has also lead to enlargement of an existing one, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë. These are all Serb-majority municipalities.

On the other hand, due to political circumstances, the establishment of the Municipality of Mitrovicë/

Mitrovica North has been delayed and remains to be achieved in the near future.

In addition to bringing services closer to citizens of all communities, the establishment of new municipalities has also brought important positive changes in terms of creating better conditions and incentives for integrating minority communities, especially the Serbs, in the society.

ECMI Kosovo has supported this process within the framework of the *Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process*-project.

Activities in 2012

Support to the new municipalities in south Kosovo:

- A comprehensive analysis and needs assessment on the socioeconomic situation and local economic development in the newly established municipalities.
- Developing and launching socio-economic profiles for the newly established municipalities and provision of training to relevant municipal staff on maintaining them.
- Developing an explanatory booklet and providing training for local business community in the newly established municipalities.
- Provision of technical assistance to administrations of newly established municipalities in the area of local economic development and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).



- Provision of technical assistance to the *Ministry of Trade and Industry* to support it in registration of SMEs operating in newly established municipalities.

- Supporting the local business community in the newly established municipalities in establishing local multiethnic business associations and integrating them with Kosovo wide business associations.

Support to the decentralisation process in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North:

- Supporting the 'Municipal Preparation Team' for Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North and other relevant stakeholders in developing and implementing a community outreach strategy.

- Carrying out outreach and public awareness activities, as well as a voter education campaign in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North. The latter is subject to political circumstances allowing for establishment of the new municipality.

Timeframe
2011–13



Enver Hoxhaj (top right), representative of Kosovo, and Farid Zarif (next to Mr. Hoxhaj), Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK), listen as Vuk Jeremić (below), Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, addresses a Security Council meeting regarding tensions in northern Kosovo along boundary/border crossings with Serbia. UN Photo by Rick Bajornas.

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Improving Roma, Ashkanli and Egyptian Communities' Education

Aim and objectives

The project aims to enhance the quality of education for children from Roma, Ashkanli and Egyptian communities in the Municipality of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and to promote their inclusion in the education system.

Improving the education of these communities will be ensured by strengthening the capacity of municipal officials and implementing the *Municipal Action Plan* on Roma, Ashkanli and Egyptian integration with a focus on its education component.

Background

Drawing on its previous experiences from the implementation of ECMI Kosovo's project on *Improving Service-Delivery and Minority Rights Awareness at the Municipal and Civil Society Levels*, ECMI Kosovo has started in August 2011 to implement the project *Improving the Delivery of Roma, Ashkanli and Egyptian Communities Education in the Municipality of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje*.

Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje was the first municipality in Kosovo to endorse a municipal action plan for the integration of these communities, based on the national *Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkanli and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo 2009 – 2015*.

In order to ensure the implementation of the 'action plan', it needs to be operationalised and a monitoring and evaluation system designed.

Therefore, ECMI Kosovo is working together with municipal officials to improve municipal officials' capacities, to fully operationalize the action plan, to establish an effective municipal monitoring and coordinating mechanism and to document the results as a best practice for replication in other municipalities.

Activities in 2012

- Finalization of a baseline study and capacity needs assessment for municipal officials.

- Support to municipal officials in finalizing the operationalization of the *Municipal Action Plan*.

- Provision of technical assistance to municipal officials, with a focus on strengthening municipal officials' capacities to implement, coordinate and monitor the *Municipal Action Plan* and to organize and conduct task force meetings.

- Organization of a capacity building training for municipal officials, based on the findings of the capacity needs assessment.

- Drafting and publishing a manual for municipal officials on the operationalization of action plans.

- Developing a guidebook with achievements, best practices and practical recommendations.

Timeframe
2011–July 2012

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Assistance to the Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Aim and objectives

The aim is to support and assist non-State Parties to the Convention to consider ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML).

The programme assists in reviewing existing national legislation and its compliance with the ECRML provisions, instances of discrepancies, and how they can be addressed. This process aims to improve the ratification levels of the Convention. It will benefit the regional or minority languages, their maintenance and development, and the users of the languages.

Background

Many CoE member states have a long tradition of minority language enhancement but have not yet ratified the ECRML. Some have committed themselves to ratify the convention when joining the Council of Europe. Whilst only 25 member states have ratified the ECRML, 39 member states have ratified the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

ECMI prepared in late 2011 an online publication, a two-volume handbook on the level of the preparedness for ratification of the ECRML of those states, which have not yet done so. The work package will address the situation of minority languages in the non-State Parties.

The entries in the handbook allow for each non-State Party to use the content, to discuss, and to accept their possible ratification instrument.

Volume 1: Regional or Minority Languages in non-State Parties presents the description of the situation of minority languages in the country, the compliance of national legislation with the provisions of the ECRML, and proposals for instruments of ratification.

Volume 2: Table formats show the congruence between the ECRML and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. It also shows congruence between national legislation and the provisions of the ECRML. The tables make review of the existing legislation easy and support the proposals for instruments of ratifications.

Activities in 2012

Already a few countries have expressed interest in the assistance and more are considering doing so. The activities will take place in close cooperation with the Council of Europe.

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RECURRING ANNUAL ACTIVITIES





ECMI Consultative Forum

ECMI's electronic Consultative Forum will be in operation from 2012. It will be a platform for annual consultations on research and action projects.

The aim of the Consultative Forum is to assemble inputs for and to improve ECMI's research programmes.

The Consultative Forum will play an advisory role for ECMI. It will invite stakeholders and civil society to submit comments electronically. It will also provide the opportunity to receive feedback in a timely manner.

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ECMI Regional Minority Roundtable

Both Germany and Denmark have signed and ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML). However, to date neither Germany nor Denmark have adopted language policies to support promotion of minority languages.

The theme of the ECMI Regional Minority Roundtable 2012 is multilingualism in the borderland region, as seen in the context of the ECRML.

Questions for consideration are: Why have relevant authorities of the German-Danish borderland not adopted language policies?

To what extent have the local minorities been active in changing this situation, and what further steps are necessary? What are the lessons to be learned from other European regions?

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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.

Members of the SRAN participate 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.

SRAN usually meets once a year. 2012 will be an exception as there will be no assembly.

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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.

A great deal of 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. The research is extremely important for the ECMI which has a mandate to bring the 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, ECMI 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.

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ECMI Advisory Council

It is the aim to convene the ECMI Advisory Council (AC) in part or in full once a year. This year the AC will gather in May in Berlin for a two-day conference. As the AC will always gather around the most burning minority issue, the headline for the conference will be released as late as possible.

The 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 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 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 ECM activities to European institutions and in specialist circles.

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 refer to the ECMI website.

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ECMI and Summer School:

*National Minorities
in Border Regions*

European history has linked many national minorities intrinsically to borders. Nation building processes in the 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 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 intercultural 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 2012.

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.



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TRAININGS





Minorities and Conflict

ECMI offers a short, intensive course for young diplomats preparing to deploy with national, EU and international organizations' missions in conflict zones.

The course is aimed to provide diplomats with basic information about minorities, and to raise their sensitivity towards 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 analysed. It is expected that the course will also be relevant for officers acting as stoppers at headquarters level.

Minority Governance I

Governance I is a theoretical course that will offer an introduction to the European system of minority protection. It will also introduce to relevant national systems and legislation.

Issues of minority protection and promotion, as well as of compliance and implementation of obligations 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. The civil servants in the target group are working for national or 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 for Governance I; civil servants in developing democracies that work for national or 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. It continues by introducing the participants to the minority governance model in the Danish-German border region.

The aim of the course is to strengthen minority councils through on-site

training. Participants will have the opportunity to meet civil servants dealing with minority matters in the border region.

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.

The e-learning platform is open to all interested. The target group is people not able to attend live courses. A course will last several months and use modern media tools in order to facilitate effective learning.

The aim is capacity building through knowledge transfer without incurring costs to the participants.

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. This includes NGOs and minority activist groups that seek to submit 'shadow reports' to the Council of Europe's minority instruments (Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities & European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages).

The course aims at capacity building. It introduces participants to the reporting procedures of the legal instruments, and to 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 that introduces participants to the reporting procedures of the European legal instruments. These instruments have been signed and ratified by Denmark and Germany. The course also examines methods of compiling, drafting and submitting reports to the Council of Europe.

Mainstreaming Minority Issues in Governance

This training refers to the inclusion of issues pertaining to ethno-national minorities into planning and daily work of state agencies and local authorities.

Most European states have ratified at least one of the Coun-



TRAININGS

cil of Europe treaties related to minority protection. They are, therefore, under legal obligation to follow European standards in this regard. However, attempts to achieve an appropriate balance between the protection and preservation of minority culture and the effective integration of minorities into the wider society can negatively affect minority groups, at times infringing upon their rights.

The mainstreaming methodology is especially useful for addressing areas of minority identity and language, education, culture and media, participation in public life, equal socioeconomic opportunities and non-discrimination. Also cross-border cooperation between states on minority issues is an integral part of the training.

The course provides a step-by-step guidance in analysing minority needs and their inclusion in the work of all levels of governance.

Mainstreaming Minority Issues in Development

This training targets international organizations, national governments and other stakeholders who work with programmes and projects in the development area.

Many organizations are not aware of the minority aspect of development and often there is confusion about who constitutes ethnic or national minorities, about their living conditions and needs *vis-à-vis* development programmes. Also policies of integration can nega-

tively influence the situation of minorities, infringing on their rights.

The course will familiarize participants with concepts, standards, and mechanisms for the protection of minorities in Europe. It presents methods in analysis of minorities needs and provides a step-by-step guide to mainstreaming minority issues into the project cycle. Finally, a glossary of commonly used terms and phrases explains the terminology and meaning of the language used in the area of minority rights.

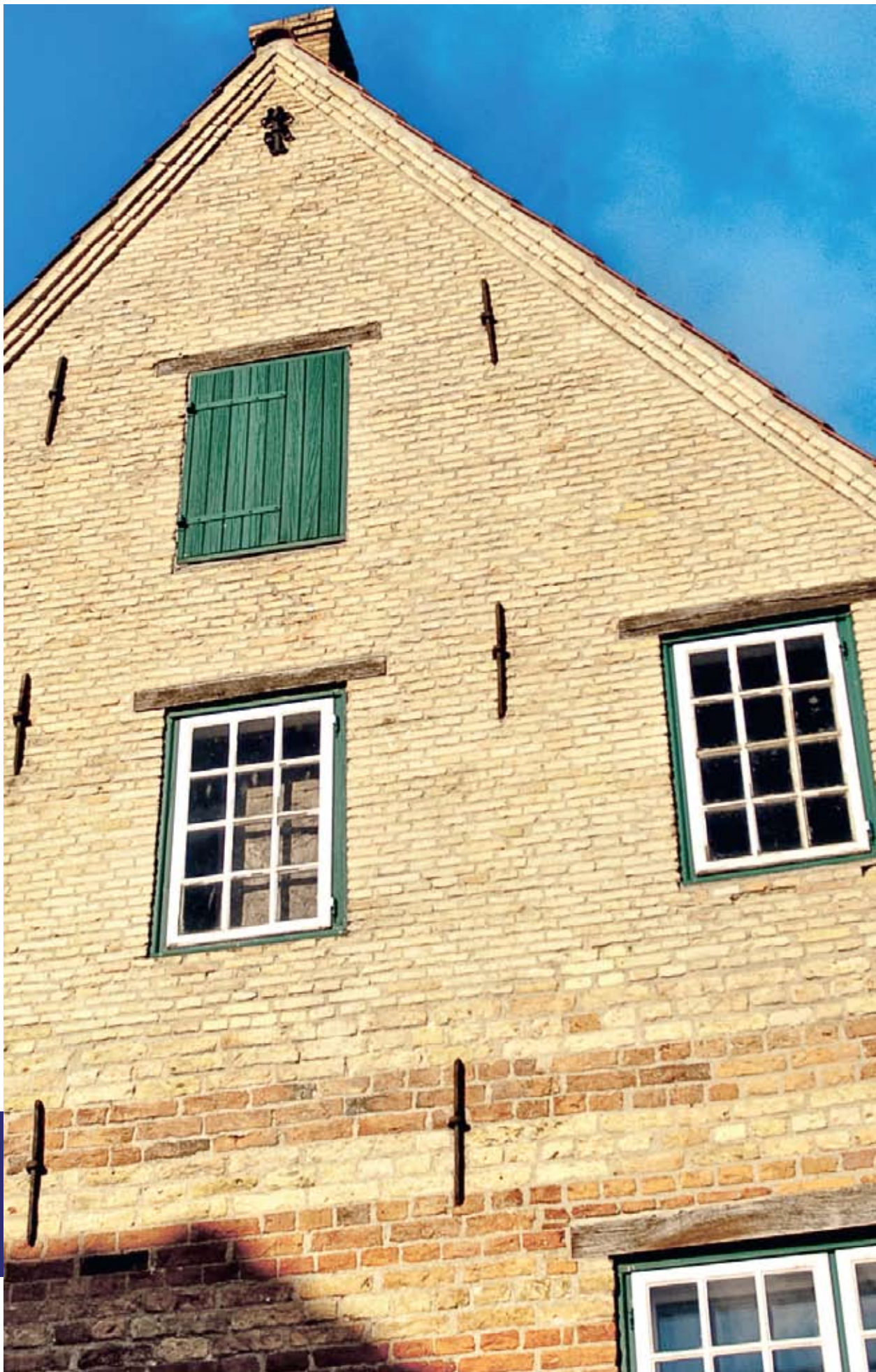
A mainstreaming guide toolkit can be developed for a particular region or particular areas of concern—e.g. gender, governance or environment.

Tailored Trainings

ECMI provides tailored trainings on demand. The trainings can include various elements of above standard trainings, compiled to adjust to particular needs.

There is also an option to require specific training for an organization and its staff. ECMI delivers trainings in Danish, English, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, and Spanish.

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Follow ECMI's work

We promote high-quality research, policy-relevant analysis, training, and cooperation in the minority field, and we are eager to communicate our results.

This is why we are present in more social media. We would be very pleased to have you among our followers and friends. Feel free to join us at:



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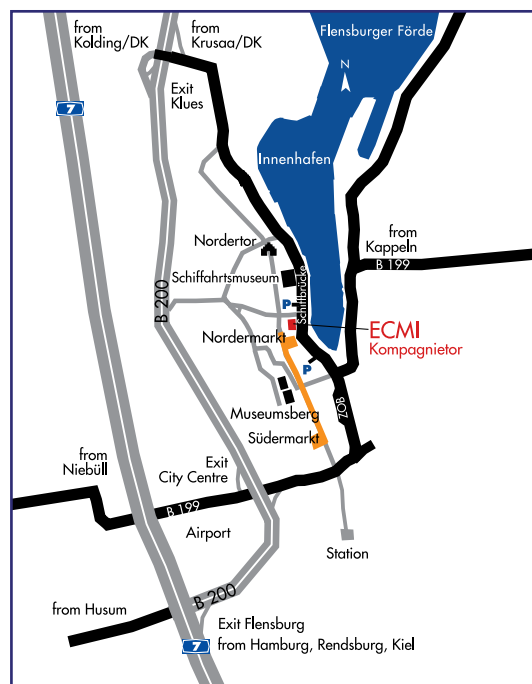
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