

ANNUAL PROGRAMME



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

2013

European Centre
for Minority Issues (ECMI)

Director:
Tove H. Malloy

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European Centre
for Minority Issues (ECMI)
Schiffbrücke 12
24939 Flensburg
Germany

T: +49 (0)461 1 41 490
F: +49 (0)461 1 41 4919
E: info@ecmi.de
W: www.ecmi.de



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Tove H. Malloy
ECMI Director

FOREWORD

You hold in your hands the European Centre for Minority Issues' third Annual Programme highlighting our main initiatives and ideas in research and action for 2013.

Our focus continues to be minority protection and minority empowerment across the board. And in 2013 we will continue a number of efforts started in 2012. The Justice & Governance cluster continues its strong focus on the concept of non-territorial autonomy from an inter-disciplinary perspective. The Conflict & Security cluster will continue and strengthen the post-conflict reconciliation research. The Culture & Diversity cluster has taken good strides in defining the effort to explore the media in relation to minority existence.

New initiatives include the Citizenship & Ethics cluster's efforts to address several aspects of active and democratic citizenship. Minority rights education and 'acts of citizenship' in border regions are two new initiatives.

At the cross-cluster level we are continuing our efforts to pilot indicators for the Council of Europe's two main minority instruments, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. But we are also initiating in-depth research on the National Action Plans for Roma Inclusion submitted to the European Commission under the EU's new policy to strengthen the member states' policy and programming on Roma integration.

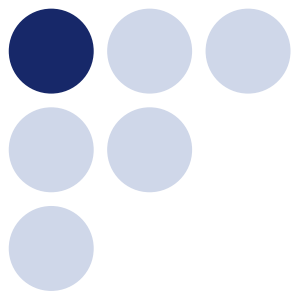
At the country level, we continue to focus on action projects in Georgia and Kosovo. We plan to continue the good work in Belarus and begin work in Moldova. The synergy between standards, research and action remains our guiding methodology, and all our country projects are built on a foundation of pre-action research and needs assessment.

Our second summer school on "National Minorities and Border Regions" was a huge success, and we are pleased that we will continue the initiative in 2013. We also continue providing our tailor-made trainings to researchers and professionals from a range of fields dealing with in minority issues.

The publication of the peer-reviewed electronic journal JEMIE and the European Yearbook of Minority Issues are recurrent annual activities for ECMI.

This Programme is an information tool as well as a dialogue tool. It aims to serve as guidance for our stakeholders, current and future partners, public officials, policy and decision makers, who believe ...

THAT MINORITIES MATTER!



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES

RESEARCH





JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

As issues of norm diffusion and convergence have come to the fore at the macro level with the EU taking a greater role in Europe's normative regime, aspects of legitimacy and responsibility of protection schemes at local and regional levels entail focused attention. In 2013, through a series of research and action-oriented projects, the Cluster will continue its work in four thematic areas that still have significant gaps and deficiencies in the existing research:

- 'Non-Territorial Autonomy: Interpretations, Forms, and Opportunities', addresses a range of ideas and institutional arrangements related to the notion of autonomy on non-territorial grounds, seeking to describe, compare, and critically evaluate these ideas and their implementation.
- 'Ethnicity, Territoriality and Equality', analyses the links between the notions of territory and ethnicity in public debates and policies concerning ethnic minorities, as well as such related issues as promotion of equality, cultural policies, and categorization of ethnic groups through territorial affiliations.
- 'Translation of norms and ideas into practice', investigates how the notions of non-discrimination, minority protection, and participation co-exist in national and sub-national legislation, public institutions and public debates.
- 'Deficiencies and Gaps in Minority Protection', 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 analyse their causes and consequences.

Finally, the Belarus programme, developed jointly with the Citizenship & Ethics cluster, addresses minority issues at various levels, seeking to invest in the development of the expert and practitioner communities dealing with minority issues in Belarus and to facilitate communication concerning minority issues between Belarus and the rest of Europe.



PUBLICATIONS ON NON-TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY

Aims

The scholarly network on the issues of NTA established at the ECMI-led workshop in June 2011 works on a series of academic and applied publications on NTA issues.

Action Setup

ECMI works in cooperation with Tom Lantos Institute (Hungary) on a guidebook concerning practical application of NTA; with EURAC on the volume about territorial and non-territorial autonomy; with the Political Science Department of Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania on the compendium 'Autonomy Arrangements in the World'; with Queen's University in Belfast on the volume about theoretical and practical implications of NTA.

Four book volumes on NTA

Four volumes on NTA are to be submitted to publishers

Partner Institutions

Lantos Institute (Hungary), EURAC (Italy), Queen's University of Belfast (the UK), the Political Science Department of Babes-Bolyai University (Romania)

Timeframe

2013



RESEARCH ON CONSULTATIVE AND COALITION-TYPE BODIES

Aims

This cross-national multidisciplinary collaborative project aims at empirical study and theoretical analysis of institutional arrangements designed to practically implement the notions of ethnicity-based 'participation' and 'representation'. The project particularly focuses on ethnicity-based public consultative or representative bodies including multi-ethnic umbrella organizations designed for the provision of inter-ethnic dialogue and prevention of conflicts. The project addresses several types of ethnicity-based organizations designed to provide for civil participation, representation, reconciliation and self-government.

Action Setup

The project must be a platform for a comparative cross-national study binding together legal, sociological and political science approaches. The geographic scope should be the OSCE area in Eurasia. The principal investigators represent 2-3 research institutions/universities; the team also includes researches doing fieldwork in the selected countries and contributing to the publication and final recommendations.

The project aims at interaction between legal scholars and political theorists, on one hand, and between sociologists and political

scientists undertaking empirical research in the field, on the other. It is assumed that the empirical part of the study addresses such issues as perceptions and motivations of the people involved; effects of the normative and institutional setups, particularly, formal and informal mechanisms of exclusion and inclusion for certain categories or individuals; and major discursive patterns. It should be carried out with qualitative research including inclusive participatory observation, unstructured in-depth interviews, expert interviews, and focus groups.

Partner Institutions

Danish Institute for Human Rights

Timeframe

2013

**Contact:**

Dr Alexander Osipov (osipov@ecmi.de)

Dr. Andreea Carstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)

ASSESSING THE MECHANISMS FOR ROMA REPRESENTATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Aims

This project will analyse the effectiveness of the mechanisms for the political representation of the Roma minorities in the four countries covered by the Visegrad Fund.

The project's main output will be a comparative study outlining the challenges, solutions, unsolved issues, and best practices concerning the representation of the Roma minorities in the four countries. The study will be based on the analysis of legal and policy documents, existing quantitative and qualitative data, and further empirical data provided by the local partners, brought together in a comparative effort coordinated by ECMI.

Action Setup

The analysis of the legal and institutional arrangements will include (but will not be restricted to) an overview of electoral legislation, of special legislation for the Roma minority (where available), relevant policy documents, consultative bodies, elected bodies, ethnic parties, mainstream parties, appointed representatives at both local and national level, and any other relevant legislative or institutional development. In addition to this mapping exercise, the assessment of the quality of the political representation of this minority will include an evaluation of the functioning and impact of these arrangements, based on existing data and on a series of additional interviews with Roma stakeholders.



Partner Institutions

Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Centre for Research of Ethnicity and Culture in the Slovak Republic, Warsaw University in Poland, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

Timeframe

2013-2014



Contact:

Dr. Andreea Carstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)



MINORITIES AND TERRITORIAL ARRANGEMENT

It is assumed that territorial arrangements are crucial for minority protection since until recently setting up cultural and linguistic regimes on territorial ground has been deemed a rule and is common practice. Although there has been extensive research and a significant number of scholarly publications concerning ethnic and cultural dimension of sub-national territorial arrangements, some deficiencies and gaps in these studies and public debates still persist.

The programme addresses the linkages between the notions of territory and ethnicity in public debates and policies concerning ethnic minorities as well as related issues of promotion of equality, cultural policies, and categorization of ethnic groups through territorial affiliations. The objectives of description, comparison and critical assessment of the ways minorities are symbolically attached to/ detached from certain territories, will be achieved through research and public discussions. The results of these discourses are analyzed regarding their impact on minority policies. This area provides for a new perspective on how to look at the way that diversity is conceptually organized and accommodated; a way to assess how symbolic policies affect the real state of minorities. Practically relevant outputs can be proposals concerning specific policies that may affect certain minorities (including 'minorities within minorities') and proposals regarding new ways to improve minority position through territorial planning and development.

Aims

For one, the project addresses the variety of models under which linkages between ethnicity and territory are articulated (or acknowledged implicitly) and conceptually organized. For another, it initiates discussion on practical applicability of such models, inter alia on the outcomes already achieved and the prospects for the future.

Action Setup

Activities include looking for funding and supervision for PhD students (or interns) who are hosted by ECMI and working on the selected issues.

Outcome

ECMI Working Papers

Timeframe

2013

» Contact:
Dr. Andreea Carstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)

DIFFERENCES AND SYNERGIES BETWEEN MINORITY PROTECTION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Aims

The project aims at exploring the disjuncture and similarities in interpretations and conceptual organization of equality on ethnic or racial ground in different theoretical, discursive and institutional frameworks, first and foremost within minority protection and non-discrimination. The project seeks to analyze theoretic and practical linkages between non-discrimination and minority protection; particularly, what kinds of effects result or may result from placement of the issues of culture and group identity into the agendas of social equality. The core event of the project is a multidisciplinary conference which is to address conceptualizations of equality and the role the cultural dimension of equality plays in the current jurisprudence on non-discrimination and ethnic diversity policies. Expected outcomes are publication of an academic volume and issuance of policy recommendations.

The project seeks to address issues relevant to diversity policies and jurisprudence and still overlooked or insufficiently studied rather than theoretical debates. The major goal is to arrange for a discussion which addresses implications, consequences and potential effects of the (dis) similarities between minority protection and non-discrimination.

Action Setup

The core event - a multidisciplinary conference - is to bring together scholars of different disciplinary backgrounds as well as practitioners engaging in policy-making and advocacy. The participants are supposed to address several issues; among them are the ways national judiciaries and the executive bodies interpret equality when they apply legislation on national minorities and the ways minority activists and official bodies in charge of minority policies employ anti-discrimination legislation and anti-discrimination mechanisms. The project is to be run in cooperation with Cluster 'Civil Society and Politics'

Outcome

The conference proceedings are to be reshaped into an academic volume; practice-oriented conclusions made in course of the conference may be transformed into policy recommendations.

Timeframe

2013

www.ecmi.de



Contact:

Dr. Alexander Osipov (osipov@ecmi.de)

Dr. Andreea Carstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)

THE LIMITS FOR DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF DIFFERENT MINORITIES IN THE FULFILLMENT OF STATES' POSITIVE OBLIGATIONS



Aims

It is assumed that ECMI could host and supervise PhD students in social philosophy or law who would be working on complex and still relatively neglected issues related to both the areas of minority protection and non-discrimination. 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.

Action Setup

Activities include looking for funding and supervision for PhD students (or interns) who could be hosted by ECMI and working on the selected issues.

Outcome

ECMI Working Paper

Timeframe

2013



Contact:

Dr. Andreea Carstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)

THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNIST LEGACIES IN DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT: BELARUS, MOLDOVA, UKRAINE

Aims

The project as a part of the Belarus programme envisages a comparative study of communist legacies in diversity policies in three countries of the EU Eastern Neighbourhood and the analysis of the post-communist institutions' compatibility with European standards of minority protection.

The list of the issues to be addressed includes interpretations of equality and non-discrimination, cultural development, ethnic representation and autonomy; the role of symbolic policies in coping with ethnicity-based claims; justifications of minority policies in the framework of nation-building; strategies of norm-making and implementation; scenarios of interactions between public authorities and civil society organizations.

Action Setup

The project includes field research, drafting and publication of the book

Expected outcomes

Publication of a book

Funding

Carnegie Corporation

Timeframe

2013



Contact:

Dr. Alexander Osipov (osipov@ecmi.de)

Dr. Federica Prina (prina@ecmi.de)

Hanna Vasilevich (vasilevich@ecmi.de)

FROM CLOSED DECISION-MAKING TO PUBLIC POLITICS: TRANSFORMATION OF THE DIVERSITY POLICIES BEFORE THE DEMISE OF COMMUNISM



Aims

The project seeks to launch a scholarly discussion on the active phase of the communist diversity policies and their transformation in late 1980s.

Action setup

The project seeks to hold a conference on minority policies in late 1980s before the demise of the communism.

Expected outcomes

The book and revitalisation of the collaborative research network on communist legacies

Partner Institutions

University of Glasgow

Timeframe

2013



Contact:

Dr. Andreea Carstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)

RISKS STEMMING FROM MODERN IDEAS OF DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND THE WAYS THEY CAN BE CURBED

Aims

The project is aimed at launching a scholarly discussion on the risks posed in the long run by misinterpretations of minority protection, non-discrimination and related ideas. Identification of potential research topics and objectives and assessment of their relevance must lead to the establishment of a collaborative research network and/or launch of a research project with ECMI's involvement. The practical relevance of the project is identification of the deficiencies and pitfalls in the existing minority-related mechanisms and of the way they can be overcome.

Action setup

The cluster seeks to arrange a kickoff seminar, to participate according to the seminar's outcomes in some further joint projects, and to host PhD students and post-docs working on the respective issues.

Expected outcomes

Collaborative research network; publication of a journal's special issue.



Partner Institutions

University of Plymouth

Activities in 2012

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

Timeframe

2013


Contact:
Dr. Andreea Carstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)



CITIZENSHIP & ETHICS 2013

The Citizenship and Ethics Cluster aims to foster minority research into the new 21st century discourses that require different approaches to understanding national minority narratives. While the security and justice discourses are not ceasing articulation, discourses of cohesion, citizenship and environmental survival are forming. These are discourses that have yet to manifest themselves in the area of minority research.

The European citizenship discourse has formed over the last couple of decades and often takes its clues from the public debate on EU constitutionalism and the so-called 'democratic deficit.' With regard to the citizenship discourse, national minority narratives inform the European citizenship discourse seeking to incorporate articulations and narratives of acts and action about values. Forces of acts and action are bigger and wider than those generated by top-down contributions to the integration of Europe. They are social and cultural trends towards the formation of a European civil society, a vast, dynamically inter-connected and multi-layered European social space consisting of many thousands of non-governmental initiatives, networks, personalities, movements and organizations. In fact, national minorities are likely to accumulate more social and human capital than the average citizen due to the nature of national minority existence (Competency Analysis, 2007). Social capital and participation are thus the key words in the narratives that national minorities represent in terms of citizenship.

Because most of Europe's national minorities live in border regions, the importance of the acts of citizenship that they perform takes on a European dimension, not only at as a bilateral phenomenon but as a European integration phenomenon promoting creating spaces of co-operation rather than confrontation. In 2013, the European year of Citizenship, the Cluster will focus its research on understanding the current dynamics within minority communities that contribute or challenge the active citizenship values and practices and will pay particular attention to education as a powerful mechanism for bringing about positive social change.

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



ACTIVE BORDER CITIZENS FOR EUROPE (ABC FOR EUROPE)

Aim and objectives

“ABC for Europe” aims at:

- opening an intercultural dialogue about EU identity and values but also about practical experiences of “being European” and future benefits from active civil participation
- involving in dialogue and action a range of EU citizens, CSOs and public institutions throughout Europe, to foster involvement in democratic processes and cooperation by establishing the ABC- network
- promoting sense of ownership of EU among its citizens and to foster regional development and cooperation by raising awareness about possible platforms for interaction
- filling in research gaps and equip decision and policy makers with new instruments and knowledge
- studying the acts of citizenship of minority groups and organizations and evaluating the EU citizenship impact on regional development
- identifying existing regional/ community differences in the EU-citizenship profile and in the dynamics of citizenship practices

Background

Out of the 87 distinct “peoples of Europe”, 33 are from the majority population in at least one sovereign state, while the remaining 54 constitute minorities (105 million Europeans). The ECMI views the EU citizenship as a platform that enables human and minority rights

protection, respect for the cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic diversity. It equips individuals and communities with tools and powers to participate in the decision making processes and to become owners of their own future. Fostering the EU-citizenship identity and active participation will increase tolerance, will promote new values and will enable people to practice their unity in diversity.

EU citizenship is challenged by a number of borders: political, legal, cultural, linguistic, religious, mental. Aiming at overcoming those, “ABC for Europe” will establish a platform for dialogue and citizenship action based on shared citizenship values that overarch cultural, linguistic, religious, ethnic, national, minority/ majority, social, educational, age, gender and any other differences. By focusing on the minorities’ acts of (EU) citizenship the project addresses minority rights protection issues, but also fundamental citizens’ rights as freedom of assembly and freedom of speech (press).

The emblematic added value of “ABC for Europe” is that the EU-citizenship will be approached through the experience of minority communities and at the the same time it aims at creating a platform for dialogue and action opened to all stakeholders who support and want to strengthen the voices and the role of the ACTIVE EU CITIZENS.



Hanna Vasilevich

Activities in 2013

Over 12 months “ABC for Europe” will hold a series of 1-day conferences in 6 border regions involving a range of stakeholders: minority, cross-border, regional and other civil society organizations (CSO) as well as public officials, to discuss their past and current experience as active EU citizens & organisations, their values, priorities and goals, their involvement in the democratic life as well as the prospects for future (civil, regional, and EU) cooperation and development. The events will aim at raising public awareness and fostering trans-national and multilevel intercultural dialog, but also at establishing an EU ABC-partnership-network (based on 6 regional networks). The model of border minorities EU citizenship could become a basis for advancing the processes in mainstream societies.

Expected outcomes

Action

- Fostering the regional and EU dialogue and interaction among minority groups, CSOs, public authorities and all interested parties through 5 regional and 1 final ABC conferences
- Fostering the development of at least 6 local networks to form the EU-level ABC network
- Raising public awareness about EU citizenship, the challenges before it and the minority groups' contribution

Research

- Studying the acts of citizenship of minority groups and organizations
- Evaluation of the EC citizenship impact on regional development
- Clarification of the notion of EU citizenship and better understanding of its dimensions in practice, profiling the current ‘EU citizenship model’ in border regions – values, goals, challenges
- Fostering the interdisciplinary research with impact-in-action policy impact
- Collection of different practices of EU citizenship and different types of cooperation
- Elaborating a model for fostering development of EU citizenship (based on best practices)
- Impact on the public debate and increasing awareness
- Dissemination of results among various stakeholders from all over EU

Timeframe

2013-2014



Contact:

Dr. Zora Popova (popova@ecmi.de)
Hanna Vasilevich (vasilevich@ecmi.de)



EDUCATION AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

Aim and objectives

The overall goal of the Program Education and National Minorities is to examine the specific power of education as a fundamental human right and at the same time as a mechanism for minority empowerment, for strengthening democracy, for fostering social cohesion and respect for diversity. To obtain better understanding of the current issues and to identify needs for further research and action, the Program will focus on exploring the different types of educational models and provisions available to minority communities with regard to the effects on community, social and regional development. With regard to the new impetus that The Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) provides for, a particular attention will be placed on assessing the impact of the minority communities.

Background

Encouraging citizens to actively engage in social and political life has become a growing political priority both at national and European level. To stimulate this process, social and civic competences were introduced among the eight key competences for lifelong learning, identified by the Council of Europe and the European Parliament in 2006. The Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training (ET 2020) has introduced the active citizenship among the main objectives for education systems throughout Europe, supporting the understanding of the role of education as a defence mechanism

against the rise of violence, racism, extremism, xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance.

Education can make a major contribution to social cohesion and social justice and hence to enable positive social change. It is an instrument that can foster democracy and the promotion and protection of human and minority rights by equipping not only young people but all members of society with the knowledge, skills and attitudes that empower the active citizens to contribute to the development and well-being of the society in which they live.

The Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE), adopted in 2010 and signed by the 47 member states, is the first official international document that focuses explicitly on education as a mechanism for fostering democracy, human rights and the rule of law and for promoting active citizenship as a concept and practice. Although the Charter does not have a particular reference to minority rights, by promoting diversity, protection of democracy, of rule of law, of human rights and fundamental freedoms, it has the potential to become an important instrument available to communities for endorsing and exercising their minority rights and fostering dialogue, raising public awareness and enabling positive changes in minority-majority relations. The power stems from the two fundamental definitions (of “**Education for democratic**



Dr. Zora Popova

citizenship” and “Human rights education”) that by endorsing the document all 47 member states have accepted incorporate the same values that minority rights promote.

Activities 2013

Focusing the research interest on education and national minorities, the program will explore the current dynamics and challenges before the minority communities in relation to EDC/HRE as well as existing and future opportunities for empowering the active citizens with the knowledge and skills to exercise their human, minority, civil and democratic rights. It will address issues like the need of developing particular educational programs but will also analyse on a comparative basis the existing minority school practices with regard to the impact on community, regional and social development.

Research will be undertaken on the basis of the legal provisions and national/regional standards with regard to the national minorities’ education. The findings will enable to assess the variety of models adopted throughout Europe and to analyse those with both as a consequence of and as a factor for specific social, economic, and political developments and the impact on communities in general.

A series of case studies will be carried out to explore whether and to what extent the provisions of the EDC/HRE Charter have been adopted by minority communities and how these affect their life. The key question that the research will address is whether the EDC/HRE can become the tool for community empowerment and for fostering positive social change.

Expected outcomes

ECMI Working papers

Timeframe

2013-2014



Contact:

Dr. Zora Popova (popova@ecmi.de)

Hanna Vasilevich (vasilevich@ecmi.de)



CONFLICT & SECURITY 2013

With Europe on the path to peaceful unity, conflict transformation gives way to post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation. In many cases, tension laden politics become politics of diversity management. At the same time new modes of mobilization as well as recurring mobilization or refocused mobilization resurface in many areas. Our attention to varied models of reconciliation is vital in post-conflict areas, while issues of civil security need greater attention where conflicts have become rigidified. State and nation building remain enduring topics that require fresh approaches in an era of European integration and norm diffusion through external policies.

In the field of international state-building and reconstruction efforts the question of security is quite often reduced to the application of various security sector reforms. While this has every justification in war-torn societies or failed states, most countries in Europe (e.g. Bosnia, Kosovo) have passed that stage. Most post-communist countries have transformed into viable democracies with more or less stable economies and viable legislative and administrative institutions. However, this can not always been asserted with regard to societal transformation, coming to terms with the past and reconciliation between various ethnic or national minorities. Therefore conflict and security issues cannot be limited to judicial and police reforms but have to go beyond.

Addressing the shifts from conflict transformation to sustainable development, the primary focus of the 2013 Cluster work will fall on the topics on environmentally induces conflicts and reconciliation.



ENVIRONMENTAL INDUCED CONFLICTS & MINORITY RIGHTS 2013

Aim and objectives

Through the development of this project ECMI would like to support the on-going 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 underdeveloped 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 whole 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

The project will move on to undertake innovative research on the impact of governmental development activities, as well as cumulative climate changes (e.g. land degradation, deforestation and etc.), on minority lifestyle and cultural identity. In doing so, the focus for 2013 activities will be on land rights and corporate social responsibility. Through the selection of these specific areas of study the ECMI will elaborate on the inter-linkages between land resources and minorities' lifestyle and exercise of cultural rights. The research efforts will be further complemented by the analysis of a specific case study, namely the situation of minorities in Nordic countries.

Outputs

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.

Activities in 2013

Workshop on "environment, security and minority rights"; research study on the selected case study (minorities Nordic countries); and development of a research strategy to be delivered by the end of 2013

Timeframe

2013-2014

» **Contact:**
Ugo Caruso (caruso@ecmi.de)



RECONCILIATION IN DEEPLY DIVIDED SOCIETIES

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 inter-dependence and positive relationships, they are also asked to deal with guilt and socio-economic 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. 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 a 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.

Partner

London School of Economics

Timeframe

2013 - 2014

» Contact:
Dr. Tove Malloy (malloy@ecmi.de)

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 minorities-majority relations in conflict zones, ECMI in co-operation 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 course 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 course will also include roundtable

discussions with well-known experts and personalities on conflict management. While the course outline will be conceived along specific standard sessions (e.g. conflictology, minority protection regimes and diversity management), the agenda and contents of training will be developed and tailored to the participants' needs and future assignments. By participating in 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 2013

In trying to accommodate the interest expressed by numerous international organizations' officials as well as representatives of NGOs and civil society in 2012, the training courses will be organized and delivered in the field.

Partner

Initiative on Quiet Diplomacy (www.iqdiplomacy.org)

Timeframe

2013 - 2014

» Contact:
Ugo Caruso (caruso@ecmi.de)



POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY 2013

The Politics and Civil Society Cluster analyzes the social, political and economic dynamics that transform contemporary European societies and exert an impact on the opportunities and challenges faced by ethnic minority groups. While the Cluster is principally interested in exploring the patterns of civil society activism by looking at the agency of ethnic minority groups in relation to majority dominance at the national and supranational levels, the contestations and articulations in the political sphere that lead to civil society inclusion as well as exclusion must also be in focus. The political and social dynamics draw our attention to the necessity of thoroughly exploring a number of key issues at the crossroads of civil society activism and ethnic dominance. In particular, it is vital to examine the new forms of minority political and social participation and look at the emerging patterns and implications of minority groups' participation in the public sphere, including the ways in which ethnic minorities take advantage of the opportunities offered by Europe's border scheme and regional dynamics as well as integration processes.

CONTESTED ETHNICITIES: SELECTIVE RECOGNITION OF MINORITIES IN ROMANIA, POLAND, AND UKRAINE

Aims

This project aims to contribute to a better understanding of the situation of three unrecognised ethnic groups (Aromanians, Rusyns, Silesians) present on the territories of three states (Romania, Ukraine, and Poland, respectively), all signatories of the FCNM. These states recognise the presence of national minorities on their territories; however, this recognition is selective, with certain ethnic groups claiming the status of national minority remaining unrecognised. While the literature on the subject of identity formation, operationalisation, and instrumentalisation is extensive, little empirical research has been carried out on these three groups. This study proposes to fill the gap in knowledge concerning the socio-economic and political circumstances of these groups, their claims, and perspectives for their recognition by the three states.

Action setup

Search for partners and organisation of a kick-off seminar (2013); creation of a comprehensive research project together with project partners (2013); identification of funding opportunities and submission of funding applications (2013); implementation of the project (2014).

Expected outcomes

Research study, including policy recommendations.

Partner institutions

Research institutes in Romania, Poland, and the Ukraine

Timeframe

2013–14



» Contact:
Dr. Andreea Carstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)

EU TOOLKIT FOR ROMA INTEGRATION POLICY (EU TRIP)

Aims and Objectives

Drawing on the ECMI policy evaluation report produced for the European Commission in 2006, the project will assess the national country strategies on Roma inclusion, submitted to the European Commission by the 27 EU member states in 2012, aiming at:

- Identifying common EU Roma integration challenges and respective good practices
- Identifying the possibilities for approaching the Roma integration as a synchronised EU-policy with common mechanisms for Roma integration
- Developing a system of integration indicators and a standardised EU Instrument for monitoring and evaluating integration mechanisms

Background

The EU Council conclusions of May and June 2011 on Roma integration, following the proposal from the European Commission for an EU Framework for national Roma integration strategies, instructed all Member states to present to the European Commission a strategy for Roma inclusion or alternatively to present sets of policy measures within existing social inclusions policies for improving the situation of Roma people. The EU Framework aims to bring about a change in the approach to Roma inclusion from scattered, project-based and unrelated interventions to a comprehensive approach embracing four key areas through an integrated and coordinated effort.

The European Commission's own review and assessment of the national strategies focus on specific issues addressing mainly the structural requirements specified in the EU Framework, including the involvement of all important national stakeholders, the creation of a robust monitoring system, the appointment of a national contact point, ensuring the protection of fundamental rights and monitoring. Strategies are reviewed as policy documents (i.e. missing evaluation of the content and the relevance of measures based upon the needs-goals analysis. Likewise, independent assessments undertaken by independent institutions (OSI, ERPC, EU FRA) either focus on a limited number of member states or lack a clear guide for monitoring and evaluating integration mechanisms as well as indicators for monitoring implementation mechanisms.

Activities 2013

In-depth research on the National Roma Integration Strategies submitted to the European Commission in 2012 under the EU's new policy to strengthen the member states' policy and programming on Roma integration.

Timeframe

2013



Contact:

Dr. Andreea Carstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)

Dr. Zora Popova (popova@ecmi.de)

BORDER REGIONS: MAPPING NATIONAL MINORITY INSTITUTIONS

Aim and objectives

This project is a pilot project on mapping of the minority and minority-related organizations in the European border regions. The project aims to complete the empirical data on all institutions, organizations, projects, actors and cooperation between them that currently exists.

The objectives of the project are to develop a new picture of the regions and its borders in order to better assess their situations from the perspective of the minorities-related issues after the collapse of the communism. Particular focus from the minority related perspective must be made on

- the subsequent EU membership of some post-communist states
- their relations both within the EU and with the EU eastern neighborhood countries
- their role, challenges and opportunities within the newly-establishing reality which is so-called "Europe of regions"

Better understanding of the situation in the border regions will significantly contribute to promotion, maintenance and sustain of democracy and democratic values in the post-communist societies, human rights protection, information dissemination with the emphasis on multiculturalism and diversity, civic society institutions' building.

As a result of this project, implementation of a practical map of minority organizations would

be elaborated that later on will be incorporated into the MMTE. The output of the project will provide a detailed list of active organizations working in the border areas that cover their scope of activities with the particular emphasis on the cross-border cooperation.

Background

Peaceful coexistence, respect for territorial integrity and inviolability of borders secured by the Helsinki Final Act is one of the main achievements of the European continent. Collapse of communism significantly marked not only democratization of the most of the CEE states, but also signified an in-depth integration at the European continent. Cooperation among the states, democracy, diversity and multiculturalism are seen as European core values. Considering the existence of minorities along the European borders, the borders may per se be seen as micro-cosmos for democracy since they provide an option for intercultural cooperation among the states and their societies encourages interregional and international cooperation in various areas. In regard to the minorities, the continent transformations also provided them with additional opportunities and challenges. Pan-European integration at the continental and regional level to a certain extent limits the role of the nation states in Europe through the primacy of international law over the domestic one. This therefore increases the role of regions and implies maintenance of Europe of regions. In the minorities-related context it means that they are



provided with additional challenges and opportunities since the cross-border cooperation opportunities encourage collaboration both with the kin-states and among the minorities in the cross-border regions. Furthermore, democratization combined with softening of national states provided minorities with a possibility to maintain its institutions and organizations in politics, social sphere, and culture to meet the minority needs.

Methodology

The project has practical result-oriented approach of mapping and categorization of minorities and minority-related framework and focuses on the assessment of the following categories:

- the minority-related operational framework provided by a respective state (coordinating organs and institutions, advisory councils, programs and possible legal opportunities for the support of the minority culture and revitalization/stimulation of minority languages)
- cooperation and coordination opportunities among minorities,
- cooperation framework with a kin-state, if applicable, and
- diverse and often poly-centric self-organization of the minorities (cultural, political and educational representations, opportunities for certain categories of population)

The assessment will be achieved through the analyses of the respective websites of the minority-related state bodies, kin-state agencies for the cooperation with minorities,

coordinating organs for the minority cooperation, minority organizations. Additionally, open sources and direct communication with the involved parties will be used.

Activities

The first two years will be devoted to the collection of information and categorization for the minority database while the third year will be used for the maintenance of the database and publication of the categorization-related and country/minority-related articles/working papers.

Output

A major online database of minorities and their organization at the European borders will be maintained through a minority map. It will later be incorporated into MMTE.

A number of the categorization-related and country/minority-related articles/working papers will be produced.

Timeframe

3 years, beginning of 2013-end of 2015.



» Contact:
Hanna Vasilevich (vasilevich@ecmi.de)



CULTURE & DIVERSITY

The successful handling of cultural diversity is largely acknowledged as a crucial factor in ensuring societal stability. In this regard, cooperation between the members of increasingly heterogeneous societies across Europe will gain centre stage in public and political debates.

The EU slogan 'united in diversity' sums up the aims and objectives of the Cluster Culture & Diversity. The focus is on intercultural dialogue and exchanges between groups whose members perceive themselves as sharing a common culture and language(s). The Cluster sees as the challenge of modern, diverse societies the reconciling of multiculturalism and integration: the preservation of minority cultures and languages, while also ensuring minorities' integration and overall social unity.

» Contact:
Dr. Federica Prina (prina@ecmi.de)



PUBLIC MEDIA AND INTER-CULTURALISM

Aim and objectives

This research project will explore the role of public media as an inter-cultural tool. It will research how public media is (or can be) used as an instrument of social cohesion, cultural cross-fertilisation and the promotion of information on minorities as well as the majority.

Background

Special arrangements for minorities, such as the establishment of media outlets operating in minority languages, can protect and promote cultural diversity. At the same time, separate minority institutions can also contribute to ghettoization. This risk needs to be offset through simultaneous efforts towards integration, through fora that promote dialogue, plurilingualism and multiculturalism. Public media could then act as an inter-cultural tool, promoting the respect and appreciation of diversity. This study differs from other studies on diversity per se, as it aims at analysing how, if at all, different groups are brought together, rather than simply being present, in the media.

The concept of interaction between cultures is stressed by the suffix 'inter' of 'inter-culturalism': it involves the fostering of knowledge of the cultures and languages of both the majority and minorities, leading to the respect and appreciation of diversity. It is based on the view that adaptability and efforts of interaction come not only from minorities but also from the majority. Although new media is occupying an increasingly enhanced role in the lives of national minorities, providing them with an avenue for

self-expression, public media can be a factor of cohesion of diverse societies' multiple groups. 'Public media' is understood here as a combination of traditional public service broadcaster (PSB) and its electronic form (new media – e.g. www.bbc.co.uk).

Activities

The project will start with a workshop in Flensburg with academics working in the area of minorities and media. It will focus on identifying new areas of research in the particular project niche, as well as establishing a network of academics with common interests. The event will be followed by a working paper containing the results of the workshop.

A series of case studies will be selected to highlight: cases of good practice of pluralistic media, reflecting society's ethnic diversity and multiculturalism; and hindrances to a pluralistic public media. 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. The project will take into account, in particular, the standards for public media and media pluralism developed by the Council of Europe in the context of national minorities.

Outputs

- An ECMI working paper on media, minorities and interculturalism
- A special JEMIE issue on new media, encompassing the issue of cultural diversity

Timeframe
2013

MULTILINGUALISM AND INTEGRATION

Aim and objectives

This research project will explore multiculturalism and the promotion of minority languages, with a special focus on societies that are linguistically divided. It will aim at identifying the reasons behind these divides, whether through historical legacies or conflict, with a view to contributing to breaking deadlocks to societal and linguistic integration.

Background

Europe is multilingual. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages aims at preserving and fostering linguistic diversity as cultural wealth. At the same time, multilingualism need not come at the expense of social cohesion. Special arrangements for minorities that promote linguistic diversity, such as educational establishments in minority languages, could potentially lead to the isolation of particular groups, with the crystallisation of society's groups into two or more distinct linguistic spheres. On the other side of the spectrum are societies where minority languages remain at the margins of society, suffer from low prestige and risk disappearance altogether. There is, then, a pressing need to create a balance between linguistic integration and genuine multilingualism.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is clear that the protection of minority languages should not be to the detriment of the official languages and the need to learn them. Thus the fostering of

plurilingual skills in society's individual members need to be combined with one (or more) common, official language(s) that provide the basis for linguistic integration. Crucial in creating societal cohesion is the interaction between multiple (minority and majority) groups in the form of intercultural dialogue. Exchanges across linguistic and cultural boundaries can prevent the isolation of particular groups and societal fragmentation. The development of a plurilingual repertoire in an individual ought to occur in an environment that promotes the respect of the languages of others, and in which all languages are recognised as having equal value. Intercultural communication should extend to the participation of minorities in policy-making in the area of education and in curriculum development.

Activities

Research will be carried out with a focus on case studies of linguistically divided societies: Moldova and Kosovo. This research will enable the identification of further research initiatives on the promotion of linguistic diversity, which takes into account the need for a balance between multiculturalism and societal cohesion.

Outputs

- An ECMI working paper on Moldova's linguistic divide
- An ECMI working paper on Kosovo's linguistic divide
- An issue brief comparing the cases of Moldova and Kosovo

Timeframe

2013



Contact:

Dr. Federica Prina (prina@ecmi.de)

CROSS CLUSTER 2013

NATIONAL MINORITY INDICATORS

Aim and Objectives

This project will develop indicators to assess the levels of implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) in the state parties to these instruments. The main objective is to provide the FCNM Advisory Committee and the ECRML Committee of Experts, as well as state parties and minority groups, with two practical toolkits of minority indicators, on an article by article basis. With the overall goal of improving the implementation of the FCNM and ECRML, the outputs of the project will provide a detailed description of indicators offering a multi-dimensional and multi-domain approach to assessing the performance of states. 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.

ECMI has designed a project to develop detailed indicators for both instruments. In 2012 ECMI produced a preliminary study on the conceptualization of indicators to measure the impact of the ECRML

Methodology

The project will develop two sets of common indicators and indices (for the FCNM and ECRML)

The indicators will be developed by an inter-disciplinary network of experts. Professional evaluators will aid the formulation of methodologies and methods. The work will be overseen by two steering groups (for the FCNM and ECRML)

Outputs

- Two handbooks with indicators for each article of the FCNM and ECRML
- Two academic publications (FCNM and ECRML)

Activities

- Kick-off and conceptualization meeting in Flensburg
- Three steering group meetings in Strasbourg (constituting, mid-term evaluation; output evaluation)
- Six expert workshops
- Compiling of publications
- A final dissemination conference in Strasbourg

Timeframe
2013–16



BELARUS PROGRAMME

Aims

The programme is run jointly by two clusters – Justice & Governance and Citizenship & Ethics - with the aim to address minority issues at various levels. The Programme has been initiated in the framework of ECMI's contacts with the Belarusian academics and civil society components who address minority issues while working with existing minority organizations and governmental institutions in a transparent way. The programme seeks to invest in the development of the experts' and practitioners' communities dealing with minority issues in Belarus and to facilitate communications on minority issues between Belarus and the rest of Europe.

Action setup

The project run by ECMI, envisages several roundtables with academics and practitioners on minority issues in Minsk and in two regional centres; a research project on the communist legacies run in cooperation with Belarusian scholars (the book is to be issued by the end of 2013); publication of a guidebook on minority protection in the Belarusian language; elaboration of a teaching course on diversity issues for the higher and post-graduate education.

The Belarus programme provides also opportunity for carrying out empirical research.

Timeframe

2013–14

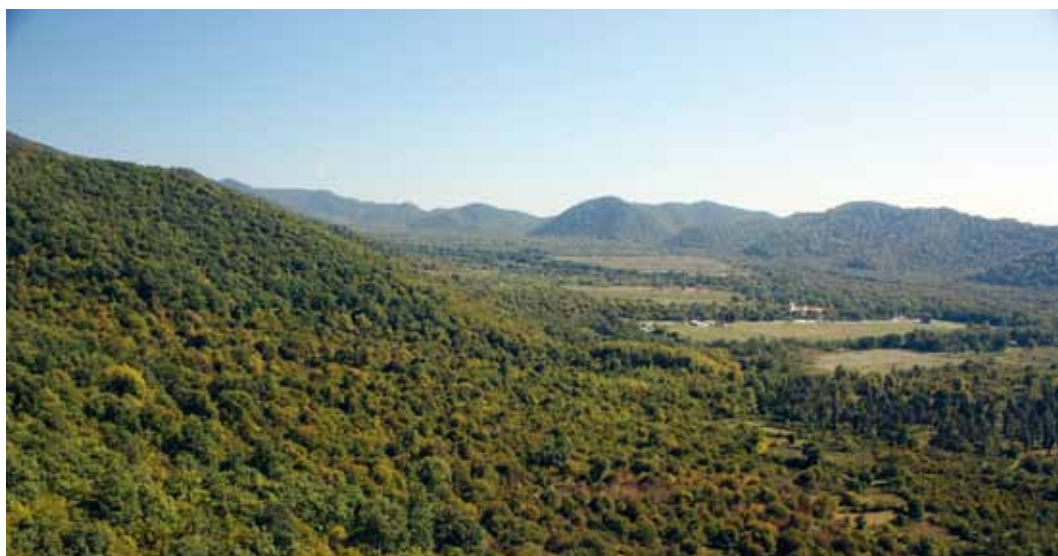
» Contact:

Dr. Alexander Osipov (osipov@ecmi.de)
Dr. Andreea Carstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)
Hanna Vasilevich (vasilevich@ecmi.de)

ACTION



*Advocacy training for women's NGOs. 15-16 November 2012 in Prishtinë/Priština.
The EC Project: Enhancing the Positive Impact of the Law for Vulnerable and
Marginalised Groups (VMGs) in Kosovo. Photographer: Gazmen Salijevis*



ECMI CAUCASUS 2013

The strategic goal of the ECMI Caucasus Programme is to advance minority governance as a democratic value, to which all three countries of the South Caucasus subscribe. The programme includes all three countries of the region as part of the Eastern Partnership cooperation, expanding activities of the Georgia programme achievements and lessons learnt to share the knowledge across the region, including Moldova and Belarus.

At the same time, the programme plans to use minority governance in its many aspects as a tool in advancing integration and inclusion of minorities in intra-state policies but also across the region. The reason for that is that the region is not only sharing its past Soviet legacy, but also many minority groups - those with kin-states and those without a kin-state, who often are exposed to different policies.

Another aspect is to address protracted conflicts in the region by introducing minority governance as one of the tools in conflict resolution. One of the topics is to encourage the states to implement their international commitments and to build competencies of the institutions to deal with minority grievances in a constructive way and in a dialogue with minorities and the larger society.



Contact:

Giorgi Sordia (sordia@ecmicaucasus.org)

Denola Chkhartishvili (chkhartishvili@ecmicaucasus.org)



GEORGIA

REPATRIATION OF MESKHETIANS (3 PROJECTS)

The three projects are all related to the repatriation of the Meskhetian Turks population deported from Georgia in 1940's. The projects continue ECMI Caucasus strong standing on that issue since the implementation of the EU-funded programme "Supporting the repatriation of persons deported from Georgia in the 1940s and their descendants".

Aim

To assist the Government of Georgia in elaboration of the repatriation strategy and adequate action plan; to support the Repatriation Unit of the MRA to process of the repatriation applications and to prepare existing Meskhetian communities as a resource in integration of the newcomers.

Background

Upon intensive awareness raising campaign about Georgia's commitments to the Council of Europe on rehabilitation and facilitation of the return of the deported peoples, the MRA engaged in processing of the repatriation applications of those wishing to acquire the repatriate status. Currently of 9.500 individuals who applied for the repatriation, over 900 persons received the status. This implies a two years timeframe for the physical return to Georgia and the acquisition of the Georgian citizenship. Yet, many families are waiting for the clarification of the repatriation strategy, allowing for the relocation with their belongings. The existing Meskhetian communities, who returned to Georgia during the Soviet period, settled in different regions of the country. Their experiences are very valuable in terms of finding the way in the areas and communities of the new integration.

Activities & outputs

- accelerating the pace of processing the repatriation applications
- offering a range of resettlement options for the returnees through information brochures in the languages of the countries of residence
- preparing and training the existing Meskhetian communities in serving as a bridge for integration of the newcomers
- preparing local municipalities with the experience of integration of the Meskhetians to share their best practices with other municipalities of potential settlement
- enhance gender aspect in the repatriation and integration policies and include women from Meskhetian communities to assist with integration of the repatriate women and children as well as female heads of households

Partners

Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons (MRA), Action Against Hunger (ACF), Meskhetian NGOs, municipalities in relevant regions

Timeframe

October 2012 – February 2014

NATIONAL MINORITIES AND ETHNO-POLITICAL ISSUES 2013 – 2016

The programme has a larger outreach to the six Eastern Partnership countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. For the South Caucasus part of the programme the focus is on Armenia and Georgia. It also includes two regional programmes on Minority Councils and Ombudsman. Aims and objectives of the Georgia component.

Aim

The Georgia component aims at furthering the political inclusion of national minority constituencies in consultative processes and at promoting policy enhancement on national minorities in Georgia in accordance with the Council of Europe Conventions. The specific objective is to conclude Georgia's fulfilment of her last remaining commitments/obligations to the Council of Europe by encouraging ratification of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and empowering national minority constituencies to become genuinely involved in consultation and policy making on issues affecting them. The capacity enhancement of minority organizations will focus on documenting and addressing issues of particular concern in minority-majority relations with a view to improve policies based on European standards. The programme component will build on activities carried out in the frames of previous Caucasus programmes funded by the Danish MFA and implemented in Georgia by ECMI.

Background

In recent years, Georgia has made significant progress towards enhancing policies on national minorities and developing institutional structures for policy implementation in accordance with European standards. A fully fledged institutional framework is now in place with a number of state bodies specifically responsible for the development and implementation of policies in relation to national minorities. Major conventions related to national minorities, including in particular the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, have been ratified. They are actively being put into practice through the adoption of a National Concept on Tolerance and Civil Integration in 2009, a key instrument for the implementation of minority policies. Through funding provided by the Danish MFA, the ECMI - along with other international actors such as the Council of Europe, the UNDP and the United Nations Association in Georgia supported by USAID - has played and continues to play an important role in furthering the advancement of good governance in the field. ECMI has focused particularly on supporting the establishment and effective functioning of an inter-governmental coordination body on minority issues



and civil integration (under the State Minister for Reintegration) and the Council of National Minorities (a minority-state consultative body working under the Public Defender of Georgia). Both structures are now well consolidated and will be largely sustainable towards the end of Denmark's Georgia Programme 2010-13. At the same time, the United Nations Association in Georgia is expected to continue providing support to these government structures in the coming years.

Activities & outputs and expected results

Two sub-components are envisaged:

- Empowering minority communities to expand the space for articulating their concerns through strengthening the capacity of existing civil society organizations in minority inhabited regions, as well as promoting the inclusion of regional minorities in fora for dialogue between the central/regional government and minority communities.

- Promoting policy change on minority-related issues in accordance with European standards through research, documentation and consultation. ECMI's documentation and research work has so far been instrumental in helping minority and state actors in identifying and addressing concerns of minorities and in promoting a fact-based and informed dialogue towards finding solutions.

Partners

State Ministry for Reintegration; Ombudsman Tolerance Centre, Ministry of Justice, Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights

Timeframe

March 2013-February 2015



Contact:

Ewa Chylinski (chylinski@ecmi.de)

ECMI KOSOVO 2013

The year 2013 is a key year for Kosovo. It is the first year of independence without 'supervision' and Kosovo will want to take important steps towards visa liberalization and European Integration. Kosovo's performance in relation to minority rights, particularly through the Pristina-Belgrade dialogue, will play a central role in these processes. In light of these developments, ECMI Kosovo has identified five strategic objectives for 2013:

- **Consolidate presence in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica North** - Recognizing the importance of this region in the Pristina-Belgrade dialogue, ECMI Kosovo will aim to strengthen the newly opened office in Northern Kosovo, deepen its relations with local stakeholders and increase its activities in the region.
- **Support Government Minority Policy** - ECMI Kosovo has for over 10 years been a strong actor in supporting the Kosovo government in the development and implementation of minority policy. In 2013, ECMI Kosovo will continue to work with the most important Government agencies on minority policy, including the Consultative Council for Communities in the Office of the President and the Office for Community Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister.
- **Strengthen Minorities' and vulnerable groups' Socio-economic Integration** - Minority communities in Kosovo today remain socially and economically isolated and separated, which is threatening to strengthen processes of marginalization already underway. ECMI Kosovo will aspire to strengthen the socio-economic integration of minority communities, particularly women, through its work with local business communities and administrations.
- **Promote Education and Language Rights** - Education and language rights are central concerns to minority communities in Kosovo, and their effective implementation remains one of the main challenges faced by the Kosovo Government. Building on its previous work in these fields, ECMI Kosovo will support Kosovo institutions in transforming the paper rights into a reality on the ground.
- **Build Capacities of Minority Civil Society** - Minority civil society has an important role to play as the link, through dialogue and advocacy, between local communities and institutions. Unfortunately, minority civil society continues to be underdeveloped with limited capacities and weak relations with decision making authorities. In order to address this issue, ECMI Kosovo will implement a comprehensive programme of capacity building support to minority civil society.

» **Contact:**
Adrian Zeqiri (zeqiri@ecmikosovo.org)



SUPPORT TO MINORITY COMMUNITIES DURING AND AFTER THE DECENTRALISATION PROCESS

Aim and objectives

As a contribution to ethnic reconciliation and stabilised majority-minority relations in Kosovo, this project aims to reinforce the socioeconomic and political inclusion of minority communities in Kosovo, by supporting local governments and communities and stimulating local economic development in the newly established Serb-majority municipalities of Gračanica/ Graçanicë, Klokot/Klllokot, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë, Parteš/Partesh and Ranilug/Ranillug. It also supports the decentralisation process and the emergence of a stronger civil society 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 a decentralisation process, which has resulted in the establishment of four new municipalities in minority areas during 2009 and 2010 (Gračanica/ Graçanicë, Klokot /Klllokot, Parteš/ Partesh and Ranilug/Ranillug) and in the enlargement of an existing one, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë; these are all Serb-majority municipalities.

In addition to bringing services closer to citizens of all communities, the establishment of new municipalities has also created better conditions and incentives for integrating minority communities in society. However, the capacities of these new local governments remain limited and their integration in broader Kosovo society needs to be further supported.

The decentralisation process has not lead to the planned establishment of a fully fledged municipality in Mitrovica/ë North, mainly for political reasons, leaving the population without a well-established local government to deliver services and improve socioeconomic conditions. Decentralisation in the North of Kosovo thus remains an objective in the medium-term. This can be achieved by supporting the Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica North Administrative Office (MNAO), increasing capacities and advocacy skills of local civil society organisations and raising government's and international stakeholders' awareness of the socioeconomic situation in the region.

Activities in 2013

Provide legal support to the targeted municipalities in creating a sound regulatory framework to encourage local economic development and support small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
Establish formal or non-formal business associations and networks to better advocate in favour of minority entrepreneurs' rights

Provide training and support to local SMEs for business registration and business development
Conduct awareness-raising activities on decentralisation and support MNAO intervention in Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica North

Funding

Ministry for
Foreign Affairs of Finland

Timeframe

2011 – 2013

INCREASING INCLUSION OF ROMA, ASHKALI AND EGYPTIAN COMMUNITIES IN EDUCATION COMMUNITIES

Aim and objectives

The project aims to increase the access to education of children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians communities and prevent and address school drop-outs, by strengthening the capacities of municipal officials of the Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/Obilić municipalities to deliver inclusive education.

Background

Under Kosovo legislation, all individuals in Kosovo have the right to equal access to education. Special laws, policies and strategies have been adopted to ensure that members from minority communities can fully enjoy their rights, including their right to education. Nonetheless, children from minority communities continue to face significant challenges in the area of education and the situation facing children from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities is particularly alarming. It is characterized by low attendance in compulsory education, high drop-out rates and high numbers of out of school children.

In Kosovo, municipalities are the main institutions responsible for ensuring that all children can effectively exercise their right to education. Therefore, ECMI Kosovo will support municipal officials of the two target municipalities to systematically address the challenges faced by Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in accessing their right to education.

Activities in 2013

- Support to municipalities in development and/or operationalisation of Action Plans to guide their work in increasing the inclusion of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in education
- Provide pointed support to municipalities to implement specific interventions through training and on the job mentoring
- Establish and support of a multi-stakeholder Task Force in each target municipality for the monitoring and evaluation of inclusion policies
- Evaluate of the main project achievements and advocate for the institutionalisation of best practices for inclusive education

Funding

UNICEF

Timeframe

2012–2013





SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE FOR MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN KOSOVO

Aim and objectives

The project aims to improve governance on minority issues in Kosovo, by providing a comprehensive program of support targeting a wide range of institutions and civil society actors, and by focusing on sustainable tools for policy, capacity-building and monitoring purposes, which can be used beyond the duration of the project.

Background

Kosovo has developed a strong institutional and legislative framework for the protection of minority rights. However, much remains to be done to ensure and enhance the effectiveness of this framework. Presently, the relevant government institutions lack adequate capacities and knowledge to fully implement the legislative framework. At the same time, minority community members themselves also lack awareness of their rights, relevant legislation and institutions. To address the gap between the institutions and legislation that exist on paper and the reality faced by minority communities on the ground, ECMI will provide a comprehensive program of support aimed at improving governance on minority issues in Kosovo. Specifically, the project will seek to tackle four main problems:

- Most institutions in Kosovo lack awareness on minority rights. These are instead dealt with almost exclusively by institutions specifically established for minority communities which, also continue to lack the in-depth expertise needed to operate effectively.

- Institutions specifically set up to deal with community issues continue to lack capacities to adequately exercise their mandates.
- Kosovo institutions presently lack adequate capacities or tools to effectively monitor or evaluate community rights, leaving them with a dearth of information.
- Most minority community members in Kosovo still lack awareness of their rights and the institutions responsible for their implementation, as well as advocacy skills.

Activities in 2013

- Design a curriculum on community rights for Kosovo civil servants, to ensure a basic awareness on minority rights throughout Kosovo institutions;
- Provide strategic advice and technical support to institutions set up specifically to deal with minority issues;
- Develop, in coordination with the Kosovo Assembly Committee on Rights, Interests of Communities and Returns (CRICR), a comprehensive mechanism for the monitoring and evaluation of minority rights in Kosovo, based on Minority Rights Indicators;
- Set up a school on community rights and advocacy for civil society representatives from minority communities, as well as other interested participants from majority civil society organization.

Funding

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

Timeframe

2013

KOSOVO

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES THROUGH DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

Aim and Objectives

The overall aim of this project is to contribute to creating the necessary conditions for a constructive, systematic and effective dialogue and partnership between minority civil society and government institutions at the local and central levels in Kosovo.

Background

In Kosovo, various legal provisions and institutional mechanisms are in place to allow for public participation in policy and decision-making at the local and central levels. However, despite some 'success stories' of minority civil society engagement in particular policy areas, there is no regular, systematic and effective dialogue between minority civil society organizations (CSOs) and institutions. Several challenges thus remain to ensure that participation mechanisms become meaningful, and minority civil society can effectively fulfil its role as a key actor in the development and strengthening of a pluralistic, participatory and accountable democracy.

Activities in 2013

The following are some of the activities that will be conducted by ECMI Kosovo and its partners during 2013, the first year of this two-year project:

- Conduct a comprehensive mapping of minority CSOs in Kosovo, and compile a database.
- Organise workshops at the local level and dialogue sessions between minority CSOs and Kosovo Assembly members to raise awareness of the role of civil society, and to increase trust between civil society and government institutions.
- Provide a comprehensive advocacy support program for minority CSO representatives to implement advocacy campaigns on specific issues that matter to communities on the ground, with a view to enhancing their skills and capacities to effectively engage in policy and decision-making processes.
- Conduct initial activities, including interviews and workshops, to foster the establishment of minority CSO networks with the ultimate goal of enabling them to advocate with one voice for their needs and interests.

Funding

Funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo

Timeframe

2013-2014 (24 months)

» Contact:
Adrian Zeqiri (zeqiri@ecmikosovo.org)



SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITIES

Aim and Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to improve the effective protection and promotion of the rights and interests of all minority communities in Kosovo at the central level. Specifically, it aims to create the conditions for an effective participation of minority civil society representatives in the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC), a body which serves as an exchange channel between minority communities and the government.

Background

Kosovo's institutional framework recognises the important role of civil society organisations (CSOs), particularly in relation to minority communities. The creation of the CCC within the Office of the President of Kosovo in 2008 was a positive step. Over the past years, the CCC has been significantly strengthened. However, some challenges remain to make it an effective and influential institution, including some inconsistencies in the documents governing its functioning and the lack of clarity about the relation between CCC and local minority CSOs; the difficulties of the CCC in making its voice heard to government institutions and the low capacities of its civil society members; and the weak link between the latter and the local communities whose interests they represent.

Activities in 2013

During 2013, the first year of this two-year project, ECMI Kosovo will implement the following activities: Support the amendment of the CCC's Rules of Procedure to ensure consistency with the newly amended Statute, and the drafting of terms of engagement of CCC with minority CSOs. Deliver a tailor-made training program to increase the capacities of the newly appointed CCC civil society members.

- Support CCC civil society members and local minority community NGOs in cooperating together to organise advocacy campaigns to achieve concrete change in government policy.
- Organise a first series of outreach workshops to increase the level of cooperation between the local and central level.
- Provide technical support in the development and utilisation of communication tools in order to reach out to communities, including a website, leaflets, a newsletter, social media, and a promotional film.

Funding

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Timeframe

2013-2014 (24 months)

» **Contact:**
Adrian Zeqiri (zeqiri@ecmikosovo.org)

RECURRING ACTIVITIES





ANNUAL EVENTS

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 has 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?



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 multidisciplinary 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.

» Contact:
Dr. Tove Malloy
(malloy@ecmi.de)

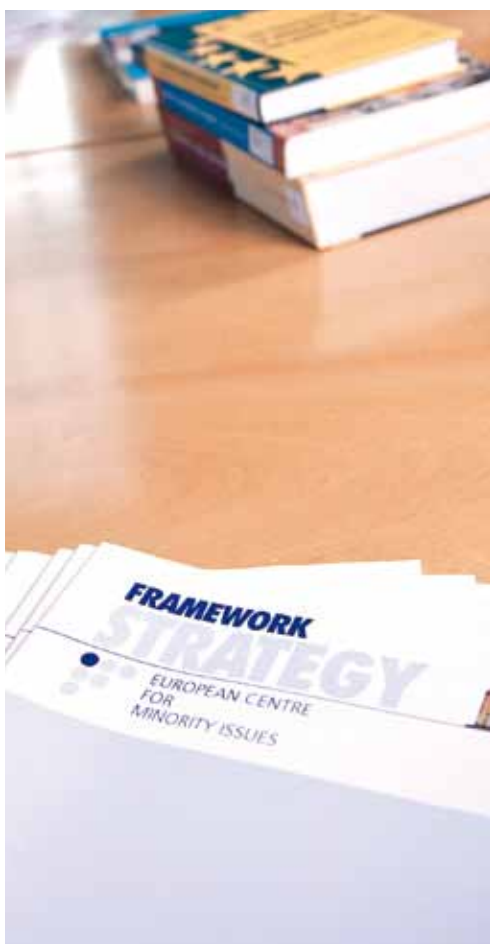
ANNUAL EVENTS

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.



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



TRAININGS





ECMI SUMMER SCHOOL

National Minorities and 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 2013.

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.

» **Contact:**
Hanna Vasilevich (vasilevich@ecmi.de)

ECMI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

To interested students and researchers, ECMI HQ in Flensburg, ECMI Kosovo and ECMI Caucasus offer the possibility of unpaid internships on pre-agreed research topics or projects. Additional information about the application procedure and the internship opportunities for all the offices can be obtained from the ECMI Secretariat.

» **Contact:**
Maj-Britt Hansen (hansen@ecmi.de)



ECMI TRAINING COURSES

ECMI offers tailor-made training courses for academia and professionals from a range of fields: human rights, development work, humanitarian work, education, law and law enforcement, social work, healthcare, and media.

ECMI provides in-house trainings on minority rights and related issues on demand. The courses designed to serve the needs of NGOs, public institutions, governmental agencies, international agencies and organisations pay a particular attention on topics like programming, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, international and regional human rights mechanisms.

The trainings can include various elements of the standard courses, compiled to adjust to particular needs. ECMI delivers trainings in Danish, English, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, and Spanish.



List of courses

General courses

- Minority Rights in Theory and Practice (offered also as an e-course)
- Minority Politics in Practice
- Minorities and Conflict
- Minority Governance
- Minority Rights Framework
- Mainstreaming Minority Issues in Governance
- Mainstreaming Minority Issues in Development

Country-based courses

- Minority issues in the Eastern Partnership (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova)
- Minority issues in the Balkans
- Minority issues in the Caucasus
- Minority issues in Europe

Full description of the courses is available online at www.ecmi.de/trainings/

For more information or to place a training request, please contact ECMI Secretariat.

» **Contact:**
Maj-Britt Hansen (hansen@ecmi.de)

TRAININGS

PUBLICATIONS





JOURNAL ON ETHNOPOLITICS AND MINORITY ISSUES IN EUROPE

Aim and Objectives

JEMIE is a peer-reviewed electronic journal. Its approach is multi-disciplinary, addressing issues across a broad range of studies, such as ethnopolitics, democratization, conflict management, good governance, participation and minority rights. It publishes articles by established academics but also supports young scholars at the initial stages of their careers. The journal aims at stimulating debate among the academic community by publishing high-quality articles that are freely accessible on the internet (<http://www.ecmi.de/publications/jemie/>)

Background

JEMIE has been in existence since 2000. It has published both issues around specific themes (special issues) as well as general articles. ECMI produced four issues for Volume 11 (2012) of JEMIE, on:

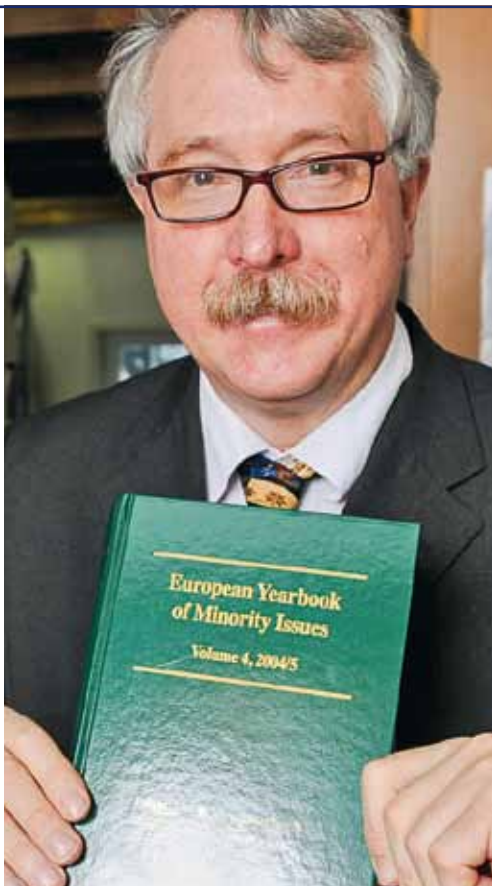
- Minority Languages Revitalization
- The EU and National Minorities in the Balkans
- Reconciliation in the Western Balkans
- New Media and Minorities (combined with general articles)

Outputs

Four issues are planned for 2013 around four main themes:

- Non-Territorial Autonomy
- Freedom of Expression of Minorities in the Digital Age
- Reconciliation in the Basque Country
- Europeanization and National Minorities





The European Yearbook is edited and published in collaboration with the European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen, Institute for Minority Rights (Italy).

The European Yearbook of Minority Issues provides a critical and timely review of contemporary developments in minority-majority relations in Europe. It combines analysis, commentary and documentation in relation to conflict management, international legal developments and domestic legislation affecting minorities in Europe.

This year 2012 saw the publication of Volume 9 of the Yearbook. Focused on the 2010 international and national developments on minority rights, this edition of the Yearbook features special focus sections on Education and Minorities in the Media and Religion.

EUROPEAN YEARBOOK OF MINORITY ISSUES

Volume 10 of the Yearbook will be published in 2013 and will include a special focus section on Roma issues. In the same year, the special 10th Anniversary volume of the Yearbook will also be issued in form of special collection of the most relevant articles from the ten previous editions of the Yearbook.

Apart from providing a unique annual overview of minority issues for both scholars and practitioners in this field, the Yearbook is an indispensable reference tool for libraries, research institutes as well as governments and international organisations.

EYMI volumes 1 to 10 can be obtained from Brill Academic Publishers.



Contact:
Dr. Alexander Osipov (osipov@ecmi.de)
Ugo Caruso (caruso@ecmi.de)



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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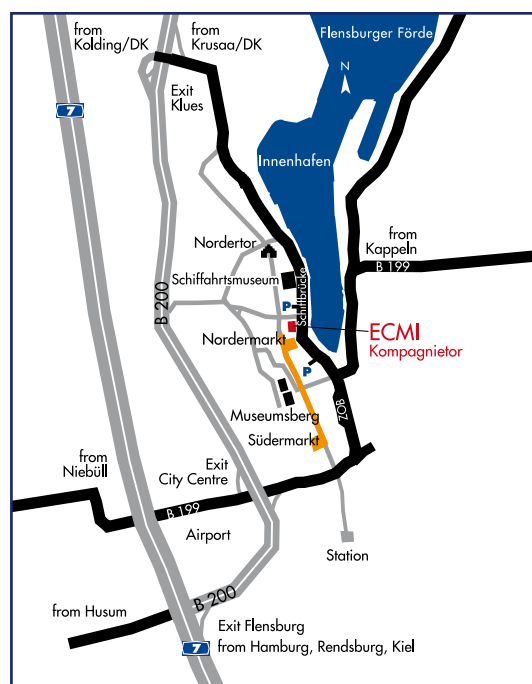
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European Centre
for Minority Issues (ECMI)
Schiffbrücke 12
24939 Flensburg
Germany

T: +49 (0)461 1 41 490
F: +49 (0)461 1 41 4919
E: info@ecmi.de
W: www.ecmi.de

Regional offices:

ECMI Kosovo
St. Rexhep Luci
Entrance 16 No.3
10000 Prishtina
Kosovo
T: +381 38 224 161
E: info@ecmikosovo.org
W: www.ecmikosovo.org

ECMI Caucasus
15, Arakishvili Str.
0179 Tbilisi
Georgia
T: +995 32 912 252
F: +995 32 2 22 61 23
E: info@ecmcaucasus.org
W: www.ecmcaucasus.org