

ANNUAL PROGRAMME



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

2015

CONTENTS

European Centre
for Minority Issues (ECMI)

Director:
Tove H. Malloy

© ECMI 2015

FOREWORD 3

ECMI HIGHLIGHTS 2015 4

RESEARCH 5

Justice & Governance 6-10

Politics & Civil Society 11-14

Conflict & Security 15-20

Citizenship & Ethics 21-25

Culture & Diversity 26-29

Cross Cluster 30-35

ACTION

Caucasus 36-41

Kosovo 42-53

Flensburg 54-56

RECURRING ACTIVITIES

Annual Events 57

Training 58-62

Library and Publications 63-64

ECMI INSTITUTION

ECMI Board 65

ECMI Advisory Council 66-67



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



Welcome to the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) Annual Programme 2015.

With this instrument we hope to communicate and enter into dialogue with our partners about the issues and challenges that national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities face. It is no secret that there is a changing order and new insecurities emerging in Europe. After an optimistic beginning to the 21st Century, Europe and its Neighbourhood are now undergoing significant changes and challenges that were not foreseen by experts and policy-makers. New geopolitical winds are again disturbing the 'world order.' Moreover, while most European Union member states are facing increased Euro-scepticism, right-wing populism and economic separatism, the Neighbourhood region to the East is struggling with the dilemma: East or West? These aspects of human (in)security and radicalisation of the public space often affect minorities more adversely than mainstream society. At the same time, global concerns, such as climate change, the aging of populations, youth unemployment, and violations of human and minority rights are continuous challenges that Europe needs to address. The ECMI selects those issues and challenges that are relevant for protecting and promoting minority identity and cultures and designs its project accordingly.

This year we have highlighted our most prominent initiatives for you on page 3. In addition, we continue a number of ongoing **research activities**, plus we plan new initiatives in critical areas of minority protection and cultural issues. With the rising separatism movements, autonomy for regional and cultural minorities is back on the European agenda. The ECMI has focused on non-territorial autonomy for some years now, and our cluster **Justice and Governance** will continue this effort with the publication of its first edited volume, *Managing Diversity through Non-Territorial Autonomy: Assessing Advantages, Deficiencies and Risk* in 2015. In the cluster **Politics and Civil Society**, we will continue to study the financing and funding of minority institutions and organisations. Minority rights are not considered sustainable until minority institutions are fully funded. The changes in Europe's security picture are created not only by issues similar to the Cold War period, but also by the emerging right-wing movements that exhibit hatred against minorities. Thus, our cluster **Conflict and Security** will focus renew its focus on the proliferation of hate speech in new media. Since media is such an important part of everybody's life, we also wish to analyse the media's influence on inter-cultural dialogue. With a new initiative aimed at examining media's role in creating pluralism and social cohesion, our cluster **Culture and Diversity** has begun mapping minority media in a number of countries. This will be continued in 2015. Our **Citizenship and Ethics** cluster is also pursuing research that examines social cohesion through an effort to map the cultural competencies of minorities.

On the **action side** both our offices in **Kosovo and Georgia** have initiated projects aimed at protecting women in minorities against violence. In addition, our office in Georgia has initiated a network for ombudspersons in South Caucasus while our efforts in Kosovo will focus intensively on normalising language equality in Kosovo. And our Eastern Partnership Project will start full scale implementation in **Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine**.

We also continue our education and publication projects. You can find more information about these and many other projects inside this Programme.

Thank you for your interest in the ECMI.



Tove H. Malloy
ECMI Director

FOREWORD

ECMI HIGHLIGHTS 2015

ECMI IN BELARUS, MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (2014 – 2016)

ECMI's ambition of furthering diversity management in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine will be implemented within the framework of the three-year **Eastern Partnership Programme (EPP)**, launched in September 2014 with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (see page 54)

MINORITY MAP AND TIMELINE OF EUROPE (MMTE) NOW ONLINE

The MMTE is an online interactive and hands-on research tool that provides an impartial perspective and evaluation of minorities, minority issues, and minority-majority relations within all states and regions of Europe (see page 35)

ECMI CONFERENCE 2015

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the inception of the European minority rights system and its subsequent developments, ECMI will hold an international conference titled **"The 1990 CSCE Copenhagen Document, East-West encounters and evolutions of the minority regime in Europe"** (see page 56)

ECMI CAUCASUS

ECMI Caucasus will assist the Georgian Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality in adjusting the **Minority Inclusion Strategy and the Action Plan for the period 2015-2020** (see page 37). The new initiative **Culture and Identity of Minorities** will target the visibility of minority identities **the Regional Dialogue on Freedom of Religion or Belief** and the value of cultural diversity in Georgia (see page 38) Involving the State Agencies on Religious Affairs in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia is expected to regulate inter-religious and ethno-religious communication (see page 40)

ECMI KOSOVO

The ECMI office in **Mitrovica/ë North** has been actively involved in building trust between Albanian and Serbian communities through establishing cooperation with Mitrovica North Administration Office (MNAO) and local communities. In 2015, ECMI Kosovo will focus on the diploma recognition for graduates from the University of Mitrovica North (UMN) (see page 49) A new set of **specialised training materials of Albanian and Serbian languages for civil servants** will be developed by accredited Institutions through ECMI Kosovo and the Office of the Language Commissioner within the Office of the Prime Minister. The project will expand to include language classes for civil servants (see page 51)

Interested in attending ECMI Summer School 2015 on National Minorities and Border Regions? The topic this year is: "The changing order and new insecurities: impact on minorities in Europe" (See page 59)



●●● www.ecmi.de

ECMI DIRECTORS

Dr Tove Malloy, Director of ECMI
Ewa Chylinski, Acting Director for ECMI Caucasus
Adrian Zeqiri, Executive Director of ECMI Kosovo

ECMI RESEARCHERS & SUPPORT STAFF

Dr Andreea Cârstocea, Senior Research Associate, Head of Cluster Politics & Civil Society
Dr Raul Cârstocea, Senior Research Associate, Head of Cluster Conflict & Security
Dr Mindaugas Kuklys, Senior Research Associate, Politics and Civil Society Cluster
Dr Alexander Osipov, Senior Research Associate, Head of Cluster Justice & Governance
Dr Zora Popova, Senior Research Associate, Head of Cluster Culture & Diversity
Dr Hanna Vasilevich, Project Research Associate, Manager of the ECMI EPP
Sonja Wolff, Project assistant, MMTE
Tamari Bulia, Project coordinator and PA to the Director
Maj-Britt Risbjerg Hansen, Head of Secretariat
William McKinney, Electronic services librarian
Mariana Jimsheladze, Assistant to the secretariat
Viktoria Martovskaya, Assistant to the secretariat and EPP Programme
Oana Buta, Project assistant, MMTE
Astrid Voss, Legal Counsel and Development Officer
Lutz Andres, Accountant
Andrea Young, International Communications Officer



RESEARCH



Dr Alexander Osipov
Senior Research Associate,
Head of Cluster
JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

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 require focused attention. In 2015, 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 related issues such as promotion of equality, cultural policies, and categorisation 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 cases where the ideas of minority protection are applied contrary to their substance, to elaborate the criteria for the selection of such cases, and to analyse their causes and consequences.

The Eastern Partnership Programme, developed jointly by all ECMI clusters and field offices, addresses minority issues at various levels, seeking to invest in the development of the expert and practitioner communities dealing with minority issues in the EU Eastern borderland and to facilitate communication concerning minority issues between this region and the rest of Europe.



COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT 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 events and publications on NTA issues.

Action Setup

ECMI, in cooperation with The Tom Lantos Institute, EURAC and with the Political Science Department of Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania works on an Oxford University Press Series on Territorial and Non-territorial Autonomies.

Partner Institutions

The Tom Lantos Institute (Hungary), Institute for Ethnic and National Minority Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Hungary), EURAC (Italy), the Political Science Department of Babes-Bolyai University (Romania)

Outcome

Two volumes of the series are to be issued in 2015; one other is to be submitted to a publisher.

STUDY OF INTER-ETHNIC COALITIONS WITHIN AND ACROSS STATES

Aims

This cross-national multidisciplinary collaborative project aims at empirical study and theoretic 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 organisations designed for the provision of inter-ethnic dialogue and prevention of conflicts. The project addresses several types of ethnicity-based organisations designed to provide for civil participation, representation, reconciliation and self-government.

Action Setup

The project must become a springboard for a comparative cross-national study binding together legal, sociological and political science approaches. The conference, which is to be held in Uppsala in January 2015, to bring together scholars and practitioners who work on the issues of integration and promotion of inter-ethnic dialogue.

Partner Institutions

The University of Glasgow (the UK), Uppsala Forum (Sweden), University of Bradford (the UK)

Outcome

A conference, a book volume and a collaborative research network

Funding

Rijksbanken (Sweden)



Contact persons:
Dr Tove Malloy
(malloy@ecmi.de)
Dr Alexander Osipov
(osipov@ecmi.de)

MINORITIES AND TERRITORIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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 amount of scholarly publications concerning ethnic and cultural dimensions of sub-national territorial arrangements, some deficiencies and gaps in these studies and public debates still persist.

The research area can be described as linkages between the notions of territory and ethnicity in public debates and policies concerning ethnic minorities, as well as related issues regarding promotion of equality, cultural policies, and categorisation of ethnic groups through territorial affiliations. The objectives of the WP are achieved through research and public discussions. The objectives are the description, comparison and critical assessment of the ways minorities are symbolically attached to and/or detached from certain territories. The results of these discourses are analysed regarding their impact on minority policies. This area provides for a new perspective on how to look at the ways 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

The project addresses the variety of models under which linkages between ethnicity and territory are articulated (or acknowledged implicitly) and conceptually organized. It also initiates discussion on the 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



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



DIFFERENCES AND SYNERGIES BETWEEN MINORITY PROTECTION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Aims

The cluster aims to explore the disjuncture and similarities in interpretations and conceptual organisation 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 analyse theoretical 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 project seeks to address issues that are relevant to diversity policies and jurisprudence and are still overlooked or insufficiently studied, rather than theoretic 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 activities are merged into the ECMI Eastern Partnership Programme (EPP), including expert seminars on the issues of equality with regard to national minorities covering Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

Outcome

The EPP seminar proceedings are to be used for publications within and beyond the Programme's scope, as well as for the planning of future events; practice-oriented conclusions made in the course of the EPP may be transformed into policy recommendations.

Funding The Danish MFA (for EPP)

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 the late 1980s.

Action Setup

The cluster seeks to contribute to the ECMI conference on the 25th anniversary of the CSCE Copenhagen Summit Document of 1990, and in the course of this event to hold a section on minority policies in the late 1980s before demise of the communism. Actions taken throughout 2015 will include negotiations with partners, and fundraising.

Expected outcomes

A conference (June 2015), a book volume, and revitalisation of the collaborative research network on communist legacies

Partner Institutions

University of Glasgow

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

Aims

The project aims to launch a scholarly discussion on the long-term risks posed by misinterpretations of minority protection, non-discrimination and related ideas. Identification of potential research topics and objectives and assessment of their relevance will 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 host PhD students and post-docs working on the respective issues. Actions taken throughout 2015 will include searching for potential partners and sponsors.

Expected outcomes

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



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



Dr Andreea Cârstocea
Senior Research Associate,
Head of Cluster **POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY**

Dr Mindaugas Kuklys
Senior Research Associate

POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

The capacity of national minority groups to exert influence over decisions taken in the political, socio-economic, or cultural spheres represents a fundamental condition for a peaceful and democratic society. As such, the extent to which political parties and non-governmental organisations of citizens belonging to national minorities are capable of successfully advocating change in favour of the groups they represent is an important indicator of the level of empowerment of national minorities.

Consequently, the Politics & Civil Society Cluster focuses on the analysis and evaluation of the capacity of minority parties and non-governmental organisations to induce desired changes at the local, national, and European levels, with the purpose of identifying the best practices and most appropriate solutions that would lead to improving the level of participation of national minority groups in public life. The theoretical underpinnings of the cluster's activities lie both in the classic understandings of participation, which focus primarily on electoral processes such as voting or participating in election-related campaign activities, as well as on more recent developments in understanding participation, such as non-electoral mobilisation, protest, or participation through new media.

More specifically, the cluster approaches participation from two main perspectives. On the one hand it analyses how minority organisations are empowered by the state by looking at the consultation mechanisms in place, the public funding available, and the general patterns of interaction between non-governmental minority organisations and relevant state institutions. This top-down approach is complemented by a bottom-up one, analysing patterns of mobilisation at the grass-roots level and their impact on decision making. The cluster focuses also on transversal patterns of representation, looking at how minority women and young persons participate in public life.

MONEY MATTERS: DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTING NATIONAL MINORITIES

Aims and objectives

The participation of national minorities in political and public life is to a great extent determined by the activities of their representative organisations, for whose functioning adequate funding is of fundamental importance. Building on the results of an expert meeting on this topic organised by ECMI in December 2012, this project aims to create a comprehensive overview of the practices employed by governments for distributing funds to minority organisations across Europe, thus creating the foundations for a conceptual and practical framework that would lead to a better understanding of how participation of national minorities is enabled through funding throughout Europe.

Background

Despite the fundamental importance of ensuring adequate funding to minority organisations for the effective participation of national minorities in political and public life, both academic literature and policy analysis on this topic are extremely sparse. The amounts earmarked for use by national minority organisations, their distribution, the funding priorities of states, as well as the monitoring and transparency mechanisms in place are all important aspects of the financial support offered to such organisations across Europe. The project thus aims to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and understanding of the issues surrounding funding for minority organisations.

Thematic areas of research

The project will focus on the issue of funding as directed by states to minority organisations by analysing three main thematic areas. First, the funding of projects proposed by minority organisations will be analysed, taking into account the criteria employed by states in selecting the projects and the recipients of the funds, the respective amounts earmarked, the procedures by which states determine their spending priorities, and the evaluation and impact assessment mechanisms in place. Second, the issue of funding as related to the political participation of minority groups will be researched, including the manner in which political minority organisations obtain their funding, the transparency and reporting requirements, the legal restrictions in place, and their practical effects. The third component analyses minority funding from an international perspective, with a focus on minorities' kin states, which sometimes provide them with material help (financial or in kind). In addition to much needed research on specific case studies, there are many normative questions to be answered, such as the limits of such involvement, the impact on domestic politics, etc.

Timeframe

2015-2016

Expected outcomes

Database; Conference; Book; Policy recommendations

ETHNIC REPRESENTATION IN THE BALTIC STATES

Aims and objectives

Representation of interests through political parties is a key mechanism in any democracy. This applies not only to majorities but also to minorities. Although only the largest ethnic minorities are capable of achieving parliamentary representation through their own political parties, the smaller minorities can also enter the parliament on the list of the mainstream parties or political organisations of larger minorities. The aim of this project is to identify and explain the ways ethnic minorities achieve parliamentary representation in the Baltic States.

Background

Underrepresentation of ethnic minorities in the Baltic States after the break-up of the Soviet Union has for a long time been in the focus of international policy analysts and received considerable attention in academic literature. Since 1995 there have been continuous downward trends in the share of stateless persons and significant upward trends in the parliamentary representation of ethnic minorities in Estonia and Latvia, however the Baltic societies still demonstrate the highest rates of minority underrepresentation in Europe.

Thematic and methodological aspects

The project investigates representation of ethnic minorities in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania from 1990 onwards assuming that numerical (descriptive) representation leads to a substantive representation. It relies on the original dataset of Baltic legislators and seeks to explain the changing dynamics in representation from the temporal and cross-country perspectives. The project treats representation as a dependent variable and seeks to explain how institutional transformation and other changes in politics and society affect representation of minority groups.

Expected outcomes

Research study; Policy recommendations

Timeframe

2014-2015



Contact:
Dr Mindaugas Kuklys (kuklys@ecmi.de)

ETHNIC PARTIES IN EASTERN EUROPE: MONOETHNIC OR MULTIETHNIC?

Aims and objectives

Since 1989 Eastern Europe witnessed an emergence of a large number of ethnic political parties, however there have been very few attempts to differentiate between them. This project aims to fill the existing gap in the research by using the analytical distinction between monoethnic and multiethnic political parties for the societies of Eastern Europe.

Background

It has been argued by many social scientists that ethnic parties, unless they function in the consociational political systems, have a negative effect on democracies (especially for new democracies or systems in transition). However, if one differentiates between ethnic political parties more precisely, one finds some evidence that the above statement is applicable to the monoethnic but not multiethnic parties (by facilitating political integration, multiethnic parties contribute to democratic consolidation more than monoethnic parties).

Thematic and methodological aspects

Although not all ethnic parties are the same, the analytical distinction between monoethnic and multiethnic parties is not easily visible. The project proposes to differentiate among ethnic parties not only according to their (1) party names but also according to their (2) programmes and (3) membership (monoethnic/multiethnic). Finally, identification of the electorate (who are the party voters and supporters) would allow for a more precise differentiation.

The project also seeks to find out whether there are social and institutional conditions that make the emergence of multiethnic parties more likely.

Timeframe

2014-2015

Expected outcomes

Research Study



Contact:

Dr Andreea Cârstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)

Dr Mindaugas Kuklys (kuklys@ecmi.de)



Dr Raul Cârstocea
Senior Research Associate,
Head of Cluster
CONFLICT & SECURITY

CONFLICT & SECURITY 2015

In 2014, the crisis in Ukraine has once again brought to the fore the frailty of the path to peaceful integration that Europe embarked upon, as well as the direct threat that conflicts pose to minority groups. Together with another major crisis confronting Europe today, the rise of right-wing populist parties whose discourse almost invariably includes an exclusionary drive, the conflict in Ukraine shows that state and nation building processes remain enduring topics that nevertheless require fresh approaches adapted to the realities of 21st century Europe. As the roots of conflict in inter-ethnic or intercultural contexts can often be traced back to the history of groups inhabiting a certain territory, often manipulated by nationalist interpretations that emphasise divisiveness and antagonism, the research carried out within the Conflict & Security Cluster will approach contemporary challenges to minority groups by placing due weight on their historical legacies. This approach brings a historical perspective to the understanding of these conflicts, which in turn appears as a necessary prerequisite for the development of effective strategies leading towards their contemporary resolution and the reconciliation of the ethnic groups in question.

At the same time, the new challenges confronting minority groups, as well as the new modes of mobilisation they often entail, call for a more elastic concept of security, departing from traditional interpretations that have focused on the state to concentrate more on the individual. This focus of the Cluster on human security allows addressing emergent security issues such as the increasing incidence of extremist violence directed against members of minority groups, particularly the Roma, the proliferation of hate speech in the new media, or the resurgence of the radical right in the post-Cold War political environment. This reorientation in focus towards the individual implies that potential solutions to these challenges need to take into consideration the new vulnerability emerging in the context of the double threat posed on the one hand by extremist radical groups and on the other by the enhanced state surveillance and control associated with their monitoring, and the fact that this new, global vulnerability is particularly salient for minority groups.

HATE SPEECH AND ITS PROLIFERATION IN THE NEW MEDIA

Aim and Objectives

The overall aim of this project is to contribute to a better understanding of the shifting patterns of hate speech in Europe, with a particular focus on tackling its proliferation in the new media and the subsequent radicalisation of online space. As such, the specific objectives of this project are to analyse on the one hand the newly emerging patterns of prejudice that are affecting minority groups in Europe, and on the other to address the specific issues pertaining to the propagation of hate speech in the new media of communication associated with Web 2.0. The project thus addresses one of the most complex challenges to policy making in this field, respectively the need to strike a balance between the effective monitoring of online hate speech and the threat posed to individual liberty by the encroachment on personal freedom in the name of providing effective security. This project will be developed in cooperation with the Citizenship and Ethics Cluster at ECMI and will involve interested international partners as well.

Background

The project starts from the premise that hate speech puts forth a political code for interpreting the world that promotes conflict and antagonism rather than tolerance and cooperation, and which often targets minority groups. From the resurgence of anti-Semitism during the last decade to the propagation of anti-Roma discourse and various forms of xenophobia, the proliferation of discriminatory discourse shows both a continuity with historical patterns of prejudice in the perpetuation of a rhetoric of radical difference and exclusion, and the emergence of new conceptualisations that are adapted to contemporary European and global developments. The relative anonymity offered by virtual space, coupled with its ever-growing importance as a source of information and communication, particularly for youth, facilitates the dissemination of hate speech, as well as the establishment and maintenance of networks connecting radical groups across Europe. As a consequence, while previously limited and specific to national contexts, discriminatory discourse is now acquiring a distinctly European, if not global dimension, to which minority groups are particularly vulnerable.



Action Setup and Outcomes

Addressing a pressing need to investigate the new challenges associated with the proliferation of hate speech, the project seeks to carry out innovative research on this topic, as well as to establish a network of scholars and practitioners working on this subject. Shifting the focus of attention from an exclusive preoccupation with perpetrators in order to explore the role of government agencies and representatives of civil society in monitoring and reporting instances of hate speech, the project sees as one of its potential practical outcomes the formulation of policy recommendations that would lead to a more responsible and responsive media, and, in general, to strategies that would identify other means to counteract the proliferation of hate speech that would go beyond the criminalisation of its most excessive instances. As such, in line with ECMI's vision of bridging the gaps between theory and practice, the project aims both to theoretically explore the dynamics of contemporary hate speech in Europe and to devise strategies for its practical containment and mitigation.

Activities

- Two-part Collaborative Workshop 'Anti-Semitism in Romania and Moldova', organised in cooperation with the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, University of Leicester, UK (Part 1: 2014, Leicester, UK; Part 2: 2015, Flensburg, Germany)
- Workshop on the topic of "Hate Speech – Historical Patterns, Contemporary Challenges" (2016)
- Creating a network of potential partners; developing a research strategy for the project.

Timeframe

2014-2016

Partner Institutions

University of Leicester (UK)



Contact:

Dr Raul Cârstocea (raul.carstocea@ecmi.de)

THE CONTEMPORARY RADICAL RIGHT – FROM MARGIN TO THE MAINSTREAM?

Aim and Objectives

The aim of the project is to examine the impact of the recent rise of the radical right in contemporary Europe on the life of minority groups. The project focuses on the one hand on the security dimension implicit in the escalating number of violent attacks on members of ethnic minorities, often carried out or instigated by members of extremist right-wing groups. On the other hand, addressing the increasing importance of right wing populism in mainstream politics in a number of countries in Europe, the project will also trace the effects of the radicalisation of the mainstream political agenda in some countries on the political participation of minorities to public life.

Background

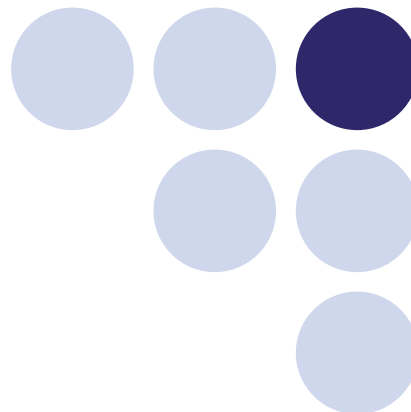
In recent years, Europe has witnessed a growth in the popularity of right wing populist parties, often promoting, directly or in veiled form, xenophobic or anti-immigration agendas. Extremist right wing groups are also making an unfortunate comeback, visible in the increased incidence of violent attacks carried out against members of ethnic minorities. More alarmingly, the activities and discourse promoted by radical right groups sometimes hark back to the legacy of interwar fascism, as reflected either in the active adoption of fascist symbols and rhetoric by certain groups, or in revisionist approaches to the atrocities committed by fascist movements and regimes. As such, this project will analyse the resurgence of the contemporary radical right according to a twofold division, dealing first with the populist right wing parties that promote an exclusionary agenda from within the democratic political system, and second with the extremist cellular groups and networks that are becoming increasingly difficult to censor due to their extensive use of the new media.

BECAUSE MINORITIES MATTER...



Action Setup and Outcomes

The increasing convergence of the Eastern and Western European radical right calls for an integrated approach to this phenomenon at a European level. However, any such approach would also need to be sensitive to the historical specificities of the countries under consideration, as these are often reflected in the discourse and activities of contemporary right-wing groups. Partly related to the project on the proliferation of hate speech in online media, the present research could thus make a theoretical contribution to the conceptualisation of the new type of threats facing minority communities in contemporary Europe. Practically, since the increase in the popularity of right wing populist parties and radical right groups is partly related to voter apathy and lack of participation to the democratic political process, launching a set of targeted awareness-raising campaigns, especially among young people, regarding the threat posed by the radical right or the value of diversity for a multicultural Europe, has the potential to counteract exclusionary, nationalist rhetoric. The involvement of civil society by promoting alternative forms of political mobilisation emphasising grassroots activism will also represent a valuable tool in combating these phenomena.



Activities

- Erasmus+ Project "Fighting Right Wing Populism", in cooperation with CRISP Berlin (2014)
- Organisation of a conference on this topic in 2016
- ECMI Working Paper; publication of a special issue of JEMIE
- Training courses for relevant non-governmental organisations; creation of a network of academia, civil society and government representatives

Timeframe

2014-2016

Partner Institutions

CRISP Berlin (Germany)



Contact:

Dr Raul Cârstocea (raul.carstocea@ecmi.de)

RECONCILIATION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES

Aim and Objectives

The overall aim of the project is to determine whether post-conflict reconciliation processes can be facilitated through policy-making. The primary question this project seeks to answer is why some post-conflict reconciliation processes work while others do not. One of the key objectives of the project is thus to identify some of the parameters, variables, and characteristics that lead respectively to success or failure.

Background

Countries experiencing post-conflict trauma are often driven by outside forces to seek reconciliation through internationally brokered transitional justice approaches and policies that are sometimes inappropriate with regards to the intercultural nature of the community. At the same time that 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 both with issues of guilt and with socio-economic and political changes of insurmountable proportions. The 'logic of reconciliation' in externally imposed policies is therefore not always addressing the pressing needs of post-conflict societies. In this respect, the restorative justice approach, might represent a step forward from transitional justice practices that focused almost exclusively on punishment and compensation. The resulting intensified dialogue ensuing as a result of the restorative justice approach could thus be beneficial for building social capital in deeply divided, post-conflict societies.

Action Setup and Outcomes

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. The focus will be placed on the ongoing reconciliation processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Transnistria, and Northern Ireland, but also will take into account examples of historical conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction strategies. Following a first selection of case studies, the project will proceed with the development of indicators, considered in both their qualitative and quantitative dimensions, to assess the impacts of existing reconciliation processes.

Activities

- ECMI Summer School "Alternative Approaches to Reconciliation" (2014)
- Workshop on Reconciliation and Restorative Justice in Post-Conflict Societies (2015)
- Toolkit for practitioners; ECMI Working Papers

Partner Institutions

KU Leuven (Belgium), University of Cambridge (UK),
University of Flensburg (Germany)

Timeframe 2014-2016



Dr Tove Malloy
 Director of ECMI,
 Head of Cluster
 CITIZENSHIP & ETHICS

CITIZENSHIP & ETHICS

The Citizenship and Ethics Cluster aims to foster minority research in the new 21st century discourses that require different approaches to understanding national minority narratives. While the security and justice discourses continue to be articulated, discourses of cohesion, citizenship and environmental survival are beginning to form. 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 cues from the public debate on EU constitutionalism and the so-called 'democratic deficit'. National minority narratives inform the European citizenship discourse, incorporating articulations of values-driven acts and actions. Impacts of acts and actions are bigger and wider than those generated by top-down contributions to the integration of Europe. They are social and cultural trends aimed 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 organisations. 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 put forth 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 as a bilateral phenomenon but as a European integration phenomenon creating spaces of co-operation rather than confrontation. In 2015, the Cluster will continue exploring the current dynamics within minority communities that contribute to 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.

NATIONAL MINORITY CITIZENSHIP

Aim and objectives

The overall goal of *National Minority Citizenship* (MINCIT) is to inform the contemporary academic discourse on European citizenship with a model of national minority citizenship. The specific purpose is to research 'national minority regions', such as the Danish-German border region, which appear to exhibit new citizenship behaviour. These could include but may not be limited to the border regions of Germany-Netherlands, Germany-Belgium, Germany-Poland, the Czech Republic-Poland and Poland-Lithuania.

Background

There are between 80 and 100 million Europeans who claim to belong to a national minority. Most of them are legal citizens of a national state. But a large part also declares allegiance to a neighbouring state. Decades and at times centuries have gone by in which these national minorities have lived in a new home state due to border revisions, while retaining cultural and national ties to the former home state, now kin-state. As proponents of bicultural and binational identities, these national minorities have either overcome the 'daily plebiscite' syndrome of whether to show loyalty and allegiance to one nation, or they have become accustomed to a 'double daily plebiscite'. It is therefore questionable to speak of the national identity and national allegiance of these groups. As a minimum there must be two foci of allegiance. This poses potential challenges to the conventional concept of national citizenship as defined in terms of solidarity with a cultural group, loyalty to a national state, and allegiance to the symbols and traditions of that national state.

Taking as its starting point the national minority citizenship which is being forged in the Danish-German border region, where two kin-state minorities and a linguistic minority have created a new narrative of active citizenship, MINCIT will investigate whether the citizenship skills of these minorities are to be seen as a trend informing the European citizenship concept and thus European integration.

This is crucial at a time when, on the one hand, a European citizenship model is being defined, and, on the other hand, citizenship as 'Bürgerschaft' is in decline. Policy makers as well as academic scholars are keen to define a new model of citizenship for Europe and in particular the EU. At the same time, Europeans are increasingly turning away from political processes. Social movements are mobilising outside political processes in protest. Active and participatory citizenship remain theoretical constructs while disempowerment in the democratic process is taking hold, thus presenting the risk of the demise of a European tradition of democratic citizenship.

Activities

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

Timeframe

2014-2015

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



MAPPING OF NATIONAL MINORITIES' ORGANISATIONS IN BORDER REGIONS

Aim and objectives

This project is a pilot project on mapping the minority and minority-related organisations in the European border regions. The project aims to collect empirical data on all institutions, organisations, projects, actors, as well as on the cooperation between them that is currently in place. The objectives of the project are to develop a new picture of the regions and their borders in order to better assess their situations from the perspective of minority-related issues after the collapse of communism. From a minority-related perspective, particular focus should be devoted to:

- the subsequent EU membership of some post-communist states
- their relations both within the EU and with the EU Eastern Neighbourhood countries
- their role, challenges and opportunities within the newly-established reality of the so-called "Europe of regions"

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

As a result of this project, the implementation of a practical map of minority organisations would be elaborated that will later on be incorporated into the Minority Map and Timeline of Europe (MMTE). The output of the project will be a detailed list of organisations active in border

areas whose scope of activities includes a particular emphasis on cross-border cooperation.

Background

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

with the 'softening' of national states has provided minorities with the opportunity to maintain their institutions and organisations in politics, the social sphere, and culture in a way that will meet minority needs.

Methodology

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

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

The assessment will be achieved through analyses of the respective websites of the minority-related state bodies, kin-state agencies for cooperation with minorities, coordinating organs for minority cooperation, and minority organisations. 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 categorisation for the minority database, while the third year will be used for the maintenance of the database and publication of categorisation-related and country / minority-related articles / working papers.

Output

A major online database of minorities and their organisations in European border regions will be maintained by developing a minority map. This will later be incorporated into the MMTE.

Timeframe

3 years, 2014-2016



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

CULTURAL COMPETENCIES AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

Cultural competencies of national minorities are vastly overlooked in the policy-making on social cohesion in Europe. Major programmes, like the European Union's Cultural Programme – now Creative Europe – has made good strides towards relevant objectives, such as promoting cross-border mobility, encouraging transnational circulation, and fostering intercultural dialogue. Unfortunately, they have stopped short of incorporating the cultural competence dimension of national minority human and social capital. With very few exceptions, scientific research on national minorities and culture is confined to normative issues of cultural rights. While this is important, it begs the question of how national minorities enjoy their rights. This is because it focuses on minorities as objects rather than subjects of their own narratives. In other words, it ignores the ability of national minorities to be pro-active players in the forging of a united Europe.

Aims and objectives

The project will explore European national minority narratives with the aim to identify whether and how national minorities become pro-active in specific areas that contribute to the increased integration of Europe's countries and regions. Specifically, it will examine minority pro-action resulting from the development of inter-cultural dialogue and cross-border co-operation in areas where past conflicts have divided societies and where animosities might still exist. It will be among the objectives to define the roles of national minorities in new approaches to inter-community relationships and communication, to governance of regional development, and to the forging of a European identity through regional integration.

Methodology

The narratives of national minorities will be the focus of the project. They will be examined through data collection (qualitative and quantitative) in certain border regions where past conflicts have resulted in lingering animosities. Based on new scientific concepts of cultural competence, active citizenship, transnational identities and creation of spaces for politics in regions, the project will identify and analyse actors and actions among national minorities that have led to increased European integration.

Output and activities

It is expected that through partnerships with stakeholders and academic partners, the project will yield policy recommendations relevant for European national and regional policy-makers. The project will be collecting the data region by region with the aim to consolidate the knowledge in a larger joint international research and analytical effort.

Timeframe

2015-2016



Dr Zora Popova
Senior Research Associate
Head of
CLUSTER CULTURE & DIVERSITY

CULTURE & DIVERSITY

- Is diversity a societal asset or a key challenge to integration and social cohesion?
- Which are the points of intersection between cultural groups that could enable efficient societal cohesion?
- What is the role of the minority media in intercultural dialogue?
- How is diversity managed in the field of education?
- Can linguistic divides be reconciled within multilingual societies through targeted implementation of language rights?

These are some of the key questions that the Culture and Diversity Cluster is exploring, through a number of research projects addressing one of the key issues of contemporary politics – the governance of cultural diversity.

Acknowledging the rise of cultural conflicts at the end of the 20th century, the cluster research programme departs from the assumption that politically relevant *cultural differences such as language, religion, traditions and ethnicity have a significant potential to fuel tensions if manipulated or abused*¹. Elaborating strategies and practices of diversity management hence needs to become a policy priority in the age of globalisation. Ensuring societal stability and cohesion while respecting democracy, human and cultural rights is one of the key challenges of the 21st century.

To avoid terminological confusion with the numerous definitions of 'culture'², and with respect to the goals of the research programme, the Cluster addresses the concept through the idea of the 'others', looking not so much at the reasons for 'us **versus** them' but rather than at the possibilities for 'us **with** them'.

1 B Crawford & R Lipschutz, The Myth of 'Ethnic Conflict': Politics, Economics, and 'Cultural' Violence, University of California International and Area Studies Digital Collection, Research Series, Vol 98, 1998; p.11
2 Kroeber, A.L. and Kluckhohn, C. (1952) Culture: A Critical Review of Concepts and Definitions. Cambridge, MA: Peabody Museum.

MEDIA AND DIVERSITY

Although freedom of opinion and expression are recognized as fundamental rights both by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 19) and by the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Article 11), pluralism in society cannot be achieved unless stakeholders are actively engaged in using and protecting their rights provided by law. Therefore, effective inter-cultural communication, as an aspect of pluralism, is determined by the environment within which it develops, by the medium and by the agents of communication.

Aim and Objectives

Public media can contribute significantly to promoting and fostering the cohesion of diverse societies. But media can also hamper all integration efforts by disseminating manipulative messages, by promoting fear and hostility and spreading negative stereotypes. As a key tool of public communication, media is a crucial factor for enabling pluralism and inter-cultural dialogue, for increasing the levels of tolerance towards and understanding of diversity, and for encouraging inter-community cooperation. Therefore, by examining the structural and cognitive projection of diversity in media, the research aims to identify and reflect upon successful practices of and challenges to social cohesion within plural cultural societies.

The research aims to address intercultural dialogue as projected through media. With the assumption that a dialogue needs two active parties, the project has two focal points:

- the official (majority) public media and
- the minority media outlets

Comparing the behaviour of majority and minority 'official' media would provide a better understanding of the level and quality of intercultural dialogue as a public policy and societal practice, while the focus on social networks and interactive media could bring insights into the aspects of personalisation of formal processes.

Activities

- The project will start with a series of case studies, each looking at the mainstream and minority media, how they project the issues of diversity and what their role is in fostering or impeding intercultural dialogue within a particular society. A non-resident internship scheme is envisaged for the purpose of gathering data.
- Further, the project will report and analyse identified challenges to social cohesion or points of intersection, on the basis of which policy recommendations will be developed.
- Development of a database of minority media in Europe.

Timeframe

2015-2016



Contact:

Dr Zora Popova (popova@ecmi.de)

CULTURAL RIGHTS VS. DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Is the provision of cultural rights to minorities an element of a comprehensive package of minority rights, or is it a compensatory mechanism – a substitute for missing democratic rights such as the right to political participation? Developing at the level of people-to-people relations, as a soft power mechanism cultural diplomacy has become an important part of international politics. However, governments exercise cultural diplomacy at two levels – the ‘horizontal’ aspect addresses the governments of the other countries, while the ‘vertical’ level involves a two-way cultural relation between government and societal groups.

Focusing on this vertical aspect, the research aims to explore the role of minorities in cultural diplomacy – are they active agents in the vertical communication or passive ‘objects’ of top-down cultural policies? At the same time, by exploring the soft power strategies and projecting those over the current activities of minorities in various countries, the research aims to assess the extent to which cultural diplomacy could become a mechanism for raising awareness of minority issues and promoting minority rights in societies in transition to democracy. The project will also analyse whether the provision of cultural rights to ethnic groups and minority communities is a mechanism for their empowerment or a substitute for their democratic rights.

Aim and Objectives

The research project will address the following key questions:

- What is the place of minorities in the soft power mechanisms of international politics – can they support the establishment and improvement of inter-cultural relations?
- Do governments tend to provide ‘cultural empowerment’ to minorities in order to divert them from claims for political participation and their democratic collective rights?
- Are the mechanisms of cultural diplomacy used by minorities to promote themselves, to raise awareness, and to achieve collective goals?
- Can cultural diplomacy and its instruments become mechanisms for promoting and advancing minority rights in a non-democratic environment?

Outputs

ECMI Working Papers

Timeframe

2015-2016



EDUCATION AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

Aims and objectives

The overall goal of the project is to look at the specific power of education as a fundamental human right and at the same time as a mechanism for minority empowerment, for strengthening democracy and for fostering social cohesion and respect for diversity. To obtain a better understanding of the current issues and to identify needs for further research and action, the programme will focus on exploring the different types of educational models and the provisions of minority rights to and within education.

Background

Education can make a major contribution to social cohesion and social justice and hence 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 active citizens to contribute to the development and well-being of the society in which they live.

The Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training (ET 2020) has introduced 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.

Activities

Focusing the research interest on education and national minorities, the programme will explore the current dynamics and challenges confronting minority communities in the field of education. It will address issues such as the need for developing particular educational programmes, but will also entail a comparative analysis of the existing minority schooling 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 education of national minorities. The findings will enable assessing the variety of models adopted throughout Europe, analysing them as consequences and/or factors for specific social, economic, and political developments and their impact on communities in general.

Expected outcomes

ECMI Working Papers

Timeframe

2014-2015

CROSS CLUSTER

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.

To respond to the need:

- to pilot performance indicators to assess the *direct impact* of the FCNM's minority standards
- to initiate a parallel process for the other Council of Europe legally binding instrument of special relevance to national minorities - the ECRML

In 2012 ECMI produced a preliminary study on the conceptualisation 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), which are:

- Multi-dimensional and compounded
- Multi-domain and inter-disciplinary
- Quantifiable and qualitative
- Applicable cross-country

The indicators will be developed by an inter-disciplinary network of experts. Professional evaluators will aid with 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 (on FCNM and ECRML respectively)

Timeframe

2013-2016



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



ECMI ROMA EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

In light of the platform for development, aiming to reduce poverty and social exclusion in the EU, the integration of the largest ethnic minority in Europe dispersed in all member states – the Roma – appears as one of the most significant societal challenges. Although as EU citizens the majority of the estimated 10-12 million Roma in Europe can exercise their political and civil rights, *de facto* they constitute a number of disadvantaged communities in terms of level of exclusion, quality of life and prospects for the future. For a number of years now, efforts to advance Roma inclusion in the mainstream European societies have been made at national, European and international level.

With its Cross-Cluster research programme, ECMI aims not only at addressing the complexity of Roma inclusion, but also at promoting the need for a general policy shift with focus on ‘Roma empowerment’. The programme is an outcome of more than 10 years of active research and project work carried out by ECMI headquarters, regional and country offices. The particular culture-sensitive approach to Roma rights developed during that period has enabled ECMI to bring about new perspectives to the issues of Roma education, empowerment, discrimination, etc. A series of publication and events in 2014 will launch the new programme framework.

ROMA INTEGRATION POLICIES IN A CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE

Aims and Objectives

Analysing the current situation, researchers at ECMI have come to believe that the approach to the development of policies for Roma integration is scattered and hardly coordinated, based more on theoretical approaches and assumptions rather than on the evaluation of project outcomes and field findings. International and national level agendas are quite often top-down formulated and fail to take into account the success/failure of earlier programmes, addressing Roma as vulnerable beneficiaries rather than agents of expected change. The lack of synchronised and coordinated approach to the issue, regarded as a national matter, furthermore obstructs the finding of efficient and working solutions at a trans-national level. The project therefore aims at:

- Analysing the policies targeting Roma in a critical perspective
- Identifying common EU Roma integration challenges and respective good practices
- Identifying the possibilities for approaching Roma integration as a synchronized EU policy with common mechanisms for Roma integration
- Developing a system of integration indicators and a standardized EU Instrument for monitoring and evaluating integration mechanisms
- Promoting the need for shifting the policy approach from "inclusion" towards "empowerment"

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 inclusion 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. To bring about a real positive change for the largest European minority (10-12 million people, according to the CoE estimates), a focused and critical analysis of policies, practices and challenges at local, national and EU level is needed.

Activities

- In-depth research on the national and EU level policies targeting Roma
- Analysis of the National 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

Output

- Research and policy recommendations
- Establishing a network of experts and practitioners
- ECMI working papers

Timeframe

2015 – 2016



ASSESSING THE MECHANISMS FOR ROMA REPRESENTATION

Aims and objectives

The research project will analyse the effectiveness of the mechanisms for the political representation of the Roma minorities in selected European countries. With the help of the local knowledge and expertise of partner organisations in these countries, the project will engage in an assessment of the opportunities for political representation of this minority, by analysing both the legal / institutional arrangements and their implementation and impact in practice.

Background

Political representation of the Roma minority is generally acknowledged as one of the essential paths toward the empowerment and integration of this ethnic group in the wider society. After the fall of communism, countries in Central and Eastern Europe have adopted a wide range of legal and institutional measures aiming to facilitate the representation and participation of the Roma in public life. In spite of these developments, to date academic research concerning the appropriateness, implementation, and efficiency of these measures is lacking, both on a country-by-country basis and comparatively between countries.

Thematic Areas of Research

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 developments. 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.

Activities

The research will be conducted in four stages, as follows: a preparatory workshop bringing together the project partners, with the purpose of drawing up a timeframe, agreeing on a methodology, outlining a budget, and identifying funding sources for the project; mapping the institutional and legislative arrangements for the political representation of the Roma minority in the selected countries; a critical assessment of the effectiveness of the arrangements for political representation of the Roma in these states, using existing quantitative and qualitative data, as well as additional interviews with political stakeholders; comparative analysis of the data collected.

Output

Research study, Policy recommendations



ENVIRONMENT AND MINORITIES PROGRAMME

Elaborating effective policy responses to environmental threats requires not only a comprehensive and holistic approach and understanding of the complexity of the issues but also the active involvement of all stakeholders, in particular the most significantly and directly affected. Through the development of this programme ECMI aims to not only support the ongoing efforts of the international academic community to explore the causal chain between environmental degradation/climate change and conflict, but also to contribute to embedding the human aspect into environmental studies and the human rights aspect into developmental policies. The particular attention to minority rights and issues will foster an understanding of environmentally induced societal challenges faced by the most vulnerable groups (such as indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons, and especially minority communities and Roma) and will explore the mechanisms for overcoming these. ECMI is convinced that the programme will have a direct positive impact on all target groups and specifically on the empowerment of indigenous people and other cultural communities.

Background

Climate change, often referred as the “fundamental threat to sustainable development”, is negatively affecting 2.6 billion of the world’s poorest. They face severe difficulties in protecting themselves against increasingly frequent disasters or longer-term climate trends. The programme focuses on the groups most vulnerable to climate change - indigenous peoples (IPs). IPs constitute 6% of the world’s population and are closely intertwined with nature in their livelihoods and cultural practices. They face the challenge of developing specific adaptation mechanisms in order to protect their social and cultural rights.

Aims

The programme aims to address the intersections between climate change and human and cultural rights of IPs from a perspective that is both international and interdisciplinary. Through interdisciplinary research on the specific case studies within Europe (such as Inuit and Sami indigenous peoples), the programme will bring the human dimension to climate change

studies and introduce human rights in general, and social/cultural rights in particular, to environmental and development studies on IPs. Developing and disseminating innovative scientific approach on climate within the SSH community, the ECMI Environment and Minorities Programme will raise awareness about the problem among policy and decision makers, and identify possible mechanisms for solution. The programme will empower IP groups to actively participate in climate change mitigation strategies and will develop policy recommendations based on identified good practices.

Output

- Establishing a thematic network of researchers
- Documenting the impact of climate change on IPs and other minority groups in Europe,
- Policy recommendations for national and local governments, stakeholders
- ECMI Working papers



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

MINORITY MAP AND TIMELINE OF EUROPE (MMTE)

Aim and Objectives

The Minority Map and Timeline of Europe (MMTE) is an online interactive and hands-on research tool that provides an impartial perspective and evaluation of minorities, minority issues, and minority-majority relations within all states and regions of Europe. The user interface of the MMTE website – including complementary interactive and detailed maps, timelines, and analyses – provides new, varied, and interconnected ways to interpret minority communities. The MMTE utilises a visual and hands-on approach to present data and information for better comprehension of relationships and associations concerning minorities and the countries they are living in. To this end, the website is composed in a thematic format to promote consistency, uniformity, and comparison between entries.

Background

The MMTE is an ongoing flagship project of the European Centre for Minority Issues. While first created in 2001 as the Ethnopolitical Map of Europe, in 2010 the project was re-evaluated and redesigned to reach the widest audience today. Suitably, as an easy-to-use tool, the MMTE provides current and credible quantitative and qualitative information on Europe's minorities for students and researchers; nongovernmental organisations and policy makers; as well as the informed public. The Minority Map and Timeline of Europe endeavours to act as a central clearinghouse website that provides information on minority communities in a timely, straightforward, and reliable manner. Extensive, authoritative information is maintained through the four divisions of the MMTE Research Axis: Minority-Country Map, Minority-Country Timeline, Minority Portrait, and Country Portrait. Together, facts, synopses, and analyses are provided concerning both the minority communities and governments of the states of Europe.

Action Setup and Outcomes

The research and entry writing of the MMTE is divided into three phases. In the first phase, the Minority-Country Maps provide a sweeping examination of countries in Europe and of the minority communities residing there. The second phase adds a historical dimension through the Minority-Country Timelines, highlighting key events and periods of relevance for minority-majority relations. The third phase comprises the Minority Portraits and Country Portraits, which act together as a comprehensive evaluation of the state of affairs concerning the country governments and minorities.

Timeframe

2014-2016



CROSS CLUSTER



Contact:
Sonja Wolf (wolf@ecmi.de)



Ewa Chylinski
Acting Director for
ECMI Caucasus

ECMI CAUCASUS

ECMI Caucasus' 2015 programme is a blend of continuation of the projects from 2014 and new fields of activities. The projects with civil society partners and which support the governmental structures engaged in minority governance will enhance topics related to improving minority participation and implementation of initiatives related to culture and identity, local governance and non-discrimination. Particularly with the adoption of anti-discrimination law in Georgia, ECMI will cooperate with the new institution of anti-discrimination inspectorate as well as with the Ombudsman office. As a result of local self-government reform and local elections in June 2014 in Georgia, the work with regional and local authorities will continue to ensure that the minority regions are fully involved in the benefits of the reform.

ECMI Caucasus together with international and national cooperation partners has created a tradition of addressing issues of ethno-religious minorities through annual regional conferences for the South Caucasus region – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The conferences address not only progress achieved in the field of freedom of religion or belief in each country but also sharing best practices across the region. As Georgia has signed an Association Agreement with the EU a number of specific initiatives will be developed to assist with the implementation of measures related to human and minority rights based on Human Rights Strategy and referring to the fulfilment of commitments related to visa liberalisation requirements. Finally, the results of the population census conducted in Georgia at the end of 2014 will call for analysis and research related to the changes in the ethnic, linguistic and religious composition of the population and its implications for protection and promotion of minority rights in key areas of minority inclusion – education, participation and local governance.

ECMI Caucasus is looking forward to working underneath together with international, regional and local partners and communities.



GEORGIA

MINORITY INCLUSION AND GOVERNANCE POLICY

In view of the guidelines and directions of the human rights strategy and recommendations provided by ECMI Caucasus in the evaluation of the previous concept of civic integration, ECMI Caucasus will assist the State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality in adjusting the Action Plan for the period 2015-2020. The adjustment will include a special national action plan for Roma and Roma related groups targeting access to education and health care. Specifically the cooperation with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Health Care will be put in focus on the part of the government structures. Mobilisation of Roma communities to join the Council of National Minorities under the auspices of the Georgian Ombudsman and to advocate for their rights will be coordinated with the Anti-discrimination Inspectorate and Gender Equality department of the Ombudsman.

» Contact:
Ewa Chylinski (chylinski@ecmicaucasus.org)
Giorgi Sordia (sordia@ecmicaucasus.org)
Elene Proshikian (proshikian@ecmicaucasus.org)

MINORITY WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The minority gender perspective has become even more important due to increased evidence of domestic violence and general violence against women. Despite existing domestic legislation that formally criminalises domestic violence, Georgia has still not ratified the Istanbul convention 1355, leaving protection of women from violence to the arbitrary aspect of local culture. The report prepared by ECMI Caucasus in collaboration with UN Women shows that the Georgia Gender Equality National Action Plan adopted by the Georgian Parliament at the end of 2013 does not have sufficient implementation mechanisms. ECMI Caucasus will work with the Council of National Minorities and minority women organisations, local authorities and Ombudsman offices in the regions on ways of strengthening the capacity of local women NGOs to prevent violence against women and girls.

» Contact:
Giorgi Bobghiashvili (bobghiashvili@ecmicaucasus.org)
Elene Proshikian (proshikian@ecmicaucasus.org)

EU ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AND MINORITIES

ECMI Caucasus has actively contributed to the information process on various aspects of the EU Association and its relevance for minorities. The low level of information has had an impact on minority attitudes towards the benefits of the EU AA, in particular to the opportunities of continuing labour market relations with Russia and other CIS countries. On the other hand, there are high expectations for the improvement of the protection of minority cultural identities. As a follow-up to the previous information activities, an initiative on how to provide more profound and specific information on the protection and promotion of minority rights will be developed to present models of minority mainstreaming and protection in the EU countries.

» Contact:
Ewa Chylinski (chylinski@ecmicaucasus.org)
Giorgi Bobghiashvili (bobghiashvili@ecmicaucasus.org)

INTEGRATION OF DEPORTED MESKHETIAN RETURNEES

This issue of repatriation of population groups such as the Meskhetians, deported from Georgia in 1940s, has been indicated in the Hammarberg report of 2013 as one of Georgia's obligations to be fulfilled. The key obstacle to the swift and smooth process of repatriation commenced in 2012 was the elaboration and adoption of the respective strategy. The strategy adopted towards the end of 2014 will need an action plan regarding the mechanisms of its implementation. ECMI Caucasus, involved in the process since its onset, will continue to work with the Repatriation Council on the elaboration of the action plan, in particular supporting various state bodies, local authorities and civil society organisations in the integration measures for returning repatriates.

» Contact:
Ewa Chylinski (chylinski@ecmicaucasus.org)
Giorgi Bobghiashvili (bobghiashvili@ecmicaucasus.org)





CULTURE AND IDENTITY OF MINORITIES

This new initiative will be targeting visibility of minority identities in the regions of their residence and the value of cultural diversity in Georgia. One of the aspects of visibility will be the registration of Cultural Routes of Minorities with the Council of Europe, allowing for development of tourism nationally and internationally. The heritage sites already mapped in two minority regions – the Armenian and the Russian Dukhobor in Samtskhe-Javakheti and the Azeri in Kvemo Kartli – will serve as a model of cultural mapping in other regions including Kakheti and Adjara, where smaller minorities such as Russian Molokans, Avars, Udi and Kists reside. In Adjara, the heritage sites of Abkhaz and other groups will be researched and put on the cultural map of the regions.



Contact:

Giorgi Sordia (sordia@ecmcaucasus.org)

Giorgi Bobghiashvili (bobghiashvili@ecmcaucasus.org)

Elene Proshikian (proshikian@ecmcaucasus.org)

REGIONAL PROGRAMME SOUTH CAUCASUS

REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

The religious diversity in the South Caucasus region does not only enhance the major religious denominations such as the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Azerbaijan Muslim Sunni and Shia communities and the Georgian Orthodox Church. A variety of other religions and religious communities have existed for centuries and decades in all three countries. Based on two successful conferences on the issues of freedom of religion or belief, ECMI Caucasus will continue to work with State Agencies on Religious Affairs in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia on how to regulate inter-religious and ethno-religious communication in accordance with the UN, OSCE and Council of Europe principles relating to tolerance, equality of religious congregations and freedom of religion. Besides this, the issues of religious property restitution will be addressed using the models of other post-Soviet countries that have already resolved some of the intricate and sensitive cases.

» Contact:
Ewa Chylinski (chylinski@ecmicaucasus.org)
Giorgi Sordia (sordia@ecmicaucasus.org)
Giorgi Bobghiashvili (bobghiashvili@ecmicaucasus.org)

SOUTH CAUCASUS OMBUDSPERSON INSTITUTIONS NETWORK

With the adoption of Anti-Discrimination legislation in Georgia and Azerbaijan and similar legislation on the way in Armenia, the three Ombudsman institutions expressed interest and a wish to collaborate on the development of implementation mechanisms in relation to building the competences of the Ombudsman to tackle non-discrimination in minority issues. The work of Ombudsperson institutions in the South Caucasus is specific in terms of approaches to monitoring and reporting tasks. Development of the system of hearings and a commission addressing anti-discrimination cases will be especially supported, including institutionalisation of monitoring and hearings, using an exchange of experiences from other eastern Partnership countries such as Moldova.

» Contact:
Ewa Chylinski (chylinski@ecmicaucasus.org)
Giorgi Sordia (sordia@ecmicaucasus.org)



CROSS REGIONAL PROGRAMMES EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP MINORITY NETWORK

In the third year of the implementation of the project led by Minority Rights Group Europe, the programme operates in six countries of the EaP – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine – and has established a primary network of minority organisations. Currently 80 organisations have joined the network sharing experiences and issues related to minority protection and promotion in their respective countries. Having focused on mapping minority organisations and institutions, collaboration with local and state authorities, along with EU policies, the activities in 2015 will be targeting closer cooperation with EaP National Platforms of civil society organisations, still insufficiently engaging minority organisations as their members. The 2015 programme will aim to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved so far and strengthen the building of minority governance in the EaP countries by using models and examples of successful advocacy, presenting the tested models and best practices for fostering minority rights and democracy.



Contact:

Ewa Chylinski (chylinski@ecmcaucasus.org)

Giorgi Sordia (sordia@ecmcaucasus.org)

Elene Proshikian (proshikian@ecmcaucasus.org)





Adrian Zeqiri
Executive Director
ECMI Kosovo

ECMI KOSOVO

The year 2015 will be a period of critical political development for Kosovo. As such, ECMI Kosovo plans to continue to be an independent and impartial actor in mediating and contributing to current political developments, with particular regard to issues related to the Brussels Agreement, the Serb Association of Municipalities, and the integration of higher education in Serbian language within Kosovo law. In addition, ECMI Kosovo will continue to pursue strategic areas of support to minority communities, specifically in areas of languages, local economic development and inclusive education.

The programme for 2015 will include ECMI Kosovo working with the Office of the Prime Minister of Kosovo and the University of Mitrovica North (UMN) to create a solution on the issue of diploma recognition for students holding degrees from the UMN, as well as initiate a mediated process of implementing the foreseen legislation for the operation of the University. Additionally, ECMI Kosovo will work closely with the Ministry of Local Self-Government and Serb-majority municipalities to facilitate discussions on the responsibilities of the Serb Association of Municipalities, which is foreseen to be established in the coming year.

A number of ongoing initiatives will continue in 2015, including:

- CSO development in North Kosovo: Civil society plays an important role in shaping dialogue and promoting advocacy as the link between local communities and institutions. Unfortunately, civil society in northern Kosovo continues to be underdeveloped, in part due to the lack of a functioning legal system and recognised authorities. Thus, ECMI Kosovo aims to enhance the links between CSOs, local communities and institutions in the North.



- ECMI Kosovo will continue to promote language rights through two initiatives: monitoring and evaluating community rights through the use of indicators in order to assess and enhance institutional compliance with the *Law on the Use of Languages*; and continuing with language classes in Albanian and Serbian for civil servants to increase access to institutions in both national languages for all citizens.
- Since women belonging to minority groups in Kosovo face a double discrimination, both as women and as members of minorities, ECMI Kosovo aims to intervene to increase economic and social integration of these groups, particularly women from Roma, Ashkali and Serb communities.
- Children from vulnerable and marginalised groups, especially Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children, repatriated children and children with disabilities, face many obstacles in relation to education, such as high drop-out rates and high percentages of out-of-school children. Thus, ECMI Kosovo will continue its work on the issue of out-of-school children to promote the right to education for all children in Kosovo.
- ECMI Kosovo will maintain its support in promoting effective and accountable local self-government in Serb municipalities, ultimately leading to a more inclusive and sustainable multi-ethnic Kosovo. In the coming year, this assistance will focus primarily on local economic development initiatives to promote economic growth within communities in Serb municipalities.



ECMI KOSOVO OFFICE IN NORTH MITROVICA/MITROVICË

In 2012, European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo strengthened its presence in Northern Kosovo municipalities (Mitrovica/ë North, Leposavić/Leposaviq, Zubin Potok and Zvečan/Zveqan) through the establishment of ECMI Kosovo's office in Mitrovica/ë North. Since its foundation, the office in Mitrovica/ë North has been engaged in contributing to the unique mission and vision of ECMI Kosovo, as well as to the overall objectives of the organisation. The activities implemented through this office have mostly been oriented towards trust-building between Albanian and Serbs communities and has focused predominantly on establishing cooperation with Mitrovica North Administration Office (MNAO) and working with local communities.

The office in Mitrovica/ë North enables direct contact with projects' beneficiaries through the organisation of various workshops, focus groups and seminars, which is convenient for beneficiaries who are unable or prevented from traveling to more distant places (e.g. Prishtinë/Priština). Moreover, the office in the North Mitrovica/ë facilitates increased visibility of the work of ECMI Kosovo among the residents of Northern Kosovo. Its continuous presence enables direct and close working relations and contacts with local public authorities and local communities. Finally, since the establishment of the office in Mitrovica/ë North, ECMI Kosovo has increased its interaction and collaboration with other civil society organisations operating in Northern Kosovo, as well as with media representatives through several projects.





Thus, the main objectives of ECMI Kosovo's office in Mitrovica/ë North can be summarised as follows:

- Contributing to realising the overall mission, vision and objectives of ECMI Kosovo
- Expanding the work of ECMI Kosovo and providing support to Northern Kosovo municipalities through direct work with communities and institutions
- Establishing relations with local institutions, public authorities, CSOs and NGOs

Projects which are currently being implemented through the ECMI Kosovo's office in Mitrovica/ë North are:

- **Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Growth of all Newly-Established Municipalities in Kosovo (TSIGaN)**, supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, aims to provide the Serb-majority municipalities in Kosovo with sustainable solutions on improving their local socio-economic perspectives by empowering both local governments and local communities.
- **Community Mobilisation – Capacity Building Programmes for Civil Society Organisations in Northern Kosovo**, supported by European Union Office in Kosovo and implemented in partnership with NGO "Aktiv" from North Mitrovica/ë. The project focuses on fostering the democratic potential of the communities living in Northern Kosovo, by increasing the role and strengthening the abilities of civil society organisations, thereby encouraging involvement of CSOs and local communities in the decision-making processes.

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH FOR ALL NEWLY-ESTABLISHED MUNICIPALITIES IN KOSOVO (TSIGAN)

Aim and Objectives

The goal of the TSIGaN project is to promote strong, effective, accountable and transparent local self-government for Kosovo Serbs, triggering sustainable and inclusive growth as a means to improve inter-ethnic relations and to contribute to a stable, democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo as envisaged in the Ahtisaari plan.

The project seeks to increase the capacities of local governments to fully and effectively implement their competencies attributed by the Ahtisaari plan, by the Constitution of Kosovo and by the Law on Local Self-Government, in order to establish growth-oriented policies at municipal level for the benefit of the local communities.

The project also seeks to encourage active participation and engagement of all local communities and vulnerable and marginalised groups (VMGs) in the decision-making process, in social life, and in local economic development.

Background

The decentralisation process has thus far re-engaged the Serb community within Kosovo institutions, but important socio-economic issues persist. Hence the project aims to address the pressing need for better socio-economic perspectives, more job creation, the empowerment of vulnerable and marginalised groups, and improved social cohesion. It also seeks to reach northern Kosovo, where the 19 April agreement between Pristina and Belgrade and the upcoming local elections open a new era. The TSIGaN project extension will promote strong, effective, accountable and transparent local self-government in Serb-majority

municipalities, triggering sustainable and inclusive growth as a means to strengthen reconciliation and to contribute to a stable, democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo as envisaged in the Ahtisaari plan. The project will cover the Serb-majority municipalities of Gračanica/Gračanicë, Klokot/Klllokot, Leposavić/Leposaviq, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë, Parteš /Partesh and Ranilug/Ranillug, Štrpce/Shtërpçë, Zubin Potok, and Zvečan/Zveqan).

Activities in 2015

- Training for newly-elected Municipal Assembly members and newly appointed municipal officials on local economic development, focusing on business registration, taxation, cadastre and land use, planning and programming, etc.
- Reinforcing the economic attractiveness of territories and promoting local tourism and local agriculture.
- Updating the Local Economic Development strategies adopted by the municipalities and their associated Action Plans.
- Improving the dialogue between central and local governments through issue-based discussions.
- Establishing issue-based dialogue forums between municipal officials, members of municipal assemblies and vulnerable and marginalised groups.
- Capacity-building programme on professional and entrepreneurial skills for vulnerable and marginalised groups.
- Organising capacity-building programme to grassroots CSOs on communication.

Funding

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Timeframe

2014 – 2016



EMPOWERING MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN KOSOVO AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Aim and objectives

This project aims to reduce the vulnerability of minority women to domestic violence and early marriages, through increased socio-economic opportunities, better access to treatment services for gender-based violence, and by addressing discriminatory attitudes within minority communities. The project will target minority communities in three municipalities in southern Kosovo with sizable Serb, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities (Ferizaj/Uroševac; Gračanica/Gračanicë; Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje) and in the predominantly Serb-inhabited municipalities of northern Kosovo.

Background

Women belonging to minority groups in Kosovo – particularly Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian and Serb minorities - face a de facto double discrimination, as women and as members of minorities. In this context of highlighted vulnerability, statistics show the high prevalence of (domestic) violence affecting these communities. Minority women face three main problems, which particularly contribute to their vulnerability to gender-based violence. First, minority survivors of gender-based violence face limited access to services, due to linguistic, geographical, social and political obstacles. Second, minority women in Kosovo are subject to extreme socioeconomic vulnerability, with high unemployment rates, low levels of education and high illiteracy rates. Third, minority communities, both men and women, often lack awareness of women's rights, gender equality and mechanisms against GBV, and subscribe to discriminatory gender norms.

To address the above-mentioned three problems that are at the core of minority women's vulnerability to gender-based violence, ECMI Kosovo will implement intervention strategies in the targeted municipalities to achieve positive change for minority women in these areas. The project will continue to be implemented in partnership with NGO Aktiv, with the Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women's Organisations of Kosovo (NRAEWOK), and with the Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development Kosovo (CLARD).



Activities in 2015

- Support the eight trained local minority female activists as community-based paralegals. These paralegals will provide survivors of gender-based violence with advice and assistance in accessing Kosovo's available prevention and treatment services;
- Deliver a women's rights teaching program in high schools by training 8 teachers/professors with necessary knowledge on the substance and the methodology to deliver the curriculum in schools; followed by proceeding with the delivery of women's rights teaching program in high schools as part of the regular curriculum. In addition, to periodically monitor the delivery of the curriculum in schools.
- Support interested beneficiaries to apply for grants for future business ideas with an external consulting company of our choice. The consultants will aid in the application, preparation of action plan and budget, and submission of documents.
- Provide relevant skills training to minority women to provide them with essential skills to increase their access to decent jobs and strengthen their self-confidence, thus decreasing their vulnerability to GBV.
- Make available in each of the four targeted locations skills training and professional coaching for minority women;
- Organise awareness raising activities aimed at teachers, students and male leaders, including the organisation of discussion workshops with minority men, and the development and implementation of a school based teaching programme on women's rights.

Funding

UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women

Timeframe

2014-2015



Contact:
Jeta Bakija (bakija@ecmikosovo.org)



IMPROVING MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN SERBIAN LANGUAGE AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Aim and Objectives

The purpose of this project is to propose and support a solution that will enable citizens of the Republic of Kosovo who have obtained degrees issued by the University of Mitrovica North (UMN) to apply for employment in public institutions of the Republic of Kosovo.

Background

The UMN is the only Serbian-language university in Kosovo, serving all Serbian-speaking communities (Serbs, Gorani, Bosniaks, and Roma). The university operates under the legal framework of the Republic of Serbia as part of the Serbian higher education system and is neither licensed by the Kosovo Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology nor accredited by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency.

This project tackles three issues related to this situation, namely: the obstacles to public employment faced by Serbian-speaking communities due to the non-recognition of their university diplomas; the lack of a long-term plan for the recognition and integration of the UMN within Kosovo's higher education system; and the absence of communication and cooperation between UMN and Kosovo authorities and other higher education institutions.

Activities in 2015

The project will focus on two major components during 2015, the second year of the project.

Firstly, ECMI Kosovo will support Kosovo's Institutions in:

- Developing an ad-hoc mechanism for the validation of UMN diplomas which would allow UMN graduates to apply for jobs with public institutions of the Republic of Kosovo while temporarily bypassing the issue of the university's accreditation within Kosovo's framework;
- Establishing the conditions and capacities for the initiation of a negotiation process between relevant stakeholders on the accreditation and licensing of UMN by the Kosovo Government and its integration in the national higher education system through the production of a comprehensive roadmap.

Secondly, the non-institutional component of the project aims to build a trust-based environment, facilitating communication and cooperation among the involved actors. Linkages and discussion will be enhanced among the central-level institutions, municipal bodies, academic environment and civil society and between UMN and the University of Prishtinë/Pristina.

Funding

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Timeframe

April 2014 – April 2016



Contact:
Adrian Zeqiri (zeqiri@ecmikosovo.org)

KOSOVO

ENHANCING ACCESS TO AND RETENTION IN EDUCATION FOR VULNERABLE AND DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

Aim and objectives

The project aims to enhance the access to education and retention in education for vulnerable and disadvantaged children in six municipalities through strengthening the capacities of municipal officials and teams for prevention of and response to school drop-outs and non-registration at school and municipal levels to reduce the number of out-of-school children.

Background

The Government of Kosovo is committed to developing and implementing inclusive policies, pursuing the establishment of an inclusive education system with equal opportunities and quality education for all children in the Republic of Kosovo. However, despite the strong legal basis, children from vulnerable and marginalised groups – especially Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children, children with disabilities and repatriated children – continue to face significant challenges in their education, with the issue of drop-outs and out-of-school children being particularly alarming. Presently, both the relevant municipal government institutions and the drop-out prevention and response teams lack adequate capacities and knowledge to fully implement the legislative and policy framework aimed to reduce numbers of out-of-school children and school drop-outs. Therefore, ECMI Kosovo will support municipal officials and the drop-out prevention and response teams in six target municipalities in addressing the issue of out-of-school children in a systematic and coordinated manner and thus ensuring the right to education for all children in Kosovo.

Activities in 2015

- Support the municipalities with implementation, evaluation and review of the action plans aimed at increasing access to and retention in education
- Support the Teams for Prevention and Response to School Drop-outs and non-registrations at school and municipal levels in identification, recording, and case management of children at risk of drop-out or out-of-school children, aiming to prevent drop-outs and integrate out-of-school children
- Support the establishment of municipality-based networks of trainers on recording of out-of-school children, case management and integration interventions
- Document best practices in reducing out-of-school children and advocate for their institutionalisation

Funding

UNICEF

Timeframe

2013–2015



Contact:
Iva Ulmannova (ulmannova@ecmikosovo.org)



INTEGRATION THROUGH OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Aim and objectives

The project aims to increase and sustain the proficiency of municipal officials working in mixed municipalities to communicate in both official languages. This should lead to more accessibility of municipal services to communities, a more attractive working environment for non-majority individuals considering a career as a municipal official and more efficiency within municipal administrations.

Background

Albanian and Serbian are the two official languages of Kosovo. They have equal status and equal rights as to their use in Kosovo institutions. The Law on the Use of Languages provides that official languages are used on an equal basis by and within municipal administrations. Municipal officials and municipal administration are responsible to ensure that every person in Kosovo can communicate with municipal authorities and receive available services and public documents in the official languages of Kosovo. Yet, only a limited number of municipal officials interacting with the public currently speak a second official language. The lack of knowledge of both official languages, together with the under-representation, of non-majority communities in the civil service creates a number of problems, especially in the mixed municipalities across Kosovo. ECMI Kosovo will thus conduct Albanian and Serbian language courses for municipal officials in at least ten municipalities aimed at enhancing their ability to communicate and provide municipal services to communities in both official languages.

Activities in 2015

- Organise and conduct training in Albanian and Serbian languages
- The project will expand to include classes for civil servants working in the Office of the Prime Minister. This will increase provision of equal access to public services in Albanian and Serbian languages and effective participation of citizens in public life
- A new set of specialised training materials of Albanian and Serbian languages for civil servants will be developed by accredited Institutions through ECMI Kosovo and the Office of the Language Commissioner within the Office of the Prime Minister for use in the second half of 2015 and beyond

Funding

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Timeframe

2014 – 2015



Contact:

Nejla Ayvazi (ayvazi@ecmikosovo.org)

KOSOVO

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN KOSOVO: TOWARDS STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE KOSOVO LAW ON THE USE OF LANGUAGES

Aim and objectives

The overall aim of this project is to improve the enforcement of language rights in Kosovo. In order to contribute to making progress towards this aim, ECMI Kosovo has designed three project objectives:

- To identify the shortfalls in the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages and the enforcement of language rights by conducting a thorough and comprehensive study to monitor the situation of the use of languages within the Office of the Language Commissioner (OLC) and the Kosovo institutions that fall under its jurisdiction, through the use of indicators
- To address the shortfalls in the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages and the enforcement of language rights by increasing the technical capacities of the responsible institutions
- To monitor the implementation and impact of the project

Background

Kosovo has developed a strong institutional and legislative framework for the protection of language rights. However, much remains to be done to ensure and enhance the effectiveness of this framework. Presently, the OLC and the institutions under its jurisdiction lack adequate capacities and knowledge to fully implement the legislative framework. 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 employ its expertise in the field of monitoring and evaluating (M&E) of community rights through the use of indicators to provide a comprehensive program to support the work and mandate of the OLC, strengthen its technical capacities, and to assess and enhance the institutional compliance with the Law on the Use of Languages.

Activities in 2014 with continuation in 2015

- Perform a thorough and comprehensive study to monitor the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages within the work of the public institutions under the jurisdiction of the OLC, through the use of indicators.
- Increase capacities of the OLC and the institutions under its jurisdiction to regularly monitor the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages.
- Evaluation process and identification of next steps.

Funding

This project is funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the Language Commissioner/Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo (OLC/OPM).

Timeframe

May 2014 – February 2015



Contact:
Laia Pau Romani (pau.romani@ecmikosovo.org)



COMMUNITY MOBILISATION – CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN NORTHERN KOSOVO

Aim and Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to foster the democratic potential of the communities living in northern Kosovo by increasing the role of civil society organisations and encouraging the involvement of CSOs and local communities in the decision-making process. The action is therefore designed to increase the capacity of at least 15 local CSOs from three (3) communities in all four (4) north Kosovo municipalities to effectively mobilise the local community for civil initiatives and foster active participation of citizens in socio-political developments at a local and regional level. Furthermore, the project aims to increase the level of cooperation between civil society organisations representing the interests of different ethnic communities in the north of Kosovo.

Background

The absence of a functional legal system, recognised local authorities and systematic socio-economic development strategies greatly impact the work of the civil society sector, which has been developed in a disorderly environment and functions outside of any legal framework. Although there are many non-governmental organisations operating in North Kosovo, only few of them have proven effective and successful in establishing communication with the population and addressing their needs. As a consequence of this disconnection between non-governmental organisations and the population, citizens are not able to actively participate in the community, be socially and politically involved and to articulate their needs.

Activities in 2015

In 2015 during the final five months of the project the following activities will be implemented by ECMI Kosovo and its partner organisation NGO Aktiv:

- Organisation of an NGO Fair where all interested CSOs will be able to set up an info-desk and present their organisations, mandate and activities
- Creation of a network of registered volunteers in the 4 municipalities of northern Kosovo with the aim of involving young people.
- Design of a web portal – CSO Information Hub aiming to increase the visibility of CSO in Northern of Kosovo
- Organisation and promotion of an Action Day during which CSOs will recruit and mobilise the local community, environmental groups and volunteers for public cleaning and environmental promotion activities.

Funding

European Union Office
in Kosovo

Timeframe

January 2014 – June 2015



Contact:
Adrian Zeqiri (zeqiri@ecmikosovo.org)

KOSOVO



*Ms Hanna Vasilevich
Project Research Associate
Manager of the ECMI EPP*

FLENSBURG

ECMI EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (EPP)

The inter-regional programme covering the three South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and the three Eastern European countries (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine) will build on the experiences gained by the ECMI in Georgia and the Western Balkans. Through trainings and mainstreaming efforts, stakeholders will be supported in establishing minority focal points as an integrated part of the functioning of the institutions and as efficient units that may take appropriate action on behalf of equality bodies in relation to national minorities. The action will further enable relevant national structures to engage in networking and cross-regional collaboration and take advantage of knowledge transfer based on good European practices. The equality bodies will be supported in mainstreaming reporting on minority issues in their regular state reports and in elaborating and publishing specific minority issues reports.

This project will seek to include minority issues systematically into the competencies of national and regional anti-discrimination bodies, such as Public Defenders and Ombudsperson institutions as well as complaint bodies throughout the two regions – South Caucasus and Eastern Europe, with the aim of establishing permanent structures within existing institutions that specialise in combating discrimination through minority rights. A major aim is to create a network to encourage knowledge transfer and support regional approaches.

The ECMI Eastern Partnership Programme (EPP) was launched in 2014. Over the next three years (2014-2017), the Programme will be implemented in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine thanks to the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

NATIONAL MINORITIES AND ETHNOPOLITICAL ISSUES: BELARUS · MOLDOVA · UKRAINE

Aims and Objectives

The goal of the EPP is to enhance governmental administration and to promote state policy aimed at the provision of social equality and improvement of interaction between a state and national minorities in the Eastern border region of the EU in accordance with the best practices of the European countries including the Eastern Partnership itself. The EPP has the following objectives:

- Dissemination and transfer of information and know-how and, consequently, capacity building of the state bodies responsible for diversity management and equality along with the advisory bodies on minority issues.
- Establishment of interactions between governmental representatives, ethnic communities and experts through joint discussions, trainings, analytical work and networking.
- Common international critical discussions, understanding of gained experience, the analysis of capacities of adjustment to the conditions of the EU Eastern Borderland, and elaboration of recommendations, information and education materials.

ECMI Methodology

The EPP covers two thematic streams: National institutions in pursuit of equality and diversity policies (including Non-discrimination and Organisational capacity-building) and Minority Consultative Bodies (Participation and Consultative Bodies). Each of the thematic streams of seminars includes main meetings (6 in each series) conducted in the capitals of the project countries and additional round tables (12 in each series) in district/regional centres with a narrowed thematic focus. Two big thematic conferences will be held in the end of the project and will demonstrate the results of the project and the elaborated recommendations.

Activities planned for 2015:

- Seminars in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova on two thematic streams: 1/ Non-discrimination and Organisational capacity-building and 2/ Participation and Consultative Bodies.
- Six block-seminars in Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine
- Establishment of cross-regional networks between both public and private organisations
- Development of new public initiatives aimed at minority-related legislation will be encouraged

Timeframe 2014 - 2017

Donor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark



Contact:

Hanna Vasilevich (vasilevich@ecmi.de)

ECMI CONFERENCE 2015

THE 1990 CSCE COPENHAGEN DOCUMENT, EAST-WEST ENCOUNTERS AND EVOLUTIONS OF THE MINORITY REGIME IN EUROPE

The conference will mark the 25th anniversary of the 1990 Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE. The document constitutes a landmark and in some respects a starting point in the development of the European minority rights system. It is a by-product of the cooperation between the West and the East at the end of the Cold War. The still underexplored contributions of the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany to the drafting and adoption of the Copenhagen Document were in part inspired by the resurgence of ethnic claims and ethnic conflicts in the former communist states, and the energetic attempts of the ruling elites in the USSR, Yugoslavia and Hungary to cope with the new challenges in the framework of democratisation processes. As some scholars argue, Europe is slowly sliding today towards a new Cold War period, and minority issues are playing significant role in the recent escalation of tensions around Ukraine.

The multidisciplinary international discussion will focus on:

- The conceptual evolution of the minority regime in Europe and North America and the impact of the 1990 Copenhagen Document;
- Modes of international cooperation with regard to minorities in Europe and North America;
- Merits and flaws of the European minority rights regime;
- Institutional underpinnings of ethnic politics and diversity policies at the domestic and international levels;
- Liberal-democratic and authoritarian approaches to minority policies – is there a common ground?
- Communist conceptual and institutional legacies in the international and domestic minority regimes;
- The new challenges and new dividing lines between the 'West' and the 'East' and the future of the European minority rights regime.

Output

Selected paper will be published in edited volumes Establishment of research networks

Dates & Venue

5-7 June 2015
Flensburg/Akademie Sankelmark



Contact:

Dr Alexander Osipov (osipov@ecmi.de)

Dr Raul Cârstocea (raul.carstocea@ecmi.de)



ECMI REGIONAL MINORITY ROUNDTABLE

Every year the ECMI invites the local national minority organisations from the Danish-German border region to a roundtable discussion on a topic which has been touched upon by all of them in the past year and which is seen as relevant for understanding minority issues and minority politics.

The ECMI Regional Minority Roundtable 2015 will invite the relevant minority organisations to discuss and jointly analyse the events and developments in the area of minority issues which took place in the border region in 2014.

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 working in different 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.

ECMI ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council (AC) is a 15 member body of eminent experts in the area of minority studies appointed by the ECMI Executive Board in consultation with the founders of the Centre. The 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 organisations, 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 organisations, by assuming duties of representation and promotion of the activities of the ECMI 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)

ANNUAL EVENTS



Ms Tamari Bulia
*Project coordinator and
PA to the Director
ECMI Summer School Manager*

ECMI SUMMER SCHOOL

National Minorities in Border Regions Theme 2015: The changing order and new insecurities: impact on minorities in Europe

Europe and its neighbourhood are undergoing significant changes that will shape political and economic developments in the 21st century. While EU member states are facing an increase in Euroscepticism and right-wing populism, the Eastern European neighbourhood is struggling with a dilemma: towards East or West? Global concerns such as climate change, aging populations, youth unemployment, or violations of human rights are also issues that Europe needs to address. The changing order and the new global challenges are most adversely affecting the most vulnerable groups of society: national/ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples.

The ECMI Summer School will take an interdisciplinary approach and will evaluate the current situation in Europe and its neighbourhood, exploring its impact on national minorities. Critically examining the mechanisms of the national and EU institutions to confront the new challenges, the course will build upon existing knowledge and open discussions to yield innovative approaches and new ideas, bringing in case studies from academic as well as practitioners' perspectives. The topic will be approached through a historical timeline: analysing the relevant historical background, discussing the present state and envisioning future patterns as an outcome of the discussions and workshops during the course. Special attention will be placed on the experience of the Danish-German border region.

The two-week intensive programme will include academic lectures delivered by prominent scholars from across Europe, seminars delivered by practitioners in the field, interactive group works, workshops facilitated by the ECMI team and social activities planned during the weekend and in the evenings to foster networking among the group and guest speakers. Discussing the new and emerging challenges and their impact on minorities, the course will include four thematic modules: Political, Socio-cultural, Global challenges and the Future prospects. While in the

first three modules the participants will be introduced to the various case studies and will enhance their knowledge on the issues, in the last module they are expected to put the knowledge in practice and discuss future possible scenarios and solutions. Trips to historical sites in the Danish-German border region will be organised. The participants will be awarded certificates of completion by the Flensburg City President in the City Hall.

The summer school is aimed at Master and PhD students, young researchers and professionals.

Dates and Venue

03-16 August 2015; Flensburg/ Jaruplund Højskole

Application Procedure:

Please consult the ECMI web page in February 2015.
Tentative deadline for applications: 15 May 2015

SUMMER SCHOOL



TRAINING



Ms Maj-Britt Hansen
Head of Secretariat and
Project coordinator

ECMI INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

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.

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. The courses are designed to serve the needs of NGOs, public institutions, governmental agencies, international agencies and organisations, and pay particular attention to topics such as programming, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, international and regional human rights mechanisms.

ECMI provides in-house training on minority rights and related issues on demand. The training can include various elements of the standard courses, compiled and adjusted to particular needs. ECMI delivers training courses in English but also in a number of European languages.

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.



THE EUROPEAN MINORITY REGIME UNIVERSITY SEMINAR

Description

Minorities have been part of European history and politics since the middle of the 16th century, often seen as obstacles to state-building, and later to nation-building. In the 20th century, personal identity became a public domain item and minority groups emerged and formed on the basis of identity and difference. Nevertheless, in the interconnected societies of the early 21st century, minorities are still seen as a threat to social cohesion.

Aims and Objectives

The multi-disciplinary Seminar aims to provide in-depth knowledge and robust skills on the basis of which the participants would develop an informed understanding of minority issues in the 21st century. Minority issues are examined from the perspectives of political science, law, political theory, political sociology, anthropology, history, and cultural studies. The specific objectives of the Seminar are:

1. To place minority issues in the wider context of European history/politics and the practice of European governance;
2. To enable understanding, critical analysis, and evaluation of contemporary debates concerning minorities;
3. To promote the political and ethical implications of academic research on minority issues.

Seminar Output and General Outline

The target group of the Seminar are graduate students who are interested in a career in national or international institutions and NGOs, as well as students who wish to continue their education in the social sciences or humanities.

ECMI has been delivering the Seminar at the Europa-Universität Flensburg (EUF) annually since 2011. The Seminar is divided into three parts, each one further deepening the acquired knowledge:

Part I: History, International Law and Relations

- The emergence of a minority protection regime
- European international law and inter-governmental institutions
- Inter-state relations and European integration

Part II: Concepts and Theories

- Culture, language and ethnicity
- Conflict and unity
- Ethnographic and anthropological approaches to minority issues
- Theories of nationalism
- Late modernity

Part III: Politics and Policy

- Conflict mitigation
- Democracy, participation and empowerment
- Minority education
- Diversity management

Partner:

Europa-Universität Flensburg (EUF), Master Programme in European Studies



Contact:
Dr Raul Cârstocea (raul.carstocea@ecmi.de)



ECMI LIBRARY & PUBLICATIONS



William McKinney
Electronic Services Librarian

THE ECMI LIBRARY

The ECMI Library is an independent collection of books, journals, and grey literature of more than 3,000 items covering many aspects of minority issues. Every month, a complete list of ECMI Library acquisitions is available.

The highly specialised collection offers public access to a variety of materials in more than twenty languages on inter-ethnic relations, language and cultural diversity issues and ethnic conflict in Europe.

The Library is especially strong in the area of minority protection with regards to international law. It also includes a useful reference section and a considerable number of published and unpublished reports dealing with the subjects mentioned above.

Activities in 2015:

- Acquisition of 300 books on topics of inter-ethnic relations, language and cultural diversity issues and ethnic conflict in Europe.
- Development of the '**Ask a Librarian**' service - quick reference service to the general public.
Link: <http://www.ecmi.de/information-services/ecmi-library/ask-librarian/>
- Planned participation in launches of ECMI publications as well as in the Annual EINIRAS conference. Link: <http://www.einiras.org/>

LIBRARY & PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ON ETHNOPOLITICS AND MINORITY ISSUES IN EUROPE

The Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE) is a peer-reviewed electronic journal edited under the auspices of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI). JEMIE is a multi-disciplinary journal which addresses minority issues across a broad range of studies, such as ethno-politics, democratisation, conflict management, good governance, participation, minority issues and minority rights. It is devoted to comparative analyses of current developments in minority-majority relations in the wider Europe. JEMIE

We also welcome contributions on non-European perspectives on ethno-politics in the wider Europe and on minority issues in Europe in a global context.

Within this broad framework the journal invites submissions in the following areas:

- Theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of minority issues in Europe
- Comparative and in-depth studies of minority groups and regions, especially in Central and South Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union
- Governance, political participation and civic activism in the post-communist states
- Conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and security in Europe, with a particular focus on minority populated regions.



EUROPEAN YEARBOOK OF MINORITY ISSUES

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

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



EYMI volumes 1 to 11 can be obtained from **Brill Academic Publisher**
<http://www.brill.com/>



Contact:

Dr Andreea Cârstocea (carstocea@ecmi.de)

Dr Alexander Osipov (osipov@ecmi.de)

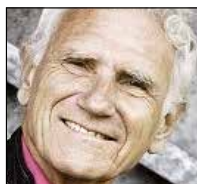
ECMI EXECUTIVE BOARD



Dr Jørgen Kühl, Chairman of ECMI
Director of the A.P Møller Skolen, Schleswig, Germany



Professor Rainer Hofmann, Vice-Chairman of ECMI
Co-Director of Wilhelm Merton Centre, Professor at Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Former President of the Advisory Committee to the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM)



Professor Bertel Heurlin
Jean Monnet Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Science, University of Copenhagen



Karin Riis Jørgensen
Former Member of the European Parliament, Former Vice-Chairwoman of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Chairwoman of the "European Privacy Association", Member of the Board of Public Advice International Foundation, Senior advisor for Communication-Agency Kreab & Gavin Anderson



Hans Müller Pedersen
Director General of the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, Copenhagen, Denmark



Renate Schnack
The Schleswig-Holstein Minister-President's Commissioner for Matters related to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, Border Area Activities and Low German



Dr Sabine Sütterlin-Waack
Member of the German Bundestag, CDU



Birte Pauls
Substitute for Ms. Schnack

To be announced shortly: Representative of Council of Europe

ECMI ADVISORY COUNCIL



Dr Jennifer Jackson Preece (Chairperson)

Associate Professor of Nationalism, European Institute & Department of International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science



Prof. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark

Director, Åland Island Peace Institute, Member from Sweden of the Advisory Committee to the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM)



Prof. Florian Bieber

Professor at the University of Graz and Centre for East European Studies, Graz



Prof. François Grin

Director of the Observatoire Langues Formation and Professor of Economics at the School of Translation and Interpretation, University of Geneva, Switzerland



Dr Kinga Gal

MEP for Hungary



Prof. David J. Galbreath

Professor of International Security, University of Bath, UK



Prof. James Hughes

Professor of Political Science at London School of Economics, UK



Prof. Will Kymlicka

Professor, Canada Research Chair in Political Philosophy Queen's University, Kingston, Canada



Prof. Stefan Oeter

Professor of Law at the University of Hamburg, Germany and President of the Advisory Committee to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)



Prof. John Packer

Professor of Law, Director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa, Canada



Prof. Levente Salat

Professor of Political Science at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania



Dr Gwendolyn Sasse

Professorial Fellow, Nuffield College and University Reader in Comparative Politics of Central and Eastern Europe, University of Oxford, UK



Prof. David Smith

Professor of Baltic History and Politics, School of Social and Political Science, University of Glasgow, UK



Prof. Michal Vašečka

Department of Sociology, Masaryk University, Czech Republic and Centre for the Research of Culture and Ethnicity, Slovakia, Member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)



Prof. Stefan Wolff

Professor of International Security, University of Birmingham, UK

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:



www.facebook.com/ECMIflensburg

www.facebook.com/ECMIKosovo
www.facebook.com/ECMICaucasus



www.flickr.com/ECMI



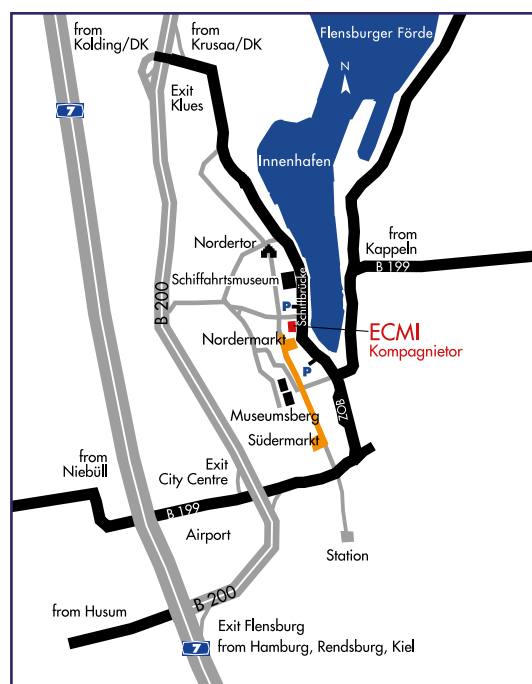
<http://twitter.com/ECMIflensburg>



www.linkedin.com/company/european-centre-for-minority-issues-ecmi-



www.youtube.com/user/ECMIflensburg



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
Nëna Terezë No. 41, Apt. 29
10000 Prishtina
T: +381 38 224 473
E: info@ecmikosovo.org
W: www.ecmikosovo.org



ECMI Caucasus
27a, N Ramishvili Str.
0179 Tbilisi
Georgia
T: +995 32 2 10 33 05
F: +995 32 2 22 61 23
E: info@ecmिकासus.org
W: www.ecmिकासus.org