ANNUAL REPORT

EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

2011

STANDARDS RESEARCH ACTION

Preface

The European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) enters 2012 with 15 years of good experience. When we celebrated the 15th anniversary in December 2011 we were able to look back on a success story. In only 15 years the institution has established itself as a major international player within national minority affairs.

Many times during 2011 we were reminded of ECMI's breakthrough as an institution.

We were pleased to welcome the High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ambassador Knut Vollebæk, when he visited the Centre in early May. The visit confirmed the long-standing cooperation with the High Commissioner and his predecessors on projects and policy analysis.

Several times during 2011, ECMI provided expert advice to the Polish EU Presidency, including in November when it convened and hosted a workshop for minority experts together with the HCNM.

2011 was also a year when the special role and expertise of ECMI was verbalised to a larger extent. A number of strategic reports were drafted and/or implemented. And most importantly, these have now been distilled into one Institutional Strategy 2012-17 that is our future anchor. A key finding is refined in the words 'standards, action and research' that inspired the title of this Annual Report. To be more specific, we have consolidated this three-fold synergy approach to national minority research and action into every part of our work. It shows that ECMI offers a unique product.

More Memoranda of Understanding were concluded with academic partners, and we have seen an extra effort made in local and international networking. The long-term commitment to the minorities in the Caucasus was stressed by signing an agreement with the University of Georgia. At government level, cooperation with several European governments has been renewed. We are cooperating with Finland in Kosovo, with Denmark in Belarus, and with the EU in Georgia.

Locally, we have intensified our contacts to the headquarters of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) in Flensburg, and to the Flensburg city hall via its newly elected mayor Simon Faber.

With 15 years, ECMI is not burdened by age. And moreover, the first 15 successful years prove that ECMI is no longer burdened by its youth.

I am looking forward to the next 15 years.

Dr Knud Larsen, Chairman
ECMI Board

ECMI Executive Board

Chairman Dr. Knud Larsen, Honorary Professor at Copenhagen Business School, Former Permanent Secretary at the Danish Ministry for Research, Former Chairman of the Danish Refugee Council – **Vice-Chairman Professor Rainer Hofmann**, Co-Director of Wilhelm Merton Centre, Professor at Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, resident 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 – **Dr. Jørgen Kühl,** A.P. Møller Skolen, Schleswig, Germany – **Mr. Ingbert Liebing,** Member of the German Bundestag – **Ms. Caroline Schwarz,** Beauftragte für Minderheiten und Kultur des Ministerpräsidenten des Landes Schleswig-Holstein (Minority Representative of the German Land of Schleswig-Holstein) – **Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris**, Director, Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE, The Hague – **Dr. Ralf Rene Weingaertner,** Director of Human Rights and Anti-discrimination at the Council of Europe – **Ms. Karin Riis Jørgensen**, Former Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chairwoman of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Chairwoman of the „European Privacy Association", Member of the Board of PA International (Public Advice International Foundation), Senior adviser for Communication-agency Kreab & Gavin Andersons in Brussels – **Dr. Detlev Rein**, Substitute for Mr. Liebing – **Ms. Susanne Herold,** Substitute for Ms. Schwarz – **Mr. Giovanni Palmieri,** Substitute for Dr. Weingaertner

Greek Girl. From the photo exhibition on Ethnic Minorities of Georgia. The exhibition displays a series of photographic works captured by the photo documentarist Natela Grigalashvili, born in Khashuri, Georgia in 1965.

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Director's message:

Focus and persistency to be continued

We have been focused. Focused and persistent! We have pursued the goals that were set in the Framework Strategy and our work programme for 2011. On the eve of 2012, the Framework Strategy was succeeded by an Institutional Strategy that will ensure focus and persistency also in the years to come. This is the short version of an introduction to the Annual Report of 2011.

The longer version is a story of concentrating efforts on new challenges within minority research, of forward looking activities particularly in the Caucasus and Kosovo, and of systematically accumulating, storing, publishing and communicating new knowledge for the benefit of a better and increasingly multicultural Europe.

You find it all in this Annual Report.

However, let me highlight Tom Trier's, *The ECMI Synergy Wheel © spins in Georgia.* It is telling an interesting and motivating story about an impressive effort by ECMI Caucasus. But it is also an article explaining how 'standards', 'action' and 'research' are closely intertwined in ECMI's work. And most of all, it explains the synergy between the elements in the threefold approach. This is what carries the added value of ECMI, and this is what we call the *ECMI Synergy Wheel ©.*

Let me also stress that the ECMI staff has been present at a considerable number of high-end conferences, seminars and events throughout Europe and beyond. Obviously, to be present at relevant academic and policy-relevant occasions serves several purposes. I highlight it because of the importance of being present. Unfortunately, there is not room in this Annual Report to list every single conference or event.

Organizationally, we have fine-tuned the research team. A research team of young PhDs who are well-qualified and represent the latest approaches in disciplines has been added to the core staff at the ECMI headquarters. The team is now matching the national minority issues we are facing in this time and age. And the administrative staff has upgraded to new conditions as well.

New initiatives have been taken in order to improve the communication infrastructure at ECMI. A new Content Management System was installed. More needs to be done and is still in the pipeline.

Workshops, a summer school event, and trainings in Georgia, Flensburg and Kosovo increased and intensified the pace of activities. We have added a considerable number of relevant persons to our network, and we have continued to spread the knowledge that we have accumulated within our field.

We continue to look forward to new challenges.

Dr Tove Hansen Malloy
ECMI Director

The ECMI Synergy Wheel © spins in Georgia

ECMI's Meskhetian problem preoccupation illustrates how the synergy approach works in practice

By Tom Trier, ECMI Caucasus

As of early 2012, some 8,900 Meskhetians have applied for repatriation and so far the Georgian authorities have granted repatriation status to about 333 families. ECMI is deeply engaged.

ECMI's preoccupation with what has become known as the so-called 'Meskhetian problem' in the past decade may serve as an illustration of how the ECMI synergy approach works in practice.

With the establishment in 2002 of a Caucasus research department at ECMI, the 'Meskhetian problem', among other matters, was singled out as a key issue that needed further addressing and where ECMI potentially might have a significant impact.

An initial ECMI Working Paper © was drawn up, and established a need for the conduct of more research in the field, in order to produce the necessary documentation of the problem and finding sustainable solutions to the displacement.

One of the considerations was that the 'Meskhetian problem' should be addressed not only by encouraging return to the territorial homeland, but also by facilitating integration in the countries where Meskhetians now lived. Or in some cases, e.g. in regions where Meskhetians faced severe discrimination, the problem could be addressed by supporting repatriation to third countries.

This did in fact happen later, when the US processed a large contingent of Meskhetians from Russia as refugees.

Mapping by thorough research

Based on the initial Working Paper, ECMI with support from the *Volkswagen Foundation* from 2004–06 conducted a large scale research project involving a multidisciplinary team of 37 scientists covering all of the nine countries of contemporary Meskhetian settlement.

The project resulted in the publication in 2007 of a large research volume on the subject: Tom Trier & Andrei Khanzhin, The Meskhetian Turks at a Crossroads: *Integration, Repatriation or resettlement?* (LIT, Berlin, 2007).

The volume has later become an authoritative resource on Meskhetian issues for practitioners in Georgia and among international organizations as well as within the academic community.

ECMI settles in Georgia

ECMI's engagement in the Meskhetian issue initiated in 2002 was soon followed by the coming into power of a reform-oriented and pro-Western government in Georgia under the leadership of President Saakashvili.

The new government articulated a strong will to integrate Georgia into European and North-Atlantic structures. With the changing political climate in Georgia, the fulfillment of obligations and commitments to the Council of Europe again moved up on the agenda.

Under the influence of these developments, ECMI in 2004 established an office in the Georgian capital Tbilisi and embarked with the financial backing of the Danish and Norwegian Ministries of Foreign Affairs on different projects to support the building of a more ethnically inclusive society.

Action in synergy with research findings

It became possible under these action-oriented interventions also to facilitate the newly established *State Minister of Georgia on Conflict Resolution Issues*, who among other responsibilities was in charge of the Meskhetian issue.

Following a number of workshops and conferences with government and civil society stakeholders in 2004 and 2005 that brought attention to the question, ECMI could now facilitate the establishment of an inter-governmental working group tasked to prepare the grounds for repatriation of deported Meskhetians and draft a law on repatriation.

These action-oriented efforts worked in synergy with the findings of the large scale research project that helped to inform both government actors and the NGO community with insights into the needs and living conditions of the Meskhetian communities.

Milestones
The July 2007 passing of a Law on Repatriation was a milestone in the efforts of the international community to facilitate the return of the last of Stalin's deported people. Albeit, the law that was finally adopted was very different – and less accommodating to the needs of the Meskhetians – from the version that was initially drafted by the working group.

Subsequently, ECMI has been playing a leading role in the work of a consultation group on repatriation consisting of the Council of Europe, the *OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities*, the European Union, the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration and ECMI.

Through the consultation group, ECMI and other international organizations have provided recommendations and supported the Georgian authorities in facilitating Meskhetian returns.

Some of these recommendations – for example on providing greater awareness on the repatriation process in Meskhetian communities, awareness in the Georgian society on the right of Meskhetians to return, or on supporting the integration of the tiny communities of Meskhetians that already exist in Georgia (some 600 Meskhetians had come to Georgia in the 1960-80s against all odds – are now being implemented by ECMI in partnership with the Spanish NGO Action Against Hunger (ACF) based on funding provided by the European Union.

Under this programme ECMI also advises the Georgian government on repatriation processes based on international best practices.

A recent book on Meskhetians produced under the project, Tom Trier, George Tarkhan-Mouravi and Forrest Kilimnik, *Meskhetians: Homeward Bound…,* (Tbilisi, ECMI, 2011), provides a comprehensive set of recommendations that is intended for practitioners in the field.

The ECMI Synergy Wheel © spins on
Throughout the entire process, ECMI has continuously maintained a two-fold approach, combining practice-oriented research with implementation action.

Lessons are being learned from the implementation of the action-programmes and generate insights and experience that is being utilized in future interventions.

It is the synergies between research, action, and European standards that together describe the ECMI Synergy Wheel ©. The synergies are core to the methodology that the ECMI applies in all projects and programmes.

New challenges will emerge already this year (2012), when Meskhetians, presumably, will start moving to Georgia. Some 8,900 Meskhetians have applied for repatriation as of early 2012, and so far the Georgian authorities have granted repatriation status to 333 families. At least another 1,000 statuses are expected to be granted in 2012.

ECMI Working Paper #21.
Between Integration and Resettlement: The Meskhetian Turks
(www.ecmi.de > Publications > Working Papers)
For *European Standards*, see
www.ecmi.de > About Us > ECMI Approach

From left:
Project Research Associate Ugo Caruso,
Project Assistant Oto Skale,
PhD Visiting Fellow Haileyesus Taye Chekole,
ECMI Kosovo Financial Manager Burim Gagica,
Director Dr Tove Hansen Malloy,
Intern Sebastian Bang,
Head of Secretariat Maj-Britt Risbjerg Hansen,
Intern Jacub Jaros,
Resource Development Officer Astrid Voss,
Electronic Services Librarian William McKinney,
Project Research Associate Federica Prina and
Senior Research Associate Dr Alexander Osipov.

Meshketians from Stalin to 2012

The Meskhetians are a Turkish speaking population of the Muslim faith that was collectively deported from their original homeland in the Georgian Soviet Republic by Stalin during World War II.

They were forcibly resettled in three Central Asian republics of the Soviet Union, but were later, due to ethnic tension and persecution, scattered throughout vast territories of the Soviet Union. Today, around 425,000 Meskhetians live in nine countries, mostly in former Soviet republics, but also in Turkey and the USA.

While other people of the Soviet Union, who were also collectively deported during Stalin's repression, could return to their native lands soon after the death of the dictator, the 'Meskhetian problem' has lingered on till this day.

Exile continues in 1990s
The ethnic conflicts that erupted in the early 1990s effectively barred the Meskhetians from coming back in the first years after the Soviet downfall, and in subsequent years shifting Georgian governments, overwhelmed by political, socio-economic and ethnic problems, have been dragging their feet in letting the displaced population return.

Ups and downs of European standards
In 1999, when Georgia became a member of the Council of Europe, the newly independent state undertook an obligation to facilitate the return of the deported Meskhetians. However, little was done by the Georgian government to implement this commitment, and by 2002, the issue had dropped low on the Council of Europe's and other international organizations priority lists in relation to Georgia.

Again, the political climate in Georgia changed. The fulfillment of obligations and commitments to the Council of Europe moved up on the agenda. A reform-oriented and pro-Western government came into power in Georgia under the leadership of President Saakashvili.

The return trip is on the way
In July 2007 the Law on Repatriation marked a major step ahead for the possible return of the last of Stalin's deported people.

As of early 2012, some 8,900 Meskhetians have applied for repatriation and so far the Georgian authorities have granted repatriation status to 333 families. At least another 1,000 statuses are expected to be granted in 2012. New challenges will emerge when Meskhetians, presumably this year, will start moving to Georgia.

Employees at the ECMI Headquarter a day in January 2012

Ready for Ratification?

In 2011, ECMI and several other contributors compiled the online publication *Ready for Ratification. Early Compliance of Non-States Parties with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Language* (ECRML).
'Ready for Ratification' consists of a two-volume handbook on options for ECRML ratification in states that are still to ratify it. Volume 1 outlines the situation of minority languages in the respective states and includes proposed instruments of ratification. Volume 2 examines the levels of congruence between national legislation and the provisions of the ECRML, in table formats for easy review of the existing legislation.

'Ready for Ratification' may be downloaded at www.ecmi.de

Twenty states ready for ratification
Of the 24 cases analyzed, 20 states are found to be ready for ratification. Only four are found in need of legal and policy reform prior to ratification. These are Belarus, France, Greece and Turkey.

Belarus and the Holy See are among the 24 analyzed cases despite not being members of the Council of Europe. They can both accede to the ECRML.

A guide for governments
The handbook is intended as a guide for governments, civil society minority organizations and other stakeholders in the assessment of options for ratification.

It provides evidence that many states are equipped to satisfy the ECRML's obligations. While encouraging accession to the Charter, it also demonstrates that the process towards ECRML ratification does not necessarily imply onerous commitments, but can be integrated in the framework for language protection that already exists in many states.

Only four states are not 'Ready for Ratification' claims ECMI's online publication with the same title.

Facts on ECRML

In 2012, a unique Council of Europe convention on the protection and promotion of regional and minority languages celebrates its 20th anniversary. Yet many member states of the Council of Europe have still not ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML).

Of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe, only about half (25) have ratified it, against 39 that have ratified the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM).

Many of those states, which have not yet ratified the ECRML, have a long tradition of promotion of minority languages in education, culture, media and other aspects of public life. They also tend to have ratified the FCNM, whose provisions are congruent with those of the ECRML.

Expert seminar in Leeuwarden. ECMI's Ewa Chylinski is seen in the middle of the group photo with a scarf.

Cultural Education and Civil Society - How can Languages Contribute?

ECMI Deputy Director at the time, Ewa Chylinski, attended the Conference. The Conference took place in Leeuwarden (NL) 25–27 May.

The starting point of the Conference was to consider the value of multilingualism as a cultural wealth not only for minorities, but for society as a whole. The Conference explored the role of civil society and minority organisations in lifelong learning.

Ewa Chylinski gave a presentation at the event. It focused on the role of minority languages, the visibility of 'cultures' in the broader society, and on how multilingualism can be incorporated into the formal and informal educational systems and institutions through civil society activities.

The event was co-organised by the *Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning* and *The Basque Country Education Board.* It was the fifth expert meeting in the series of Added Value Project between the two minority provinces.

ECMI joins EU Roma Policy debate

A panel discussion towards a European Roma Policy under the auspices of the EU Hungarian Chairmanship was held in the Schleswig-Holstein Parliament on 9 June 2011. Widespread discrimination against Roma in Europe calls for a Roma inclusion strategy at EU level.

Deputy Director at the time, Ewa Chylinski, took part on behalf of ECMI.

Inputs due to longstanding Roma involvement
ECMI was invited to provide input to this event due to its longstanding involvement in monitoring the Roma situation in Europe.

The event was part of the 'Discussing with Ambassadors' series. Among the key speakers were the Hungarian ambassador to Germany, Dr. Jozsef Czukor and Timea Junghaus of the Roma Cultural Centre in Budapest.

Launch of a Legal Commentary on the Language Charter

The Legal Commentary of the European Language for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) was launched in Hamburg on 19 July 2011.

The Commentary was the outcome of two years of intensive discussions. Ewa Chylinski, Deputy Director at the time, took part in the discussions on behalf of ECMI.

Implementation in German speaking states
The Commentary focuses on the relationship between several actors involved in the implementation of the provisions of the ECRML: the Council of Europe, respective member states, cantons, and language groups.

In the context of three federal German-speaking states-Germany, Austria and Switzerland-the Commentary investigates how formal state structures affect the effective implementation of the ECRML provisions.

International Conference on Minority Languages

ECMI co-organized the 13th International Conference on Minority Languages in Sonderburg-Flensburg in June 2011

What are the institutional arrangements promoting minority languages? How can language revitalisation be achieved? These and other questions were explored in the 13th International Conference on Minority Languages (ICML XIII) under the general theme of 'Institutional Arrangements'. The Conference took place on 22–25 June.

A publication with the Conference contributions will be available in 2012. Find more information at www.icml13.org

Local examples in focus
While examples of good practice from other regions were discussed, there was a special focus on local minority institutions in the Danish-German border region.

Events were organized by the four local minorities: the Danish, Frisian and Roma-Sinti minorities of North Germany, and the Germans of Southern Denmark. It provided the Conference participants with an opportunity to meet representatives of these minorities and get a first hand experience of the activities of institutions in the Danish–German border region.

International experts present
The participants benefitted from the insight of international scholars such as Prof. Dr. Holger Jahnke (Germany), Prof. Dr. Fernand de Varennes (Canada), and Prof. Dr. Marlene Verhoef (South Africa). The event consolidated the network of experts on minority languages and facilitated the sharing of examples of good practice and of new research on minority languages.

ICML XIII was organized by ECMI, the University of Southern Denmark and the University of Flensburg. The Conference was coordinated by an informal European network of scholars on minority languages. Over 60 participating scholars represented 15 different European and non-European countries. The ICML XIV will take place in Graz, Austria, in 2013.

KOSOVO

Furthering Political and Socio-economic Inclusion of Ethnic Communities in Kosovo

The decentralisation process in Kosovo has yielded substantial results. Five Serb-majority Municipalities have been established and are functioning. The municipalities are Gračanica/Graçanicë, Klokot-Vrbovac/Kllokot-Vërboc, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë, Parteš/Partesh, and Ranilug/Ranillug.

Although much remains to be done in devolving competences and enhancing administrative capacities, the municipalities are already demonstrating ability to build confidence among citizens of all communities.

In order to consolidate the progress achieved so far, municipal administrations must proceed to make concrete progress in sectors that benefit citizens of all communities directly.

Crucial role of better business
Local economic development, including the development of small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) is crucial in this regard.

Since September 2011, ECMI Kosovo has engaged directly with these municipal administrations as well as with local civil society actors and the business community. ECMI supports the establishing of a tripartite dialogue among the stakeholders, in order to create better conditions for business and local economic development.

This will contribute to stabilising multiethnic relations in Kosovo and furthering the socioeconomic and political inclusion of all communities living in the newly established municipalities.

At present, municipal authorities are still weak and lack capacities and expertise to effectively support SMEs, and the local business community needs support in order to be able to better develop and to allow them to reach the rest of Kosovo and wider markets.

First project steps taken
As a first step, ECMI Kosovo has begun to support municipal administrations develop a picture of the socio-economic situation in the municipalities, including an assessment of the needs and capacities of local SMEs.

The following steps include practical tools for fundraising and investment promotion, implementation of the relevant legal and policy framework, and capacity building in project management, business development and more.

Thanks to generous support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland, the *Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process* project extension will run until the end of 2013.

Continued Institutional Support to the Consultative Council for Communities

ECMI Kosovo has supported the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) since 2005, and continued its support in 2011 through the project 'Institutional Support to the Kosovo Consultative Council for Communities 2011'. This project aimed to ensure the CCC's Institutional sustainability, increase its capacity for minority representation, and strengthen its consultation role.

Specifically, ECMI Kosovo has helped to address three main problems affecting the functionality of the CCC: the limited human and financial capacity of the CCC Secretariat; the lack of involvement of the CCC by the Kosovo Government in the development of community related legislation and policy, and the lack of visibility and transparency of the CCC.

Separate budget achieved
For the first two years following Kosovo's declaration of independence, the CCC was an independent body without financial independence. Budgetary control was exercised by the Office of the President. At the same time, the CCC's Secretariat suffered from a severe lack of human resources.

In 2011, following consistent advocacy from ECMI Kosovo, the CCC experienced a considerable increase in the size of the Secretariat and was allocated, for the first time, a separate budget. This resulted in a significant increase in the effective role the Council can play.

Inclusion in the Government Rules of Procedure
As foreseen by the Constitution of Kosovo, the main role of the CCC is to take up an advisory role in the development of legislation and policy affecting minority communities in Kosovo.

However, in practice the Council has been sidetracked in many cases. In order to address this deficiency, ECMI Kosovo has facilitated the inclusion of CCC consultation in the Government Rules of Procedure through frequent meetings and the help of its experts.

Consultative Council for Communities meeting with Kosovo President Mrs Atifete Jahjaga.

It has strengthened considerably the position of the CCC in the legislative and policy development process.

Website on the drawing board
Finally, although the CCC had been operational for several years, its visibility has remained low resulting in a lack of knowledge among both community members and other Government institutions on the work of the Council.
In order to increase the visibility of the CCC, ECMI Kosovo has started developing a website for the CCC, which will be available in five languages and contain all the information and documentation relevant to the CCC, including the minutes of meetings and the CCC official recommendations.

Sponsors
The project is financed by UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

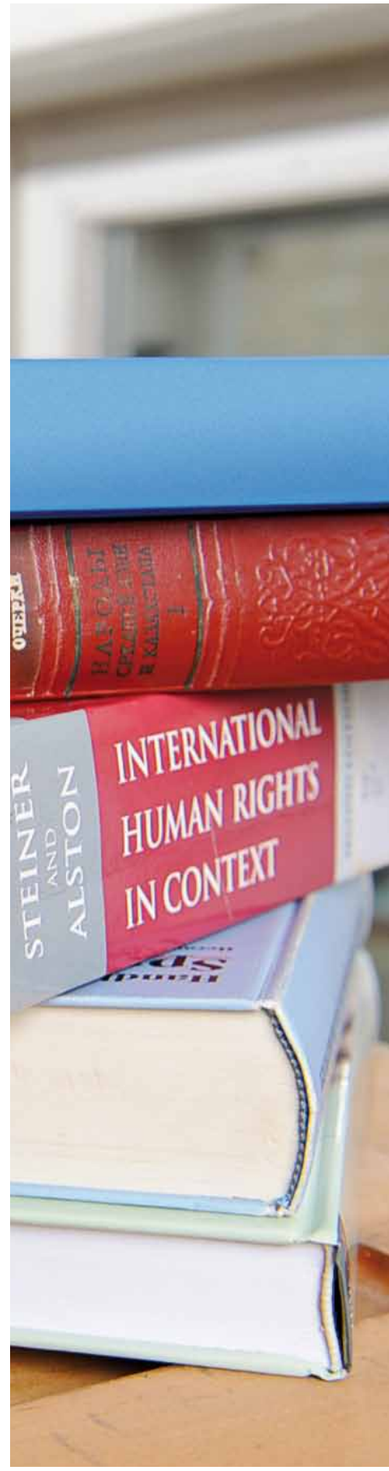
The Kosovo Consultative Council for Communities

The Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) is a constitutionally-mandated institution, comprising of community representatives from civil society, political parties, and key government officials.

Through its mixed membership, and its strategic location within the Office of the President, it provides members of communities with a forum from which to monitor and influence the legislative process, and to advance their needs and interests within Kosovo government programmes and policies.

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

Following Kosovo's declaration of independence in 2008, the CCC was legally established through Article 60 of the 2008 Kosovo Constitution and held its inaugural session on 23 December 2008.



ECMI Kosovo seconds First-mover Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje

In order to benefit from the *Strategy*, the Municipality of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje became the first municipality in Kosovo to endorse a *Municipal Action Plan* for the integration of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Only limited efforts have been made to implement this plan so far. ECMI Kosovo supports the implementation.

ECMI Kosovo has been working closely with municipal officials in the Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje municipality. ECMI Kosovo supports the usage of the education component of the *Municipal Action Plan* as guidance in the municipality's work.

Long haul of technical assistance
ECMI Kosovo's approach to achieving this goal has focused on several elements. Initially, a study on the current situation was undertaken, and the capacities of municipal officials were assessed. Using the results, ECMI Kosovo aims to allow evidence-based evaluation in education delivery as well as to enhance the capacities of municipal officials.

Considering the need to operationalize the *Municipal Action Plan*, ECMI Kosovo has provided technical assistance to municipal structures in order to develop a budget and define responsibilities. Measurable indicators for each specific action are included. Subsequently, municipal officials were assisted in developing a realistic timeline for the implementation of the *Action Plan* as well as in establishing a monitoring and evaluation plan.

In order to increase the ownership by municipal officials of the education delivery, a municipal *Task Force* has been established. The *Task Force* serves as a focal point for raising the awareness of municipal officials regarding existing problems concerning minority communities and informing civil society on the policies and actions undertaken by the municipality to improve minority education.

Lastly, in order to address the lack of awareness concerning the implementation of the *Strategy* and its *Action Plan* at the municipal level throughout Kosovo, ECMI Kosovo is compiling the achievements of this project in a guidebook to serve more municipalities.

Financed by UNICEF
The project on 'Improving the Delivery of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities' Education' is financed by UNICEF. The focus is to enhance the quality of education for children from these communities and promote inclusion in the education system.

The Strategy in Brief

Improving the Education Delivery for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities

The *Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in the Republic of Kosovo 2009-2015* was approved in December 2008. The comprehensive strategic plan was approved and designed by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo. The intention is to improve the situation of certain marginalized communities in all fields.

The *Action Plan* for its implementation was endorsed in December 2009.

The living conditions of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo are reminiscent of the living conditions of the poorest communities in developing countries. The *Strategy* foresees policies and programmes, to reduce poverty, to safeguard their ethnic and cultural identity, and to integrate these communities into public life and the education system.

The context of education
The situation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Kosovo's education system is characterised by a low level of general attendance in compulsory education; there is only a very small number of students that attend higher or university education; there are very few teachers of Romani, Ashkali or Egyptian origin, and there is a high drop-out rate, especially among girls.

Although steps have been taken, Kosovo institutions have fallen short of fulfilling their commitments to create appropriate conditions for the integration of these communities in Kosovo.

Workshop on human rights violations in Kosovo. Photo: Lars Burema

Legal aid lawyers conducting outreach activities in minority areas in Kosovo. Photo: Nedzad Radoncic

More than 1000 Received Legal Aid

ECMI Kosovo has started to operate anumber of legal clinics throughout Kosovo. More than 1,000 beneficiaries have been provided with legal aid services during the course of 2011. The project is carried out in cooperation with the NGO 'Centre for legal Aid and Regional Development'.

The project allows members of vulnerable and marginalised groups to receive free legal aid on a variety of issues. Issues range from employment disputes to discrimination cases.

ECMI Kosovo spread awareness of these services through appearances on national media, workshops with civil society organisations, and the organisation of a countrywide door-to-door outreach campaign.

The project is aimed at and entitled 'Enhancing the Positive Impact of the Law for Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups in Kosovo.' It is funded by the European Union and managed by the European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo.

Handbook on addressing human rights violations
Simultaneously, ECMI Kosovo conducted a comprehensive study of the legal framework affecting vulnerable and marginalised groups in Kosovo. One result is a practical handbook for citizens and civil society on how to address human rights violations through the Kosovo legal system. The documents are available at www.kosovo-legalaid.com.

Initiating strategic litigation
Based on some of the main issues identified in the study mentioned above, ECMI Kosovo has also identified a few priority areas affecting vulnerable and marginalised groups in Kosovo and has started to look into the possibilities of initiating strategic litigation in these areas.

This has, so far, resulted in legal actions taken in the fields of access to health, domestic violence, language rights and discrimination in education.

Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups in Paragraphs and Practice

While the legal framework for the protection of vulnerable and marginalised groups (VMG) in Kosovo has been widely praised on paper, there is little evidence that individuals are feeling the benefits of those laws in everyday lives.

Sources continue to point to the unequal treatment of such groups in many areas, from discrimination on grounds of gender and disability, to restricted access for minority communities to essential services, such as social security and health care as well as access to public records.

Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have long been among the most marginalised groups in Kosovo, and they are particularly vulnerable to discrimination.

Language Training Programme in Kosovo's Official Languages for Municipal Officials

ECMI Kosovo implemented a pilot project aimed at providing municipal officials in the municipality of Štrpce/Shtërpcë with language training in Serbian or Albanian.

During six months, regular language classes in the two official languages of Kosovo were held for Serbian and Albanian municipal officials according to a programme tailor-made for municipal officials and targeting specific needs.

The practice of Serbian officials learning Albanian represented a novel and politically sensitive practice with few precedents.

Advantages of language competencies
By improving the language competencies of the municipal officials, the project contributed to increased use of the language learned. This is relevant both in interactions with the general public and in informal communication within the municipality.

The project thus contributed to the promotion of greater cooperation and integration of community members working in the civil sector and to improved citizens' access to information in their own language.

Sponsor
The project was supported by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Certificate award ceremony for successful course participants. Photo: Andrea Najvirtova

Joint conversation class for participants of both courses. Photo: Andrea Najvirtova

Facts and Challenges of the Kosovo Languages

Albanian and Serbian are the official languages of Kosovo. They have equal status and equal rights as to use in Kosovo institutions.

The *Law on the Use of Languages* guarantees that the official languages are used on an equal basis for meetings and work in municipal administrations. However, employment requirements for municipal civil servants only require them to speak one official language of Kosovo, not both. This creates potential challenges: it may limit regular communication and cooperation among municipal staff when a common language is lacking, and it may marginalize the contributions of speakers of the less spoken language or limit them to engaging in work specific to their community.

These concerns are heightened as Kosovo is in a period of transition linguistically, with older generations of all communities having learned Serbian in school, whereas the younger generations have not. According to the Kosovo Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Albanian is the primary language of instruction, whereas Serbian is neither a language of instruction, nor offered as a second language.

New generations, new challenges
According to the Serbian Ministry of Education, Serbian is the only language of instruction, with neither Albanian nor other local languages offered as a second language.

As such, younger generations educated in either system in Kosovo are lacking the opportunity to learn both official languages. This means that the pool of applicants for municipal civil servants positions is becoming less able to communicate in both official languages of Kosovo - a fact further exacerbated by the lack of opportunities for language-learning.

This is a particular concern given the important role that the municipal government plays in the implementation of legislation and provision of services to citizens.

The law requires representation of all communities within municipal institutions, and communication and collaboration across all communities to ensure the interests of all are equally considered so that citizens of all communities can engage with the Municipal Government as needed.

Minority Voices on Social Minority Networks

By Larisa Rankovic, freelance journalist

While an increasing number of studies are analysing the role of social media networks as platforms for contact, cooperation and socialisation, little research has been done so far on their implications for the specific case of minority groups.

The *European Centre for Minority Issues*, a research and policy institution based in the town of Flensburg on the German-Danish border, recently welcomed a group of European researchers and web analysts on minority issues from Hungary, Russia, Poland, Romania, Germany, Denmark, Belgium and Serbia to discuss the use of social media networks by ethnic, linguistic, immigrant and sexual minorities.

The workshop entitled *Minorities and New Social Media* showed that along with the great variety of types of minorities in Europe, there is an even greater variety in the ways these communities are present on the Internet in general and on social media platforms in particular.

Ethnic and language minorities
An ethnic minority living in a given region of Europe may use new media platforms in order to strengthen its identity awareness, language, cultural production and historic heritage. The Kashubian minority living in the area around the Polish town of Gdansk shares original Kashubian literary and academic works as well as translated pieces on the website *Skarbnica Kaszubska* and uses the social portal *Nasze Kaszuby* to present Kashubian folklore and promote contemporary Kashubian identity. The portal played a significant role in adding the Kashubian ethnicity in the national census and in establishing the national Kashubian Unity Day.

Ethnic and linguistic minorities living in less populated areas, with a high illiteracy rate among its members and few resources to access the online world, face more challenges in protecting their language and cultural heritage. Some innovative solutions, however, have emerged. The *Tuvan Online Talking Dictionary*, developed by the *Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages,* lists lexical entries with sound files showing how the words would be pronounced by a Tuvan native speaker from the Republic of Tuva in south-central Siberia. The dictionary is also available through an application for iPhone and iPad.

Ethnic minority groups such as the Roma people who are spread over various geographical regions or who suffer from persistent negative stereotypes also feel the need to connect with each other online.

The project *I'm a European Roma Woman* was initiated by an international group of Romani female activists based in Budapest who wanted to challenge dominant media representations of Romani women - which are often discriminatory, both in terms of ethnicity and gender.

They set up a low-budget video campaign, using modern technology and social media – especially YouTube and Facebook – to send their message across. The campaign was met with a variety of responses, ranging from hate speech in You Tube comments to messages from other Romani women saying how empowered they had felt after watching the videos.

Two Roma social networking sites, *Zhoriben.net* and *Kaskosan*, both based in Hungary, were created with the aim to bring together people of Roma origin living in different countries of Europe.

The site *judapest.org* is a Hungarian community blog dedicated to the promotion of Jewish identity and modern Jewish culture at the service of another geographical dispersed group. Its founders describe the initiative as "a wholly home grown and grass roots online and offline community project aiming to uncover the Stimulating, the Relevant and The Cool in the Hungarian Jewish Experience."

Migrants
The availability of digital communication tools can have a significant impact on the lives of migrants.

Social networks have given migrants the opportunity, more than ever before, to participate in social and political life both in their countries of origin and their countries of residence. An ethnographic field research presented during the workshop showed that Egyptian and Libyan migrants in Greece say that being abroad has helped them get a clearer view of the political situation in their home countries, and that the exchange of information with friends and families though Facebook and other social media

Workshop on Minorities and New Media, organised by the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg, Germany, Photo: Ignasi Torrent

sites has contributed to raise awareness about the need for political change:
"After several years living [in Greece] we realised that the elections in Egypt that had given 98 percent of the votes to Mubarak's party were not described as democratic elections, they were called corruption. We wrote to people at home through Facebook, we alerted people to these things…That's why the Egyptian people protested peacefully and demanded democracy – they are in the know. We are able to provide that…"

In Russia, websites such as *Kginfo.ru,* established by several Kyrgyz and Russian non-governmental and educational institutions for the Kyrgyz minority in Russia, or *Tajmigrant.com*, the website of the Tajik labour migrant organisation run by its leader Karomat Sharipov, provide new migrants with platforms for communication with authorities and citizens in their home countries and help them develop strategies for integration in their new country.

Some ethnic social networks have become so successful that netpreneurs have started targeting ethnic groups as a key element of their e-business plans. The website for Roma people *Kaskosan.com* offers visitors the possibility to buy ringtones and music, gifts and to send e-cards. Surveys show that e-commerce in Eastern Europe is growing steadily and that the number of internet users and online shoppers continues to increase. Further growth can be expected in this niche market.

The success of social media initiatives however is not always guaranteed. Analysis of the use of Internet among labour migrants in Russia, mainly stemming from rural areas and poor households in Central Asia and the Caucasus, has shown that websites created for these specific communities are seldom visited or only in cases of emergency.

Sexual minorities and nationalistic groups

Despite the beneficial aspects of the Internet and social media networks for communication and transfer of information, the dangers of too uncritical belief in their empowering effect should not be ignored. These may include commercialisation and trivialisation, but also misuse for undemocratic purposes. The latter has been observed in Serbia in the past few years where nationalistic groups have used websites, blogs and Facebook pages as platforms to present and popularise radical views and organise sometimes violent, actions.

Social networks are equally available to nationalistic groups spreading hatred and to minorities who want to expand their visibility in the public sphere.

On the one hand, they can serve as tools for networking, identification, and political and social activism for socially marginalised groups, such as gays and lesbians. On the other hand, they can also function as an additional mechanism responsible for strengthening the marginalisation of these groups, by excluding them from the mainstream media. They run the risk of becoming communicative autistic platforms where likeminded people discuss issues relevant to them, without any power to change the predominantly negative stereotypes that circulate about them in conservative Balkan societies.

In conclusion, the goals minorities seek to achieve via social media seem to vary greatly and can sometimes lead to unwanted results. State authorities and civil society can therefore play a crucial role in creating and maintaining an environment protective of minorities. Thousands of Facebook "likes" are not sufficient for that task.

This article was first time published in the Magazine of the European Journalism Centre (www.ejc.net).

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES

Capacity-building in Belarus

ECMI has set out to develop a closer cooperation with the non-governmental organizations, research centres, and relevant governmental agencies in Belarus. ECMI wishes to assist in capacity-building and in developing a broader dialogue between Belarusian institutions and European counterparts. The project began in 2011.

First steps taken
A kick off meeting took place in Minsk in connection with a roundtable 'Promotion of Interethnic Dialogue: Contemporary European and Belarusian Experience' held at the Republican Centre for Nationalities Cultures. Representative of many NGOs and several officials in charge of minority policies attended the 1st International Congress of Belarus Studies 'Rethinking Belarus' in Kaunas, Lithuania provided an opportunity to gather Belarusian scholars interested in minority issues. ECMI organised a section on diversity management in Belarus and Central Eastern Europe. The contributions are under preparation for publication.

Belarusians visiting
The highlight of the initial stages of the implementation was a study visit by a Belarus delegation to the Danish–German border region. Representatives of academic circles, minority organisations, local authorities from Brest and a representative of the Belarus Diaspora Organisation *Radzima* were introduced to minority organisations' collaboration, minority schools management, minority institutions, and to the work of the Schleswig-Holstein government with minority issues.

The delegation also met the Lord Mayor of Flensburg, Simon Faber, who is a member of the Danish minority. They learned how local authorities accommodate minority citizens. The delegation was impressed by the informal atmosphere in the consultative bodies, and also by the high level of participation of minorities in public life.

The ECMI Belarus Team consists of Ewa Chylinski and Dr. Alexander Osipov.

Minorities and Belarus in brief

While Belarus is a large and strategically important country in the heartland of Europe, it remains a blind-spot on the Continent's map of ethnic minorities. Belarus is not a Council of Europe member, and even though it is a participating state of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), it is not covered by the activities of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Minorities such as Russians, Poles, Ukrainians, Tatars, Lithuanians, Jews, Armenians, Roma, and other communities reside within the country's territory. They constitute approximately 16% of Belarus' population.

Well recognized and also organized
Ethnic pluralism and the existence of minorities are recognised in the Constitution and through national legislation. Minority issues are regulated by the framework Law on National Minorities adopted in 1992 and by several national and provincial regulations. The framework Law was amended in 2004 and 2007.

Several minority organizations operate in the country. They are locally organized by and large, and only a few have formed umbrella organizations to represent them in the formal Consultative Interethnic Council. These NGOs are not strongly involved at the social level, being rather invisible within and outside the country. Their joint activities are limited in scale and effect.

Limited expertise
There is little expertise and a virtual lack of public debate on minority-related issues in Belarus. Several scholars study religious minorities and migration policies; a few engage in studies on Belarusian nationalism and on the country's linguistic situation. Except for individual papers published in provincial university periodicals and brochures with very limited circulation, the theme of national or ethnic minorities is unknown to academics doing Belarus related research in- and outside the country.

Correspondingly, there are no analysts among minority activists, and minority NGOs are mostly involved in cultural folklore activities. NGO activists, scholars, and governmental officials have acknowledged that the country lacks expertise even in the areas where it has recently faced obvious challenges, i.e. prevention of discrimination on ethnic grounds and promotion of interethnic tolerance.

Institutional framework
The Plenipotentiary on Religious and Nationalities Affairs is the only national executive body dealing with minority issues in Belarus. Established in 2002 as a department directly subordinated to the Council of Ministers, the office is expected to operate throughout the country and coordinate activities of the regional (provincial) executives in charge of ethnic issues.

Provincial governments have established units in charge of religious and ethnic affairs, and in reality they work independently of the Plenipotentiary.

A republican Council for National Cultures exists under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. In the educational sphere, there are schools with minority languages as languages of instruction as well as bi-, or tri-lingual schools with Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian. Finally, minority language transmission takes place in Sunday school arrangements.

"School no 36 with Polish as language of instruction," says the table. There are schools with minority languages as languages of instruction or bi-, or tri-lingual schools with Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian.

Capacity building necessary
Central actors in minority politics do not constitute a coherent community so that minority issues can be discussed as a significant agenda in an established forum.

They acknowledge that capacity building in minority-related fields is necessary, and that isolation from the broader international context and from each other is detrimental. They recognize that issues, such as minorities' participation in public life, functioning of consultative mechanisms, and promotion of tolerance are topical in Belarus.

Opportunities for constructive communication
The international community's concerns over the state of human rights in Belarus are permanently on the agenda. National and international minority and human rights NGOs have to face either numerous restrictions while conducting their work cautiously or refrain from operating in Belarus.

However, opportunities for independent civic activities in Belarus are not lost, particularly with regard to minority rights. Numerous Belarus governmental agencies as well as public research institutions and universities maintain working contacts and even collaborate with NGOs which are not pro-governmental or with their individual activists in personal capacity.

Although the government has abandoned its rhetoric of Europeanization, Belarus tries to prevent its total isolation and even seems to be interested in making its voice heard in Europe.

This means that the opportunities for constructive communication with Belarusian official authorities and civil society organizations are still at hand.

As part of a broader civil society and human rights agenda, minority issues are not particularly politically sensitive for the Belarusian government. An exception is the case of the Union of Poles that is in conflict with the Belarusian authorities. In general, the government goes beyond merely toleration of civil society activities by demonstrating its interest in cooperation with NGOs in promotion of tolerance and in carrying out cultural projects.

CAUCASUS

Strengthening the State Capacity and Enhancing Public Consultation on Minority Issues

ECMI has seen significant progress under this intervention. The first half of 2011 saw the consolidation of institutional changes that were initiated in late 2010 in the field of national minority governance in Georgia.

Restructuring carried out in the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration (SMR) and the National Security Council (NSC) resulted in the shaping of a more operational structure. A new Department on Human Rights, Minorities and the Rule of Law was established under the NSC, which has been tasked to oversee policy development and conceptualization in the field. The department is also responsible for reporting on international treaty bodies.

Sustainable governance on national minorities
ECMI supports the implementation of a process under the general objective of furthering sustainable and credible governance on national minorities in Georgia. The process was initiated in May 2009 with the adoption of a National Concept on Tolerance and Civil Integration. The general objective is in accordance with the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

DENMARK'S CAUCASUS PROGRAMME 2010-2013
PROMOTION OF JUDICAL REFORMS,
HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS OF GEORGIA

დანიის კავკასიის პროგრამა 2010-2013
სასამართლო ხელფრთის, ადამიანისა და
უმცირესობათა უფლებების ხელშეწყობა
საქართველოში

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The successful implementation of the National Concept requires efficient functioning of the institutional framework for minority governance. Under the programme, ECMI provides technical and policy advisory support to the new body. It also continues to support the SMR and the Council of National Minorities (CNM) under the Public Defender of Georgia.

Supporting forward pointing structures
The ECMI action has served to implement a number of important activities this year, including measures to support the drafting of Georgia's state report on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (see article below). It also includes efforts to support the coordination of government implementation of policies towards minorities more generally. This is pursued via the State Inter-Agency Commission on Civic Integration. Finally, ECMI supports the monitoring of the implementation carried out by the CNM.

This larger intervention is funded by the Government of Denmark, and implemented in partnership with the Council of Europe. It is coordinated by Shorena Kobaidze.

CAUCASUS

Support to the Working Group on the FCNM

In September 2011, a seminar on the implementation and reporting procedures regarding the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* (FCNM) in Georgia was held as part of Denmark's Georgia Programme 2010-13.

The seminar was organized by ECMI in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the National Security Council, which in Georgia is responsible for reporting to the Council of Europe on the FCNM and other treaty bodies.

Towards Georgia's second state report
Dr. Francesco Palermo, who is a member of the FCNM Advisory Committee, facilitated the seminar that aimed at preparing the Georgian government bodies in the process of drafting the second state report, which is due in April 2012. The seminar provided practical input on the upcoming state report, both in terms of structure and procedure as well as content.

It was the first time this kind of drafting seminar was held, and the Georgian authorities found the proceedings highly useful in preparing for the report. The Council of Europe is now considering whether state bodies in other member states can benefit from similar workshops.

Seminar on the implementation and reporting procedures regarding the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) in Georgia

State Inter-Agency Commission implements Annual Work Plan for 2011

The State Inter-Agency Commission (SIAC) for coordination of issues relating to civic integration continues its mandate to implement the National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration through its five- year Action Plan. It functions under the auspices of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration. The members of the Commission consist of representatives of ministries and governmental bodies working in areas of relevance for national minority issues.

The Commission at work
SIAC collaborates actively with the administrative and political bodies of local self-government, the Office of the Public Defender (including its Council of National Minorities), civil society and international organizations.

A recent example of such cooperation is the monitoring of the implementation of the annual state report on the implementation of the National Concept. This came as a result of joint efforts of all parties, including state bodies and civil society organizations.

ECMI has played a key role in establishing the SIAC in July 2009 as well as in supporting the efficient functioning of the body under previous and current programmes.

Media Cooperation and Peace Journalism in South Caucasus

ECMI Caucasus and its partners have initiated a media cooperation project. The project has so far succeeded in creating a mechanism for systematic exchange of information for media representatives in Abkhazia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh, and South Ossetia.

About 25 media representatives were trained in peace journalism in Famagusta, northern Cyprus on 12-17 September 2011.

Through a grant provided by the German Marshall Foundation a preparatory meeting was also held in Ankara on 14-15 April 2011.

The project partnership includes the Georgian NGO, *International Center on Conflict and Negotiation* (ICCN). It is coordinated for ECMI by Giorgi Sordia, and it is funded by the EU supported UNDP mechanism *Confidence Building Early Response Mechanism*. It is envisaged that the project will continue in 2012.

CAUCASUS

Facilitating the Return of Deported People

Osman Mekhriev of Abastumani village was 14 when he and his family were deported to Central Asia. He returned to Abastumani in 2005. "Returning was like being born from my mother's womb again," he says. Photo: Temo Bardzimashvili.

In 2011, ECMI Caucasus has implemented a large scale programme to support the repatriation of people deported from Georgia during the Stalin era. The project deals mainly with the indigenous Turkish speaking population of Samtskhe-Javakheti called the Meskhetians.

Since the government of Georgia has no experience in managing repatriation of deported people, the support of ECMI is playing an important role in the overall facilitation of the process. An international expert seconded by the ECMI to the *Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia* (MRA) ensures that the repatriation process is being implemented in accordance with the established international standards.

In order to coordinate the repatriation process between a range of governmental agencies the government of Georgia has, with the support of the programme, created an 'Interagency Governmental Council on the Repatriation of Forcefully Deported Persons from the Soviet Socialist Republic of Georgia During the 40s of XX Century by Former USSR' and a Working Group. ECMI is closely cooperating with both bodies, especially with regard to the drafting of a repatriation strategy, which is currently being drawn up.

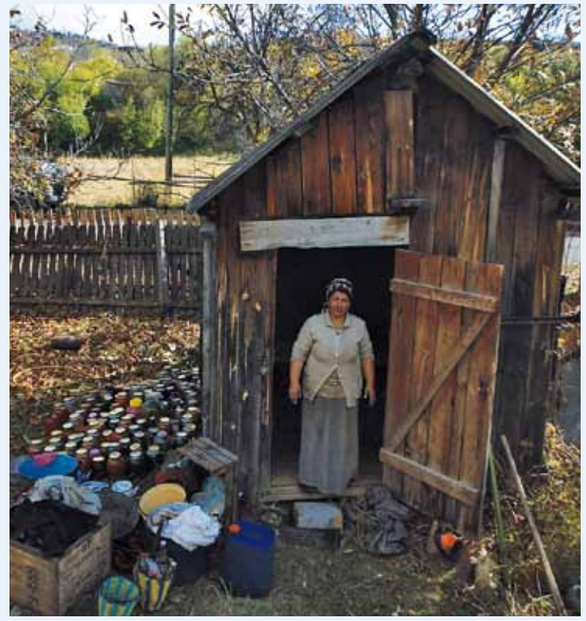
Additionally, ECMI is supporting the creation, maintenance and updating of a database of repatriate-seekers at the MRA.

Societal awareness rising

Apart from supporting the government structures in advancing the repatriation process, ECMI implements various activities to prepare the Georgian society for the return of
Meskhetian repatriates.

These activities include trainings for regional authorities on diversity management, implemented in partnership with the Georgian *ALPE Foundation,* public lectures and seminars, winter schools for university students, photo exhibitions, cultural festivals, publication of information material, and the launch of an informational website.

ECMI Caucasus is working in partnership with Spanish NGO *Action Against Hunger* in implementing the project 'Supporting the Repatriation of Persons Deported from Georgia in the 1940s and their Descendants'. The project is funded by the European Commission.



Guler Kuradze looks at her belongings in the yard of their new house in Abastumani. She says she wants to build a traditional bakery here to serve the special Meskhetian bread. The Kuradze family was among the first to return and settle in western Georgia in 1977. Following the old grandfather's wish, the family last year moved to their home village Abastumani in Samtskhe-Javakheti. Photo: Temo Bardzimashvili.

The EU Supported Programme

The programme 'Supporting the Repatriation of Persons Deported from Georgia in the 1940s and their Descendants' is funded by the European Union (EU) under the Instrument for Stability and is implemented by Action Against Hunger (ACF) and the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) Caucasus from December 2010 until June 2012.

The programme consists of four components and ECMI is responsible for two of them: (1) encompassing support for the government of Georgia in drafting, and (2) implementing its repatriation strategy through enhancing awareness on minority issues and the deported populations. The programme seeks to reach out to a broader public while also targeting particular groups, such as institutions of regional and local self-governance, civil society, public servants, academics and students in Georgia.

The programme is coordinated by Jana Sommerlund.

www.repatriation.ge

ECMI Caucasus launched a new website on 15 December 2011. The websites serves the purpose of awareness-raising in the Georgian society regarding the deported populations and their repatriation. It also provides Meskhetians with an important source of information on the repatriation process.

The website is maintained in three languages: English, Georgian and Russian. It contains a legal section, where all relevant legislative acts can be found as well as information on procedures for repatriation.

Information on Meskhetian organizations is also provided, as well as a collection of informative articles and useful links. Additionally, the site holds many interesting sections about the Meskhetians, their history and current life. The website's photo gallery is a useful tool allowing the reader to get a clear visual image of the Meskhetian people.

Besides, the news and announcement sections of the website keep visitors updated continuously on the latest developments regarding repatriation issues and programme development.

The content of the website is enriched with the publications of ECMI concerning Meskhetian issues, including a new book: "Meskhetians: Homeward Bound...", written by three leading experts in the field: Tom Trier, George Tarkhan-Mouravi and Forrest Kilimnik. The book is available for free download in three languages.

The Roma Programme: ECMI Continues Efforts to Reduce Marginalization in Georgia.

The Roma programme is coordinated by Irakli Chedia.

Romani Festival in Tbilisi, May 2011. The festival illustrates that we make use of many different tools, when we try to reduce marginalization of the Roma community in Georgia. Photo: Natela Grigalashvili

De-Marginalization through Education

In the past year, around 50 community members from Romani settlements in Kakheti and Adjara regions were able to go through a vocational education programme.

Courses in driving, sewing and tailoring were offered, and the interest from the Romani communities was immense. The training courses were specially designed based on the needs in the different communities.

With the newly acquired skills many Roma have improved their chances for employment or making an income. In this way, the vocational training has contributed to the social and economic integration of the marginalized group.

The vocational education programme was launched by ECMI Caucasus with the financial support of the Open Society Foundation in Georgia.

Government Working Group on Roma Established

A government working group was established in November 2011 under the aegis of the National Security Council. The establishment of the working group is a significant step to address the problems of the Romani Community.

The working group includes representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration and the Civil Registry, as well as national and international organizations working in the field. ECMI is a permanent member of the Working Group.

This is one result of awareness raising activities conducted by ECMI and other organizations starting from 2008.

Romani Festival to Raise Public Awareness

In May 2011, a Romani Festival was held in Tbilisi. The festival helped raising public awareness on the situation of the Romani community in Georgia as well as awareness within the Romani community on the rich cultural life.

At the festival, ECMI–with its close relations to Romani communities–presented features of the Georgian Romani culture to the broader Georgian public. More than 400 guests visited the one day event.

The festival featured a photo exhibition, a video slideshow, a bazaar with Romani handicrafts, and Romani music and dance, all of which highlighted the cultural richness of the Romani communities from across Georgia.

ID cards and birth certificates issued

The festival was also used as an occasion to offer Roma communities consultancy on their legal rights. Community members were informed of the need to obtain formal identity documents. At the opening ceremony, Georgian Deputy Minister of Justice, Giorgi Vashadze, presented certain Roma community members with ID cards and birth certificates.

Georgian Deputy Minister of Justice, Giorgi Vashadze, presented certain Roma community members with ID cards and birth certificates Photo: Natela Grigolashvili.

The festival was a joint initiative of ECMI Caucasus, the Innovations and Reforms Centre, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Georgian National Museum.

Empowerment through Capacity-Building

The Gachiani Romani Union 'Roma' was established in November 2011. It is expected to cover activities both in the southern Kvemo Kartli region and in the capital Tbilisi. The Union is the third NGO established as part of ECMI's empowerment endeavors.

One of ECMI's strategic aims is to empower minority communities, in order for minorities to build capacities for self-help and address their own concerns. ECMI Caucasus seeks to facilitate also the development of community based organizations and NGO for the Romani communities. Already in 2009, these efforts resulted in the establishment of a Romani NGO in Eastern Georgia, the Kakheti Romani Union 'Roma', and in Western Georgia the Adjara Romani Union 'Roma'.

Kakheti Romani Union member of CNM

To support the political participation of the community further, the Kakheti Romani Union 'Roma' became a member of the Council of National Minorities (CNM) in March 2011. This is the Georgian Public Defender's mechanism for dialogue with the national minorities. The Romani organization's CNM membership is an important step forward in the process to include the community in consultative and decision-making processes.

Thanks to capacity building efforts, the Kakheti Romani Union 'Roma' has also demonstrated success in seeking small grants on its own. This includes funding for a project to empower Romani women.

Empowering National Minorities through Developing Civil Society in Minority-Populated Regions of Georgia

This project has provided trainings and small grants to help building capacities of NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSO)s in minority regions. The project focused especially on Southern Georgia, where large numbers of Armenians and Azeris live.

It also succeeded in initiating activities addressing other groups, such as national minority communities in Eastern Georgiaand in Adjara on the Black Sea Coast.

Both regions are rich in cultural and ethnic diversity, though very little interest has been seen among national and international actors in supporting the needs of these minorities. Kurds, Jews, Roma, Chechens, Avars, Ossetians, Abkhazians and others live in the regions.

The project was based on experiences from the Visegrad countries (Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia). It was sponsored by The International Visegrad Fund.

EUROPEAN CENTRE
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MINORITY ISSUES

Dr. Alexander Osipov is heading the Justice & Governance Cluster at ECMI.

Non-Territorial Autonomy and its Multiple Contexts

By Alexander Osipov

The ideas of non-territorial autonomy (NTA) and their practical implementation are a thematic priority for the Cluster 'Justice and Governance'. The cluster seeks to facilitate an academic discussion on NTA and related issues, to contribute to academic research and take part in elaboration of policy-oriented recommendations. Moreover, the issues of NTA are closely linked to other themes the cluster addresses.

What is non-territorial autonomy?

Over the past decade, the set of ideas conceived of as ethnicity-based non-territorial autonomy has become popular again among policy-makers and scholars. A number of European countries have adopted legislative provisions resting on the notions of cultural or non-territorial autonomy or self-government; politicians and civic activists repeatedly refer to NTA as a possible solution for conflict-prone problematic situations; international organizations also respond to the emerging agenda in their comments and in expert conclusions.

The idea of non-territorial autonomy on ethnic grounds emerged in the late nineteenth century. Usually it is perceived as ascending from Austro-Marxists. It became popular in the early twentieth century, contributed to minority-related debates in 1920-30s and in the last twenty years again has become a topic for scholarly and political debates. Austro-Marxists (Karl Renner and Otto Bauer) perceived 'cultural' or 'personal' autonomy as a complex institutional arrangement where ethnic groups ('nations') would be organized as corporate self-governing entities based on individual membership rather than on territory and residence.

Throughout the twentieth century as well as at present, one can find several legal and institutional arrangements resembling Austro-Marxist ideas in numerous countries. Noteworthy are elected minority councils in Hungary, Slovenia and Western Balkans (Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro), legal provisions on cultural autonomy in Estonia, Russia and Ukraine, Sami self-governments in the Nordic countries and so forth. There is no doubt that 'non-territorial autonomy' and similar terminologies serve as categories of practice in politics, public administration or civil activism. They occasionally emerge in specific contexts and are being instrumentalised for concrete narrowly tailored purposes.

There are a growing number of academic publications, comments of international organizations and of their experts on the opportunities NTA may open for conflict prevention and minority protection. In the meantime, there is no uniform understanding of what NTA or similar terms can mean; usually this implies internal organization of an ethnic group and the pursuit of its interests on ways other than territorial autonomy. Terminologies vary, and in most applications emphasis is placed on their opposition to territorial autonomy. NTA has been applied to a function of organization, to basic principles of individual freedom, to acknowledgement of group boundaries etc.

Scholarly discussions around non-territorial autonomy

One of the key issues concerning NTA is applicability of this term as a category of analysis. The first issue is the meanings and implications which the term NTA bears. The first issue to be addressed here is whether the notion of NTA can bring something new to the analysis and theoretical understanding of ethnic relations. Still it is not obvious that NTA has a room of its own in between such terminologies and approaches. The broad area of ethnicity and nationalism is being successfully explored from a multiplicity of disciplinary perspectives. Human activities such as creation of social networks, maintenance of boundaries, claim-making, mobilization and so forth are approached with a variety of research tools.

NTA can be viewed as a way to conceptualize ethnic diversity like multiculturalism, minority protection, power sharing etc. If NTA is regarded as a new broadly accepted analytical category, the term must provide for some new outlook and shall (1) denote more or less clearly distinguished phenomena; (2) not duplicate other terminologies; (3) in case of partial overlap with other notions depict certain realities better than they do. Does NTA satisfy these requirements? Or otherwise, can we do without it?

After getting a clearer understanding of how NTA can be employed both as theoretical and practical category, scholars and practitioners may come up with policy-oriented recommendations.

ECMI initiatives pertaining to non-territorial autonomy

In 2011, the European Centre for Minority Issues convened the workshop for the purpose of discussing whether NTA can productively serve as a category of analysis in any of the social sciences, and in case the answer to this question is affirmative for examining ways, limits and potential outcomes of such application and its translation into practice.

The workshop held in Flensburg on 24-25 June brought together scholars and practitioners from eight European countries with various national, professional and disciplinary backgrounds to address the applicability of NTA from different perspectives. Inputs based on considering the NTA theoretical and practical origins, on examining its place among various modes of ethnic diversity conceptualizations resulted in a better understanding of the very possibility of employing the notion of NTA and the most productive ways of doing this. Heated debates also concerned the question of appropriate research strategies for the analyses of NTA.

There was a broad consent that research on NTA must be stimulated and extended, and that the workshop participant may regard themselves as a working group where more scholars with new agendas, research topics and case studies should be involved. It was decided that in 2012 the working group will be arranging for another workshop, then an academic conference on NTA and also for a series of publications including working papers and articles.

The participants agreed that practice-oriented activities must be first and foremost policy recommendations, particularly for the HCNM, given that the Lund Recommendations say practically nothing about NTA.

Another event concerning NTA was arranged jointly by the European Academy in Bolzano/Bozen (EURAC) and ECMI. EURAC-ECMI Expert Meeting 'Territorial and Non-territorial Autonomy. Minorities and Territory' was held on 16-17 November and aimed at the analysis of conceptual linkages between ethnicity and territory in politics and particularly in autonomy arrangements. For decades, territorial solutions for minority protection have been deemed, on the one hand, as something obvious and theoretically unproblematic, on the other hand, as something undesirable politically. Territorial autonomy is (when considered acceptable) often reduced to an instrument within the context of minority rights while the concept of non-territorial autonomy is generally neglected. The participants – internationally renowned scholars from numerous countries of Europe and North America – were addressing three major issues. How is the linkage between ethnicity and territory conceptually organized in theory and practice? Is the persisting bias towards territorial autonomy justified? What are the uses of the autonomy concept beyond minority protection? The expert meeting, besides, was one of the rare occasions when two fields of research, namely territorial and non-territorial autonomy, had been linked together. The co-organizers and the participants

decided to publicize an academic volume based on the meeting's proceedings.

Contexts of NTA and linkages with other activities of the cluster

Other activities and plans of the cluster are indirectly connected to the issues of NTA given that the latter is mostly often employed as practical category.

Quite often cultural autonomy appears as part and parcel of the broader discourse of cultural diversity. The very term NTA implies an emphasis on culture, and autonomy thus should be viewed as part of broad discourses and practices where this term is employed. All kinds of official and non-official actors routinely resort to the notion of culture in addressing a variety of social and political issues concerning ethnicity and ethnic relations. First and foremost, the cultural issues in official rhetoric serve as a tool to pull ethnicity-related issues from the domain of politics.

Encoding social issues – in particular, the problems of participation, equality, and non-discrimination – in culture-based idioms allows for the avoidance of risky, burdensome, and potentially destabilizing agendas. In a broader framework, addressing social issues through the notion of culture also provides for a suitable cognitive framework and explains exclusion and conflicts in terms of cultural differences rather than institutional deficiencies and social deprivation. This might be the explanation why the agenda of NTA as a part of broader culturalization of the social is so much welcome in post-communist countries where the ruling elites tend to pursue nationalist and authoritarian policies. The recent trends might be explained by the 'path dependency' from ideological and institutional legacies of the 'real socialism', and communist legacies in minority policies are one of the thematic priorities for 'Justice and Governance'.

Social equality is understood in similar, but not identical ways within the frameworks of minority protection and non-discrimination. Scholars and practitioners who work in the both domains have to address the issue of human equality in the exercise of the right to preserve, maintain and gain recognition of his or her own identity and culture. The search for theoretic and practical solutions often involves the issues of group rights and autonomy. In the meantime, the ideal of equality in the right to maintain and manifest everyone's own culture and identity collides with social realities. Technically, cultures and languages cannot be in the same position and fulfill the same social functions, and this contradiction looks basically insurmountable. Correspondingly, the demands of equality when substantive equality can be hardly achieved may generate conflicts and tensions, and it's important to understand how this threat materializes itself in actual public politics. Respectively, the parallels and differences between minority protection and non-discrimination as well as 'the dark side of minority policies' are addressed by the cluster.

EINIRAS Working Conference on Road Map at Council of Europe in Strasbourg, 29-30 September 2011. ECMI Electronic Services Librarian William McKinney is on the far right. Photo: Mark Weixel.

Library Networking and Cooperation

The ECMI Library has extended its membership in the German–Danish Library Forum, a loose association of libraries and library systems north and south of the border.

ECMI Library is also active in the European Information Network on International Relations and Area Studies (EINIRAS). This is an association of European research institutions working with information and documentation on international relations in research and political practice.

The long-term objective of EINIRAS is to establish a common European database (EDN) on international relations and area studies. Its short-term objectives include the expansion of practical cooperation and the exchange of information, bibliographical data and publications.

EINIRAS members include, among others, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, the Council of Europe, the Finnish Institute of Foreign Affairs, The Centre of International Information and Documentation in Barcelona, and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The Thesaurus

The European Thesaurus on International Relations and Area Studies is a useful reference tool that was developed over a number of years within the framework of EINIRAS. It was developed as a cooperation project between the Library and information departments of expert European research institutes in these fields.

It contains more than 8,000 special terms, each in seven languages, systemized according to more than 800 fields on 400 pages, with seven alphabetical monolingual indexes.

Steady Effort to Disseminate Publications Online

ECMI Library continues to contribute the full text of selected ECMI Working Papers © and the Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE) © articles for inclusion in the Social Science Open Access repository (SSOAR) database. SSOAR is based in Berlin at the GESIS-Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften.

Metadata and the full text of JEMIE articles are also indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

The ECMI Library contributes to the online library of the University of Hamburg, a project supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the German Research Association.

Full text indexing and abstracting of ECMI publications are disseminated on the International Relations and Security Network (ISN), of which ECMI is a Principal Partner.

ECMI publications are also available on the European Network on International Relations and Area Studies' (EINIRAS) website.

By special written agreement the HeinOnline website continues to make ECMI's publications available, which results in greater awareness of ECMI's work in law libraries.

In order to further widen the circle of online dissemination, the ECMI Library has license agreements for ECMI publications to be included in EBSCO and Proquest databases. EBSCO and Proquest are among the leading producers of research databases for libraries and educational institutions worldwide.

The ECMI Library continues to contribute indexing to the database of Fachinformationsverbund Internationale Beziehungen und Länderkunde (FIV-IBLK), World Affairs Online, of all ECMI publications, including the articles of JEMIE and external publications such as the European Yearbook of Minority Issues, as well as the print publication International of Minority and Group Rights and the online EURAC journal European Diversity and Autonomy Papers (EDAP).

World Affairs Online is one of the largest social science bibliographical databases in Europe. It is available on the FIV-IBLK portal International Relations and Area Studies Online (IREON).

Ask a Librarian

"Ask a Librarian" is the new digital reference service of the ECMI Library, introduced in 2011. Users can get timely assistance from wherever they happen to be, as long as they have Internet access.

Find the service at www.ecmi.de > information services > ecmi-library > ask-librarian.

Enriched Links Database

The ECMI Enriched Links Database consists of carefully selected and relevant links. It is monitored regularly to ensure quality and timeliness.

The links are enriched in the sense that for each link, substantial information is provided as to the contents of each link, including its institutional affiliations and whether or not for example downloadable texts, statistics and government documents are included.

The Internet sources are listed in fourteen subject categories for the convenience of the user.

The following categories are available for users to search: Country Information, General Minority Information, constitutional and Legislative Sources, General Human Rights sources, and Interethnic Conflict Management.

A free text keyword search is also possible. Practitioners, politicians and academics, including students and professors of international relations, conflict studies and cultural and diversity studies are encouraged to use and contribute new websites to the ECMI Enriched Links Database.

The database is available at www.ecmi.de > information services > enriched links.

Online Library Catalogue

The ECMI Online Library Catalogue is available 24/7. The database can be searched by title, author, ISBN number, free keyword search as well as by year of publication.

Catalogue entries have added value in that foreign language entries and summaries are translated into English. The entries also include Library of Congress Subject Headings, free text keywords and extensive tables of contents.

Find the Online Library Catalogue at www.ecmi.de > information services > library.

ECMI Publications at Frankfurt and Leipzig book fairs

Selected ECMI publications were on view at the Frankfurt Book Fair and the Leipzig Book Fair in 2011. The fairs are key events for book publishers and media, and serve to acquaint an ever-widening circle of readers with ECMI publications.

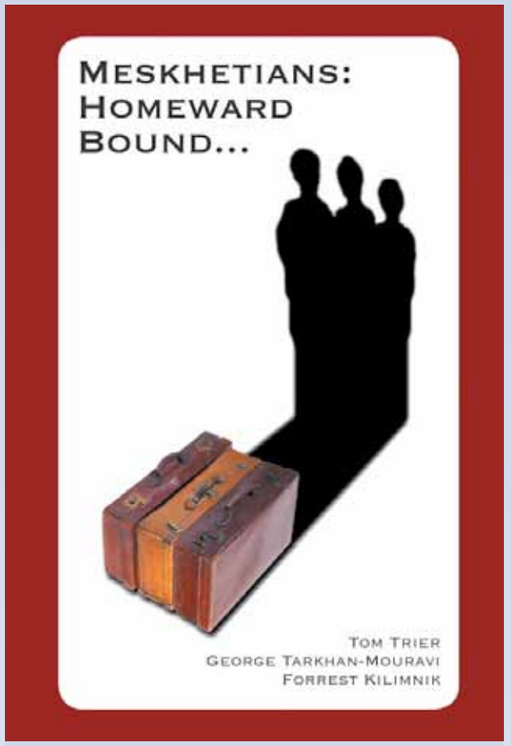
Memorandum of Understanding with OSCE HCNM Library

ECMI has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Library at the High Commissioner's office in The Hague.

The agreement came about as a result of informal exchange and correspondence, leading up to a meeting in Flensburg in December of 2011 where the formal agreement was signed.

The agreement includes exchange of acquisition lists, as well as of periodicals, bibliographical materials and other exchangeable library resources.

The agreement is in addition to further Memorandums of Understanding on bibliographical exchange with the EURAC Library in Bolzano-Bozen, the SIPRI Library in Stockholm, the IFSH Library in Hamburg, and the Library of the Südost-Institute in Regensburg.



Book

Meskhetians: Homeward Bound…
Tom Trier, George Tarkhan-Mouravi, Forrest Kilimnik
ECMI, Tbilisi, 2011

67 years have passed since the wholesale deportation of the Meskhetian communities along with other targeted Muslim groups living in the southern parts of Georgia in the Caucasus region.

In 1944, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin ordered some 100,000 people from the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic to be banished to Central Asia. Throughout the following decades, the Meskhetian communities found themselves in a lingering exile, prohibited from returning to their homeland.

With the collapse of the USSR, oscillating perspectives arose both from the Georgian government and society concerning the repatriation of Meskhetians to the country.

This book on the Meskhetians aims at introducing the deported communities, the circumstances of their years in exile, and their current situations into the broader context of their possibility of repatriation. In the first two chapters, the book introduces the history of the Meskhetian communities and outlines common patterns of settlement, language, culture, and customs, as well as matters of political, economic and social integration in their countries of current settlement.

The last chapter outlines the beginning of a conceptual framework for repatriation and integration of the Meskhetians, while presenting a catalogue of issues to be addressed as the repatriation process is set in motion and highlighting central goals and objectives of their return.

The book has been prepared to be of particular use as a reference material, especially in Georgia, where the issue of repatriation over the recent years has increasingly become a reality. The volume is published concurrently in English, Georgian and Russian, and is intended to stimulate the debate and undertakings among the Georgian government and civil society stakeholders as the country and local communities are preparing for the repatriation and integration of those deported Meskhetians who are homeward bound...

The publication is available in English, Russian and Georgian, and is made available through funding generously provided by the European Union.

Finances

In 2011 ECMI received funding from its institutional founders covering the costs of the core staff, library and maintenance at headquarters in Flensburg. Additionally ECMI also raised funds for several international projects.

ECMI 2011 total Funding 2008-2011
Contributions from founders and other donors in EUR

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Kingdom of Denmark	346,000	346,000	446,000	446,000
Republic of Germany	187,000	187,000	241.000	241.000
State of Schleswig-Holstein	141,100	142,000	205,000	205,000
Subtotal contribution from founders	674,100	675,000	892,000	892,000
Contributions from donors	812,429	586,000	603,000	358.350
Other funding	29,061	10,901	12,000	30.000
Total	**1.515,590**	**1.271,901**	**1.507,000**	**1.280,350**

ECMI Externally Funded Projects 2011
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"Enhancing Good Governance - Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Georgia", Denmark's Georgia Programme (in partnership with the Council of Europe)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
Support to minority communities during and after the decentralization process in Kosovo	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
International Minority Standards and Inter/Ethnic Dialogue in Belarus	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark, Neighbourhood Programme
Publication of analysis of the promotion of minority languages in non/states parties to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages	Council of Europe
Adjusting to Europe, Ethno/cultural diversity and communist legacies in contemporary ethnic policies	Friedrich Naumann Foundation
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Minorities and New Media	German/Polish Research Foundation

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Enhancing the Positive Impact of the Law for Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups in Kosovo	European Commission
Strategic Litigation on Anti-Discrimination in Kosovo	Minority Rights Group
Protecting Human Rights in the New Municipalities of Kosovo	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Improving the Delivery of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities' Education in the Municipality of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Increasing the Awareness and Participation of Isolated Minority Communities in Kosovo on the Census	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
Building Sensitivity for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Schools	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) High Commissioner on National Minorities
Provision of Language-Learning Opportunities for Municipal Officials in Kosovo	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) High Commissioner on National Minorities

ECMI Georgia/Caucasus

"Supporting the Repatriation of Persons Deported from Georgia in the 1940s and their Descendants" (in partnership with Action Against Hunger – Spain)	European Commission
"Empowering National Minorities through Developing Civil Society in Minority-Populated Regions of Georgia"	International Visegrad Fund
"Support to Development of Romani Communities in Georgia"	Open Society Foundation in Georgia
"Establishing a non-formal mechanism for Abkhaz-Georgian dialogue"	German Marshall Foundation (GMF)
"Media Cooperation and Peace Journalism in the South Caucasus"	Confidence Building Early Response Mechanism *(COBERM)*, UNDP Georgia

Publications 2011

ECMI Issue Briefs:

Issue Brief #25:
Cyprus - Should the UN withdraw?,
by Jan Asmussen.
Issue Brief #26:
A resolvable frozen conflict?
Designing a settlement for Transnistria,
by Stefan Wolff.

ECMI Working Papers:

Working Paper #48:
The "Peoples' Congresses in Russia:
Failure or Success?
Authenticity and Efficiency of Minority
Representation, by Alexander Osipov.
Working Paper #49:
Minorities and Green Political Thought:
Normative challenges to an ideal ethics?,
by Tove H. Malloy.
Working Paper #50:
Language Policies and Law in Education
in Post-Soviet Belarus, by Iryna Ulasiuk.
Working Paper #51:
Guarantee Options for a Settlement
of the Conflict over Transnistria, by Stefan Wolff.
Working Paper #52:
National Minorities and the Media:
The Situation in Georgia, by Tobias Akerlund.
Working Paper #53:
Resettlement of Ecological Migrants in Georgia:
Recent Developments and Trends in Policy,
Implementation and Perceptions, by Justin Lyle.
Working Paper #54:
Chinese in Georgia, by Jiayi Zhou.
Working Paper #55:
South African Boers in Georgia?,
by Conor Prasad.
Working Paper #56:
National minority groups in post-Lisbon Europe:
the presence of Europeanisation and trans-
national human rights in one policy field,
by Tamara Jovanovic.
Working Paper #57:
Islam and Religious Transformation in Adjara,
by Thomas Liles.
Working Paper #58:
Georgia's Muslim Community:
A Self-Fulfilling Prophecy?, by Conor Prasad.

JEMIE Articles:

Vol. 10, Issue 1, 2011

"Minority Consultative Bodies in Kosovo:
A quest for effective emancipation or
elusive participation?", by Gezim Visoka
and Adem Beka.

"The dilemma in the Nation-Building process:
The Kazakh or Kazakhstani Nation?",
by Özgecan Kesici.

"Homogenisation and the 'New Russian Citizen':
A Road to Stability or Ethnic Tension?",
by Federica Prina.

Tatar nation building since 1991: Ethnic
mobilization in historical perspective,
by Christopher Williams.

"The Hungarian Presidency of the Council
of the European Union: Focus on the
Neighbourhood and on a European
Roma Strategy", by Balázs Vizi.

Book:

Meshketians: Homeward bound…
By Tom Trier, George Tarkhan-Mouravi,
Forrest Kilimnik.
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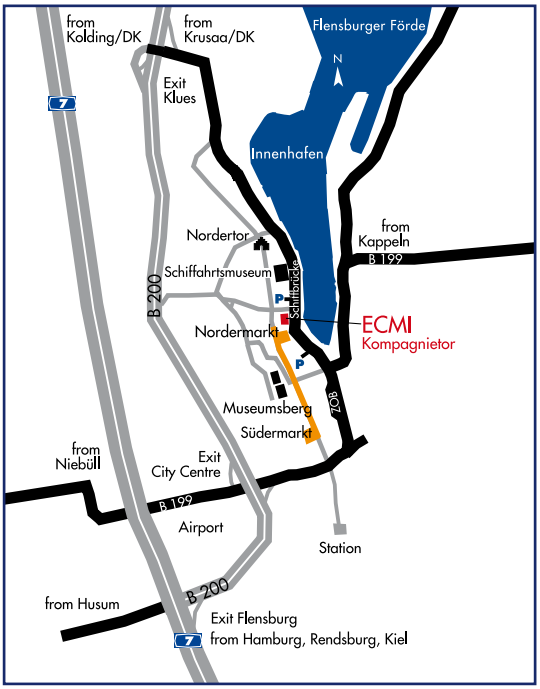

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