

ANNUAL REPORT



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES



2014

LOOKING EAST



Preface

In 2014, the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) saw significant developments and important milestones reached, each showcasing the range of work in which the ECMI is involved. This annual report highlights the remarkable and diverse initiatives that have taken place over the past year, all deserving of recognition. The ECMI cooperates with a number of international institutions and experts, which work in the area of minority research. Over the course of the year, agreements have been signed with the aim to bring these closer to the ECMI research clusters and regional offices, and create synergy that provides for mutual support. Joint activities, networking and the establishment of international research projects are some of the specific purposes of cooperation. Moreover, I am delighted to see that the Europa-Universität Flensburg reconfirmed its cooperation with the ECMI on activities related to minority issues. With the newly signed Framework co-operation agreement in April, both institutions have committed to share research outcomes, encourage and conduct joint research, and organize joint events and funding applications. This cooperation complements other on-going joint activities, such as the European Minority Regime seminar, an annual course on minority issues in the 21st century taught by the ECMI staff and offered at the Europa-Universität Flensburg. Continuing its tradition of hosting visitors in an effort to foster cooperation with stakeholders, the ECMI Headquarters received representatives of the German and Danish minorities, Frisian and Roma-Sinti ethnic groups, along with minority issue institutions and organizations, during the network DialogueForumNorden (DFN) in September to discuss issues in the German-Danish border region. In November, the Centre was also pleased to welcome the Ukrainian Governmental Plenipotentiary on the Issues of Ethno-National Policy to discuss potential modes of facilitation of public dialogue on diversity and minority issues. The visit also confirmed the Government Commissioner's support in the implementation

of the Eastern Partnership Programme – a ECMI initiative whose aim is to advance policy and enhance governance on the prevention of ethnic discrimination of national minorities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Key projects and initiatives are also undertaken at the ECMI regional offices in Kosovo and Georgia, whose staff consists of international experts in the framework of minority issues. Their proficiency in field contexts is instrumental in collecting and disseminating information regarding complex minority issues in the region. Lastly, with the renewal of Dr. Jennifer Jackson-Preece's term as Chairman of the 15-member ECMI Advisory Council, I am confident that the Centre's activities will continue to be promoted towards European institutions and specialists within the field of minority issues. Thus, the Executive Board would like to commend the Centre and its partners for contributing to the success of the ECMI projects and cooperative activities through their tireless efforts to further the excellence of the Centre. I anticipate significant development in these areas over the coming years.

Dr Jørgen Kühl
Chairman of the Board



Director's message

As the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) strives towards establishing a cross-regional network on minority issues through the promotion of high-quality research, training and co-operation in the field, noteworthy progress was made with respect to our projects and programmes over the course of the year. I am delighted to see the ECMI engage in Eastern Partnership countries, continue creating forums for discussing new and emerging challenges that impact minorities, and demonstrate its technological prowess through the launch of online research tools. Drawing on the synergy between standards, research and action, the ECMI is engaged in various international research projects in the framework of minority issues in Europe. Its Eastern Partnership Programme (EPP) - a three-year project that focuses on improving minority protection and institutionalizing minorities' political participation - received funding in June from the Danish Foreign Ministry to foster diversity management in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. In September and November, kick-off seminars ensued in the three Eastern Partnership countries and, due to the research teams' expertise and tremendous success in the seminars, invaluable feedback was obtained and lectures continue to be held. The ECMI is one of the main research institutes dedicated to the study of minority issues. In its fourth instalment of the highly successful ECMI Summer School, dialogue focused on both theoretical and field practices of alternative approaches to reconciliation. Prominent scholars, experienced practitioners from diverse European institutions and students interested in minority

issues gathered in August from all over the world in the Danish-German border region. Discussions focused on existing knowledge on post-conflict reconciliation and evaluated the successes and failures of current practices. Thus, the ECMI continues to disseminate its expertise and on-going research regarding minority issues in Europe to the next generation.

The Minority Map and Timeline of Europe (MMTE) is the latest ECMI online research tool showcasing interactive and comprehensive maps, timelines and analyses that offer an impartial perspective and evaluation of minority communities in Europe. The project is designed to provide the latest quantitative and qualitative information on Europe's minorities, while also intended to helping the ECMI's better understand minority issues for corresponding programmes. In an effort to reach the widest audience, the MMTE was introduced during this year's ECMI Summer School and continues to garner interest among academics, civil society actors and policy makers. Partnering with leading experts is fundamental to promoting the Centre's activities within the field of minority issues. In October, the ECMI launched its Expert Database search tool, listing international experts in the ECMI's wider network, who cooperate with the Centre on projects and programmes. Together with other notable partnership agreements that have been (re)confirmed over the past year with various institutions across Europe, the Centre is able to demonstrate the impact of its work, expand its presence and showcase its expertise in the context of minority issues.

These activities highlight the ECMI's understanding of the dynamics of minority issues and serve to promote the means to foster a peaceful and diverse Europe. We believe minorities matter and our initiatives are recognized for their innovative and effective approach. It is my belief that ECMI's focus, methods and goals will help to build a diverse and harmonious future concerning minority-majority relations in Europe.

Dr Tove H. Malloy
ECMI Director



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Highlights

ECMI HQ

- **Eastern Partnership Programme EPP**
- **Minority Map and Timeline of Europe**
- **2014 Summer School**
- **New staff**
Dr. Mindaugas Kuklys, Senior Research Associate
Mariana Jimsheladze, Administration Assistant
Victoria Martovskaya, Administration Assistant
Astrid Voss, Resource Development Officer/Legal Counsel
Lutz Andres, Accountant

ECMI Kosovo

- Empowering Civil Society to Participate Effectively in Policy and Decision-making Process through Dialogue with Government Institutions
- Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Growth for All Newly-Established Municipalities in Kosovo
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Language Rights: Towards Strengthening Institutional Compliance with the Kosovo Law on the Use of Languages

ECMI Caucasus

- Designing a New State Strategy for Minority Integration
- Repatriation and Integration of deported Meskhetian returnees
- Debating Freedom of Religion or Belief

Partnerships

Partners

- The Åland Islands Peace Institute, Mariehamn
- University of Latvia, Faculty of social sciences, Riga
- Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK), Bratislava
- Ethnocultural Diversity Resource Center (EDRC), Cluj
- The European Academy (EURAC), Bolzano
- Institute for Minority Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest
- Library of the Südost-Institute, Regensburg
- University of Southern Denmark, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Europa-Universität Flensburg

ECMI and Institute for Minority Studies agree on Memorandum of Understanding

ECMI and the Institute for Minority Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences have decided to co-operate in a wide range of areas within the broader field of minority studies and research. The agreement is formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Among others, specific points of co-operation are:

- The strengthening of joint academic efforts
- Mutual support in teaching and training through exchange of researchers
- Common strategies on minority issues towards the European international organizations
- Library cooperation and exchange of publications

Europa-Universität Flensburg and ECMI sign cooperation agreement

The European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) and the Europa-Universität Flensburg have for several years been cooperating on research, studies and teaching related to minority issues. The partnership was reconfirmed in April 2014 by the signing of a Framework co-operation agreement that is now unlimited in time. Most substantially, ECMI and the Europa-Universität Flensburg are annually organizing a course on the European Minority Regime. ECMI staff delivers the teaching as part of the University curriculum. Students have the opportunity to attend the course during the winter semesters. The course has recently resulted in the issuing of a textbook on European minority issues. With the agreement the institutions commit to share research outcomes and publications, library collaboration, organize joint events, encourage and conduct joint research, joint funding applications and more.

ECMI launches Expert Database

The ECMI launches its Expert Database search tool available for users on the ECMI homepage. Here you can find an expert and have a brief overview of the experts' profiles: affiliation, research interests (thematically and geographically), languages and keywords indicating their expertise areas. It is searchable using keywords or names, and it is intended to assist media representatives as well as policy-makers in the area of minority issues.

The Expert Database lists international experts in the ECMI's wider network who cooperate with our Centre on projects and programmes. Some are closely affiliated through our governing bodies, such as, ECMI non-resident researchers and ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS who assist the Centre in achieving its mission. All experts hold eminent expertise in the area of minority issues as well as specific expertise in selected fields pertaining to our work.





Advisory Council

The ECMI Advisory Council consists of eminent scholars within the field of minority issues, who have excelled in the area of minority research and represent new disciplines that are increasingly relevant to ECMI's research field. The team members have all excelled in the area of minority research and represent new disciplines that ECMI finds increasingly relevant to its research field. The Advisory Council supports the ECMI mission by establishing contacts with persons, institutions and organizations, assume duties of representation and promote the ECMI activities vis-à-vis European institutions and in specialist circles.

Jennifer Jackson-Preece chairs ECMI Advisory Council in 2014-2016

In December, Dr. Jennifer Jackson-Preece was elected as chairperson for the second term in a row by the ECMI Advisory Council for the 2014 through 2016. The Council is a supportive body of the European Centre for Minority Issues, whose members are appointed by the ECMI Executive Board, while the Advisory Council chairperson is elected by the Council itself.

The 2014-2016 ECMI Advisory Council:

- **Dr Jennifer Jackson-Preece** (Chairperson), Senior Lecturer at the European Studies Programme at the London School of Economics and Political Science
- **Professor James Hughes**, Political Science at the London School of Economics and Political Science
- **Professor Florian Bieber**, University of Graz and Centre for East European Studies, Graz
- **Professor François Grin**, Director of the Observatoire Langues Formation, University of Geneva. Professor of Economics at the School of Translation and Interpretation, University of Geneva
- **Dr Kinga Gal**, MEP for Hungary
- **Professor David J. Galbreath**, Professor of International Security, University of Bath
- **Professor Stefan Oeter**, Professor of Law at the University of Hamburg, and President of the Advisory Committee to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)
- **Professor John Packer**, Professor of Law, Director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa.
- **Professor Levente Salat**, Professor of Political Science at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj
- **Dr Gwendolyn Sasse**, Professorial Fellow, Nuffield College, Reader in the Comparative Politics of Central and Eastern Europe, University of Oxford
- **Professor David Smith**, Professor of Baltic History and Politics, School of Social and Political Science, University of Glasgow
- **Professor Michal Vašečka**, Department of Sociology, Masaryk University, Czech Republic, and Centre for the Research of Culture and Ethnicity, Slovakia, as well as Member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)
- **Professor Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark**, Director, The Åland Island Peace Institute, Member from Sweden of the Advisory Committee to the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM)
- **Professor Stefan Wolff**, Professor of International Security, University of Birmingham
- **Professor Will Kymlicka**, Canada Research Chair in Political Philosophy at Queen's University, Kingston

Executive Board

Dr. Sabine Sütterlin-Waack joins the ECMI executive board

Dr. Sabine Sütterlin-Waack was appointed for the ECMI executive board by the German Federal Government. Member of the German Bundestag, Dr. Sabine Sütterlin-Waack (CDU) succeeds Mr Ingbert Liebing.

ECMI Executive Board

- **Chairman Dr. Jørgen Kühl**
Director of the A.P. Møller Skolen, Schleswig, Germany
- **Vice-Chairman Professor Rainer Hofmann**
Co-Director of Wilhelm Merton Centre, Professor at Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Former President of the Advisory Committee to the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM)
- **Professor Bertel Heurlin**
Jean Monnet Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Science, University of Copenhagen
- **Mr. Hans Müller Pedersen**
Director General of the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, Copenhagen, Denmark
- **Dr. Sabine Sütterlin-Waack**
Member of the German Bundestag
- **Ms. Renate Schnack**
The Schleswig-Holstein Minister-President's Commissioner for Matters related to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, Border Area Activities and Low German
- **Ms. Karin Riis Jørgensen**
Former Member of the European Parliament, Former Vice-Chairwoman of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Chairwoman of the "European Privacy Association", Member of the Board of PA International (Public Advice International Foundation), Senior advisor for Communication-Agency Kreab & Gavin Anderson in Brussels
- **Ms. Birte Pauls**
Substitute for Ms. Schnack





HQ Staff, Interns & visiting researchers

Dr Zora Popova is new head of ECMI's Culture and Diversity Cluster

On 1 January, Dr. Zora Popova became the new head of the Culture & Diversity Cluster. Working for ECMI since 2012, Dr. Popova has been a team member of the Citizenship & Ethics Cluster, though involved in many more assignments. Dr. Popova has professional experience as a researcher and public policy analyst, as well as having been involved in a number of research projects on the following topics:

- New Security Challenges
- Rise of the Extreme Right in Europe
- Charismatic Leadership
- Bulgaria and the European Political Values

Dr. Popova obtained her Ph.D. at the University of Bath, United Kingdom and also holds a M.A. in Cultural Studies from the University of Sofia, Bulgaria, and a M.A. in Southeast European Studies from the University of Athens, Greece."

Staff

Dr. Tove Hansen Malloy, Director
Dr. Andreea Carstocea, Senior Research Associate
Dr. Raul Carstocea, Senior Research Associate
Dr. Mindaugas Kuklys, Senior Research Associate
Dr. Alexander Osipov, Senior Research Associate
Dr. Zora Popova, Senior Research Associate
Hanna Vasilevich Ph.D., Project Research Associate
Tamari Bulia, Project Coordinator / PA to the Director
Mariana Jimsheladze, Administration Assistant
Victoria Martovskaya, Administration Assistant
William W. McKinney, Electronic Services Librarian
Oana Buta, Project Assistant
Maj-Britt Risbjerg Hansen, Head of Secretariat / Project Coordinator
Astrid Voss, Resource Development Officer/Legal Counsel
Sonja Wolf, Project Assistant
Lutz Andres, Accountant

Visiting Fellow / pre-proposal fellows

Dennis Arbet Nejbir, PhD Researcher, Queens University Belfast
Graham Donnelly, PhD Researcher, University Glasgow Scotland
Katya Ivanova, Pre-proposal fellow from LSE, UK
Mahama Tawat, Visiting Researcher, University New Zealand

Visiting Researchers

Dr. Hatice Yazgan, Cankiri Karatekin University, Dept. of International Relations, Turkey

Interns

Tony Stanley
Stella Alex
Rukshona Shokhumorova
Nilufer Yagublu
Akmal Sapaev
Katerina Konecna
Victoria Martovskaya
Michael Pytlyk
Mircea Sergiu Onita
Sergey Danilov
Lara Walkling
Konstantina Belteki
Antoniya Stoycheva
Sara Ozogul
Ana Kedves
Artemis Photiadou
Stella Aleksanyan
Julia Alina Dumitru
Ioana Rosioru
Sarah Spinella
Sara Sousa
Emir Yegit
Anisha Ashwin
Aysegul Sahinkaya
Inga Marken
Meliha Mehmedovic
Luca Argenta
Antonia Horodinca
Helena Danilova
Caitlin Boulter
Mariia Kryvokhyzhyna
Laszlo Bugyi

ECMI Regionally Based Staff & Interns

Kosovo Staff

Adrian Zeqiri, Executive Director
Jeta Bakija, Project Manager
Nejla Ayvazi, Project Manager
Trim Kabashi, Project Manager
Ann Madsen, Project Manager
Laia Pau Romani, Project Coordinator
Hans Fridlund, Project Development Officer
Pieter Troch, Project Officer / Coordinator for the North of Kosovo
Gazmen Salijević, Project Officer
Arben Osmani, Project Officer
Zihnie Gurmani, Project Assistant/Technical Advisor
Nora Huseinović Veliu, Project Assistant
Elizabetha Haziri, Project Assistant
Renata Nikolla, Project Assistant
Dijana Hasani, Project Assistant
Marija Krstić, Project Assistant
Fisnik Dida, Technical Advisor
Jessica Templeman, Researcher
Verka Jovanović, Researcher
Lars Burema, External Associate
Valentina Pancaldi, External Associate
Nazmi Zuka, Financial Manager
Burim Gagica, Part-time Financial Assistant
Carlo Giovanne, Project manager
Rakella Krasniqi, Project assistant
Iva Ullmannova, Project manager
Sanja Lazarević, Project manager

Kosovo Intern

Nicola Brassil

Caucasus Staff

Ewa Chylinski, Regional Director
Giorgi Sordia, Senior Researcher
Denola Chkhartishvili, Project Associate
Giorgi Bobghashvili, Project Coordinator
Elene Proshikian, Project Assistant/ Roma Focal Point
Mariam Samkharadze, Media Officer
Elene Makharadze, Finance & Administration
Bakar Lomsadze, Logistics & Web Administrator
Vakho Danelia, IT Manager

Caucasus Interns

Eva Dahms
Sophio Khutishvili
Tiffany Richards
Erika Balsyte





ECMI Headquarters

Projects: EPP

About:

The ECMI Eastern Partnership Programme (EPP) encompasses Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine – countries that face various challenges and also have numerous achievements in the accommodation and governance of their ethnic and linguistic diversity. The programme is to be implemented throughout 2014-2017 and is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

The EPP objectives are:

- awareness-raising and capacity-building of public bodies in charge of diversity and equality management, consultative and advisory bodies on minority issues
- dissemination and transfer of information and know-how both on European standards and good practices through training, networking and dissemination.

The programme objectives are achieved by the means of trans-regional thematically-focused training seminars, by facilitating networking of public and civil society institutions and by joint activities aimed at monitoring and drafting thematic reports on the EPP focal issues.

Funding:

Funding confirmed: ECMI will further diversity management in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark has confirmed funding for fostering diversity management in Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine through the ECMI EPP. Run by the ECMI headquarters in Flensburg, with support from the Caucasus regional office, the project has a total budget of 600,000 € over three years.

Kick-Off:

ECMI launches kick-off seminars within EPP project

Seminars were held in Moldova (Chisinau, Tiraspol and Comrat) in September, Belarus (Mahileu and Minsk) in October 2014 and Ukraine (Kyiv, Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv) in November within the framework of the three-year ECMI EPP. Representatives of both central and local state authorities, civic society, national communities, experts and researchers participated in the series. Seminars begin with presentations of the EPP's theme and objectives by esteemed guests, such as the Danish Ambassador to Ukraine, Merete Juhl, and ECMI Director and EPP Project Leader Dr. Tove H. Malloy, followed by discussion on the country's special needs and interests within the defined framework.

Media Coverage:

Local media attention on the ECMI Moldova activities

Moldovan media reported that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the breakaway republic of Transnistria met a ECMI delegation on 23 July in connection with the EPP. An article in Transdnestrinform further explains that the EPP team visited Transnistria's deputy foreign minister, Igor Schornikov and discussed the possibilities for cooperation within the framework of ECMI's European Partnership Programme.

ECMI Panel in Bern attracts Swiss media

In October, the ECMI panel at the International Conference "Self-Determination in Europe: Contemporary Challenges of Minorities in Multinational States" organized at the University of Bern was featured in Swiss media (Berner Zeitung (BZ)). The article focused on the presentation that provided an overview of political dynamics in Gagauzia.

Partnerships:

ECMI signs the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ukrainian Plenipotentiary on Ethnonational Policy

The Government Commissioner (Plenipotentiary) for Ethnonational Policy, Gennadiy Druzenko, signed a MoU with the ECMI in November in the House of the Government of Ukraine. According to the MoU, the parties acknowledge each other's goals and professional standards, and share the conception of both parties benefiting from a closer co-operation for the purpose of supporting the activities of both institutions. The Government Commissioner and ECMI decided to co-operate in a range of areas pertaining to the protection of ethnic and national minorities, promotion of interethnic dialogue, social integration of ethnic and national minorities, promotion of equality, ethno-cultural diversity policies and capacity-building of civil society.

Specific areas of cooperation between the parties include:

- Mutual exchange of ideas through joint events and publications,
- Joint events including seminars, roundtables, presentations and exhibitions,
- Dissemination of information on good practices and achievements in ethno-cultural diversity policies,

- Elaboration of new agendas for academic and policy-oriented research and for public discussions,
- Search for common strategies on minority issues in international relations,
- Encouragement and enhancement of new teaching endeavours,
- Facilitation of study visits and exchange of experts and researchers,
- Teaching and training where feasible,
- Library co-operation and exchange of publications.

ECMI establishes partnerships in Gagauzia

ECMI and the Executive Committee of Gagauzia (Gagauz Yeri) signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Partnership Agreement in Comrat. The parties will cooperate within the ECMI Eastern Partnership Programme: National Minorities and Ethno-political Issues. The public signing of the documents was held on December 12 during the international conference devoted to 20th anniversary celebrations of the Gagauzian Autonomous Republic. ECMI and the Executive Committee of Gagauzia will cooperate in a range of areas pertaining to the protection of ethnic and national minorities:

- promotion of interethnic dialogue
- social integration of ethnic and national minorities
- promotion of equality
- ethno-cultural diversity policies
- capacity building of civil society



ECMI Headquarters – Projects: MMTE - 2014 Summer School

Projects: MMTE

The Minority Map and Timeline of Europe (MMTE) is an online interactive and hands-on research tool that provides an impartial perspective and evaluation of minorities, minority issues, and minority-majority relations within all states and regions of Europe. The MMTE is an on-going, flagship project of the ECMI. The research and entry writing of the MMTE is divided into three phases:

1. In the first phase, the Minority-Country Maps provide a sweeping examination of the countries and minority communities residing there.
2. The second phase adds further details through the Minority- Country Timelines by highlighting key events and periods concerning minority-majority relations.
3. The third phase comprises both the Minority Portraits and Country Portraits, which act together as a comprehensive evaluation of the state of affairs concerning the country governments and minorities.

While first created in 2001 as the Ethnopolitical Map of Europe, in 2010 the project was reevaluated and redesigned to reach the widest audience today. Suitably, as an easy-to-use tool, the MMTE provides current and credible quantitative and qualitative information on Europe's minorities for students and researchers; nongovernmental organizations and policy makers; as well as the informed public.

The Minority Map and Timeline of Europe endeavours to act as a central clearinghouse website that provides information on minority communities in a timely, straightforward, and reliable manner. Additionally, the MMTE project is intended to help develop ECMI's own goals and projects to better understand minority issues as well as implement corresponding programmes.

Projects: 2014 Summer School

The annual ECMI Summer School is an intensive one-week programme of postgraduate-level study in national minorities and border regions studies. This year, the special focus of the school is on "Alternative Approaches to Post-Conflict Reconciliation".

Held in August at the Akademie Sankelmark, Germany, the summer school brings together some of the most prominent lecturers and academics in the field of minority studies and 20 international participants of diverse backgrounds – researchers, practitioners and post-graduate students.

Under the 2014 theme "Alternative Approaches to Post-Conflict Reconciliation", the Summer School programme addressed topics such as:

- Post-conflict reconciliation
- Peace building and reconciliation – traditional approaches
- Challenges, success and failures of reconciliation
- Media and reconciliation
- Alternative approaches to reconciliation
- Reconciliation in the Danish-German border region

The innovative multidisciplinary approach to the topic of reconciliation, the first-hand experience of the positive model of the German-Danish border region of Schleswig-Holstein compared with the current conflict sensitive regions, and the interactive training sessions are expected to foster the exchange of ideas among students and lecturers to contribute to the development of new research and project ideas and to result in academic and policy outputs.

For the past three years the ECMI Annual Summer School has trained more than 70 young scholars and practitioners from all over Europe and beyond (USA, Japan, Philippines, Tunisia, Syria, etc.), advancing their knowledge on diversity management, border region challenges, and human and minority rights.

Welcoming participants and lecturers in Flensburg and introducing them to the history and achievements of the German-Danish border region of Schleswig-Holstein, the Summer School has been fostering cooperation and networking not only among participants, but also between local, regional and international partners.

ECMI Headquarters – Visits



ECMI Summer School

Visits

DialogForumNorden guest at ECMI

The ECMI hosted representatives of the German and Danish minorities, Frisians and the Roma-Sinti ethnic group to discuss the current issues of the German-Danish border region at the network DialogForumNorden (DFN) in September. DFN offers parties the possibility to exchange views and to bring together common interests in order to achieve common goals through cooperation in questions regarding minority issues and policy.

Links: ECMI visit triggers CDU minority considerations

Following a visit to the ECMI by the Christian Democrats (CDU) of Schleswig-Holstein working group on European politics, CDU issued a press release that praised the initiatives taken by ECMI in improving the situation of Roma and Sinti. The communiqué was picked up across CDU local branch websites and the Federal Press Portal - an information portal for federal, state, district, county and local parties in the Federal Republic of Germany.

ECMI hosts Azerbaijan delegation

The ECMI hosted a delegation of Azerbaijani government and civil society organizations in May to discuss minority-majority relations in the Danish-German borderland, reconciliation and cooperation, among other topics. The visit is part of a project funded by the Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations (CSSN) under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Both CSSN and ECMI hope the project and the visit will pave the way for new contacts and projects in Azerbaijan, which can help to develop the country's NGOs.



ECMI Kosovo

Promoting Good Governance and Enhancing the Capacity of Kosovo's Newly Established Municipalities in Protecting Community Rights

Within the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)-funded project, ECMI Kosovo:

- successfully promoted good governance at the local level;
- strengthened the knowledge of municipal representatives on community-related issues;
- enhanced interaction with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs);
- increased participation of citizens in local public life.



Trainings and workshops

A training programme for the municipal assembly members was drafted and a series of workshops were organized in targeted municipalities to provide a universal overview on the national legislative and constitutional framework required for the successful development of their responsibilities.

The training sessions covered:

- the ethnic make-up of Kosovo
- the rights of the communities and their members
- the relevant legal and institutional framework
- the local level government's role
- responsibilities in the field

Dialogue sessions

The cooperation between CSOs and municipal assembly members was enhanced through the dialogue sessions organized in each municipality between both parties, which helped promote the mutual knowledge and communication between the two actors, and open opportunities for cooperation. This supported the creation of a transparent and trustful environment between them, which benefits the work of both and have a direct effect on the local citizens.

Focus Groups

Skills and the capacity of civil society to protect and promote their rights and effectively participate in the public life was increased through the organization of several focus groups for relevant VMGs (e.g. youth, women, repatriated people, Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities) in each municipality with the objective of delivering relevant information regarding their specific rights, the responsible actors for their protection and their opportunities for participating in public life.

Empowering Civil Society to Participate Effectively in Policy and Decision-making Process through Dialogue with Government Institutions

Within the EU-funded project, ECMI Kosovo implemented a series of activities and produced publications aiming to increase the awareness of representatives of minority communities and the general public on the importance of civil society participating in decision-making processes at the local and central level. The results of the implemented activities included the:

- the organization of a series of awareness raising and trust building workshops between CSO representatives and local government institutions;
- organization of dialogue sessions between CSO representatives and Assembly Members;
- broadcasting of promotional videos to raise public awareness of minority rights;
- publication of a report on Minority Civil Society Organisations and Government Dialogue.

To effectively engage in policy and decision-making processes at the local and central levels, ECMI Kosovo was able to increase the skills and capacities of civil society in the following ways:

- organizing a series of workshops;
- providing technical support, legal advice and support;
- facilitating dialogue with government institutions;
- assisting in the organization of media actions;
- supporting on conducting research;
- drafting and implementing a one-year Advocacy Plan; and
- establishing two minority community networks to increase intra-ethnic cooperation (Anamorava/Pomoravlje Network and Gorani Community Network); and
- providing 2,000 sub-grants for the selected CSOs and CSO coalitions.

For a period of one year, ECMI Kosovo and its partner organizations, on behalf of the EU Office in Kosovo-funded project, supported each CSO network with the following tasks:

- legal, administrative and communication support, including the development of founding documents (e.g. Statute, The Network Document);
- establishment of a Secretariat;
- development of an Action Plan and network website;
- publication of a bi-monthly newsletter for one year;
- influence policy-making processes in three priority areas, including their publication; and
- press conferences to discuss these policy briefs.



Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Growth for All Newly-Established Municipalities in Kosovo

To increase capacities of appointed municipal officials and municipal representatives in the field of local economic development, ECMI Kosovo organized a set of three trainings, targeting six municipalities for newly-elected Municipal Assembly members on their roles and responsibilities.

Training

A detailed training programme was developed, which offered an overview of the national legislative and constitutional framework required for the successful development of the responsibilities of the Assembly Members. The aim of this project is to improve employment opportunities for local communities and create favourable conditions for economic growth within municipalities.



ECMI Kosovo, Strengthening the protection of language rights in Kosovo

Report

Moreover, a comprehensive publication of a report on 'The Development Potential of Tourism and Agriculture: a Study of Newly-established Serb-majority Municipalities in Southern Kosovo' was issued and disseminated. This study consists of a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the current potential for the development of agriculture and tourism in newly established Serb-majority municipalities in southern Kosovo.



ECMI Kosovo, European Day of Languages 2014

Information bulletin

Seeking to improve relations between local and central governments, one information bulletin was issued on the activities implemented to promote strong local governments for sustainable growth. Moreover, the report analyses the current relations between the local and central government.

Focus Groups

ECMI Kosovo organized a cycle of awareness-raising focus groups targeting women and youth in Serb majority municipalities to increase the participation of vulnerable and marginalised groups in public life. Twenty meetings were held on the topic "Women/youth participation in decision making process in their municipality"; participants were encouraged to actively discuss the importance of gender equality, youth activism, as well as the inclusion of both women and young people in society.



ECMI Kosovo

Empowering Minority Communities in Kosovo against Gender-Based Violence

Within the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women-funded project, ECMI Kosovo achieved the following results:

- eight minority women were hired to support the implementation of the project in several targeted municipalities across Kosovo;
- training and technical assistance was provided to eight local female minority activists to develop their skills and knowledge in a paralegal-context;
- seven skills trainings were conducted in four municipalities during project implementation; where a total of 81 women participated;
- a tri-lingual (English, Albanian and Serbian) curriculum on women's rights and gender equality were developed for teachers and high school students; and
- eight roundtables were organized between paralegals and male leaders in all targeted municipalities to raise men's awareness, engagement and challenge their perceptions on women's rights, gender equality and early marriage issues.

Improving Minority Communities' Access to Higher Education in Serbian Language and Public Employment

The University in Mitrovica North (UMN) is the only Serbian language university in Kosovo, serving all Serbian-speaking communities (Serbs, Gorani, Bosniaks and Roma). Within the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Kosovo-funded project, ECMI Kosovo aims to remove barriers to public employment in Kosovo for UMN graduates and to revitalize the legal integration of UMN within the Kosovo framework. With regard to the verification of the diplomas, UMN have guaranteed their support and cooperation.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Language Rights: Towards Strengthening Institutional Compliance with the Kosovo Law on the Use of Languages

Drawing on the crucial importance of language rights for members of communities when engaging with public services, ECMI Kosovo initiated the implementation of the project in cooperation with UNDP and the Office of the Language Commissioner. Within the framework of this exercise, 38 municipalities and 21 central level institutions have been assessed in relation to their compliance of the Law on the Use of Languages. The methodology was based on a comprehensive set of 59 language rights indicators that data gathered from public institutions was evaluated against.

This activity resulted in an exhaustive statistical database mapping the implementation process of the law among public institutions under the jurisdiction of the Language Commissioner. Furthermore, the final project report recommends public institutions to continue using indicators as a tool for monitoring and evaluation their implementation of language obligations.



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ECMI Caucasus

Designing a New State Strategy for Minority Integration

In preparation for ECMI's exit strategy from the Georgia programmes, ECMI Caucasus continued the work with local CSO and the Council of National Minorities (CNM) to further build the capacity of the CNM to function as a consultative body for various state agencies and the Parliament. In view of signing an Association Agreement with the EU, a series of trainings were organized for local minority organizations on issues related to the Agreement and advantages for minorities.

With the expiry of the first ever Georgian strategy on minority integration entitled "National Concept on Tolerance and Civic Integration 2009-2014" in early 2014, the Georgian State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civil Equality initiated preparations for a new five-year strategy.

Following the recommendations of ECMI Caucasus, the new strategic priorities and the respective Action Plan will focus on minority participation in public life. ECMI Caucasus strongly supported inclusion of gender perspective in the new strategy, as well as a special chapter for action to integrate Roma population. The gender perspective relates in particular to the report on needs assessment of minority women prepared by ECMI Caucasus for UN Women to be aligned with the Gender Equality National Action Plan adopted by the Georgian Parliament.



ECMI Caucasus, Mesh

Repatriation and Integration of deported Meskhetian returnees

Since 2007, ECMI Caucasus and other international organizations have been urging Georgia to fulfill its commitment to the Council of Europe to repatriate deportees from the Georgian SSR during the Stalin regime in 1940-ties – mainly Turkish Meskhetians. Georgia has adopted a law on repatriation and put in action the application process, which closed in 2010 with 5,900 applications (about 10,000 persons) from those wishing to return to Georgia. At the end of 2014, 1,530 applications were processed granting repatriation status.

ECMI Caucasus presented a set of recommendations to the Ministry of Refugees on further steps in repatriation and integration of the returnees; a draft strategy was adopted in October.

Debating Freedom of Religion or Belief

Continuing the series of regional conferences on Freedom of Religion or Belief with the support and in collaboration with the Embassy of The Netherlands in Georgia, a second conference took place in September, this time including the participation of Azerbaijan. The main goal of the conference was to discuss implementation of freedom of religion or belief out of international standards and from the institutional, legal and advocacy perspective; to share experiences between state structures, ombudsman, institutions, religious establishment and religious organizations.



ECMI Caucasus, Pankisi



ECMI Caucasus, FORB3



ECMI Caucasus, Training

South Caucasus Ombuds Institutions Network

The Armenia programme seeks to support the protection and integration of national minorities and to enhance diversity management policies in Armenia. During the Regional Conference on Freedom of Religion in South Caucasus, a separate meeting of the representatives of legal advisers to the Ombudsman from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia on human rights and tolerance took place at the margins of the conference to discuss improvements in the anti-discrimination legislation and conscientious objection to military service by certain religious minorities. The "Georgian model" of minority organizations functioning under the auspices of the Ombudsman's office was discussed with a view of applying best practices in minority-state relations and enhancing cultural and religious diversity.



ECMI Caucasus, Training

Eastern Partnership Minority Network

Minority issues were high on the agenda of the EU Eastern Partnership cooperation for all six countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine – during the launch of the Minority Rights Group-led Eastern Partnership Minority Network CSO Forum meeting in Georgia in November.

The programme established a primary network of minority organizations and focused on trainings – both live and online – to improve cooperation between minority organizations and local authorities. The trainings will be delivered in collaboration with primary project partners in each country.

ECMI Caucasus, one of the partners in the network, strongly recommended Roma inclusion as a cross-country focus for 2015. All countries of the EaP have relatively large Roma population and it will be equally important to include them into policies and practices of the EaP in order to strengthen their domestic mechanisms for minority protection and governance in particular at local level.



Communications

The European Yearbook of Minority Issues celebrating 10 years

Malloy, Tove H. and Joseph Marko (eds.), *Minority Governance in and Beyond Europe. Celebrating 10 Years of the European Yearbook of Minority Issues*. Leiden and Boston: Brill Nijhoff, 2014, 222 pp. An inside view by William McKinney, European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI). January 2015

This collection of articles is dedicated to the celebrating of the publication of ten volumes of the European Yearbook of Minority Issues (in the following: Yearbook) since the early 2000s. With the publication of this relatively slim, affordable edition, the co-editors have confirmed that they remain the foremost commentators in the field of minority issues. This is especially true in view of the fact that the co-editors had the unenviable task of selecting 10 articles from upwards of 250 expert academic articles that had been published in the Yearbook over the last years. The co-editors succeeded in selecting articles that taken as a whole are capable of increasing the reader's understanding of how best to advance the minority protection regime in Europe. The contributions offered here deal with such cross-cutting themes as the theory of power-sharing in relation to ethnic conflict; the issue of 'old' and 'new' minorities; political participation of minorities; the development of language rights; and justification of minority protection, just to mention several examples.

The first Yearbook was published in 2003. In my view, the keys to the successful launch were first, that ECMI was able to find EURAC as a fully competent partner for this ambitious publishing venture. The second requirement was that both ECMI and EURAC shared the vision of what the Yearbook should be, namely, a critical and timely review of contemporary developments of minority-majority relations in Europe, combining analysis, commentary and documentation in relation to conflict management, international legal developments and domestic legislation affecting minorities in Europe. The third key was that both ECMI and EURAC were willing to commit extensive amounts of time and resources towards implementation of the Yearbook. ECMI and EURAC were also able to find excellent, expert editorial staff for the hard work involved here.

This collection also includes a useful index, which is unfortunately missing in the Yearbooks published up to now.

Publications 2014

Mikalai Biaspamiatnykh, Alexander Osipov, Federica Prina, Ihar Pushkin and Hanna Vasilevich, *Policies of Ethno-cultural Diversity Management in Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine: between Soviet Legacies and European Standards*. Vilnius: European Humanities University, 2014, 298 pp.

Looking closely at the Soviet legacy in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, this volume (Russian with English summaries) presents interdisciplinary analysis on diversity management. Also examined is the character of this legacy in interplay with the minority protection approaches of the European Union, Council of Europe, and the OSCE – the lion's share of the volume was written by ECMI Senior Research Associate Dr. Alexander Osipov.

The book demonstrates how the ECMI researchers collaborate with scholars from various other institutes dealing with specific aspects of minority issues. This edition reflects the results of a research project conducted in 2012-2013 under the supervision of Dr. Mikalai Biaspamiatnykh from Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, the support of the Centre for Advanced Studies and Education (CASE) at the European Humanities University of Vilnius, and the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI).

Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE)



Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE) is a peer-reviewed electronic journal edited under the auspices of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI).

JEMIE is a multi-disciplinary journal which addresses minority issues across a broad range of studies, such as ethnopolitics, democratization, conflict management, good governance, participation, minority issues and minority rights. It is devoted to comparative analyses of current developments in minority-majority relations in the wider Europe. JEMIE seeks to publish critical analyses of policies and developments in European institutions and member states, their relations with the countries of the European neighborhood and other immediate neighbors.

Contributions on non-European perspectives on ethnopolitics in the wider Europe and on minority issues applicable to the wider global context are also welcome.

Resources

- Find JEMIE online at [> Publications](http://www.ecmi.de)
- Find and share announcements of the individual issues at [> Categories: JEMIE](http://www.infoecmi.eu)

Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE)

Issue 1/2014: Special Issue - Minority Participation Estonia and Latvia

Issue 2/2014: Special Issue - National Minorities between Protection and Empowerment

Issue 3/2014: Special Issue - Europeanization and Minority Rights: From External Conditionality to Internal Practices

Issue 4/2014: General Articles, Commentary and Book Review



Fact sheets

The exclusion of Roma communities from mainstream society is today one of Europe's most pressing social problems. ECMI issued 11 fact sheets offering a quick overview on Roma-related information in a European policy-making context:

- Persecution and Migration
- Romani in International Politics
- Romani Human Rights Based Approach
- Romani Minority Rights Based Approach
- EU National Romani Integration Strategies
- FRA Sources on Romani
- General Sources on Romani
- Council of Europe sources on Romani
- OSCE Sources on Romani
- UNDP and World Bank Sources on Romani
- The Decade on Romani Inclusion.

ECMI Issue Briefs

Issue Brief #30

Jackson-Preece, Jennifer,
Beyond the (Non) Definition of Minority

Issue Brief #31

Friedman, Eben, *The Situation of Roma between Human Rights and Economics*

Issue Brief #32

Osipov, Alexander,
What do the Crimean Tatars face in Crimea?

Issue Brief #33

Prina, Federica, *What next for Moldova's minorities after Crimea?*

ECMI Reports

ECMI Report #63

Bulia, Tamari, *A Youth Exchange Project "Raise Your Voice" Cisternino, Italy 10-20 December 2013*

ECMI Report #64

Malloy, Tove H., Oana Buta and Anthony Stanley, *ECMI Workshop on the Definition of "Minority" Flensburg, Germany; 26-27 September 2013*

ECMI Report #65

Cărstocea, Andreea, *Expert Workshop on the Distribution of Financial Support to Organizations Representing National Minorities. Flensburg, Germany 5-6 December 2013*

ECMI Report #66

Popova, Zora, *Roma Policies for a Positive Change: From Inclusion towards Empowerment. Flensburg, Germany 31 March - 01 April 2014*

ECMI Working Papers

Working Paper #74

Peinhopf, Andrea, *Ethnic Minority Women in Georgia - Facing a Double Burden?*

Working Paper #75

Popova, Zora, *Roma Inclusion: A Feasible EU Project*

Working Paper #76

Rein, Detlev, *Gewährung des Status einer öffentlich-rechtlichen Körperschaft an Nationale Minderheiten? (= Granting the status of public corporation to national minorities)*

Working Paper #77

Malloy, Tove H., *Dialogue with the Unwilling: Addressing Minority Rights in So-called Denial States*

Working Paper #78

Malloy, Tove H., *Gleichheit der Sinti und Roma in Schleswig-Holstein (= Equality of Sinti and Roma in Schleswig-Holstein)*

Working Paper #79

Griessler, Christina Eva, *The Albanians in Macedonia: The Role of International Organizations in Empowering the Ethnic Albanian Minority*

Working Paper #80

Hanna Vasilevich, *Belarusians in Poland: Assimilation not Implied by Law*

Working Paper #81

Cărstocea, Raul, *Anti-Semitism in Romania: Historical Legacies, Contemporary Challenges*

Working Paper #82

Eben Friedman, *Roma in the Yugoslav Successor States*

Working Paper #83

David Matsaberidze, *The Role of Civic Nationalism in Transformation of the Internal Ethnic Politics of Post-Soviet Georgia*

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Text processing:
Andrea Young, young@ecmi.de

Graphic Design:
RAINER PRÜSS wirtschafts- und kulturkonzepte, Flensburg
Print:
Druckhaus Leupelt, Handewitt

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

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Finances

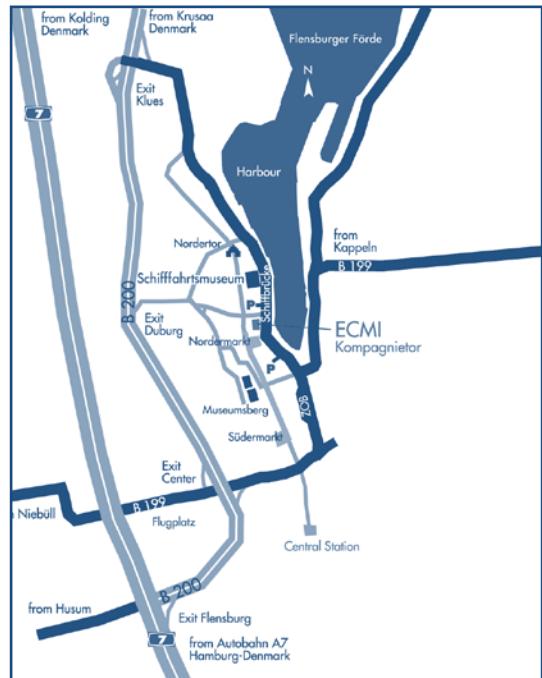
In 2014 ECMI received funding from its institutional founders covering the costs of the core staff, library and maintenance at headquarters in Flensburg. Additionally ECMI also raised funds for several international projects.

ECMI Total Funding 2011-2014 Contributions from founders and other donors in EUR				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Kingdom of Denmark	446.000	446.000	446.000	446.000
Republic of Germany	241.000	241.000	241.000	241.000
State of Schleswig-Holstein	205.000	205.000	205.000	205.000
Subtotal contribution from founders	892.000	892.000	892.000	892.000
Contributions from donors	358.350	481.419	294.070	372.000
Other funding	30.000	24.955	11.000	11.000
Total	1.280.350	1.398.374	1.197.070	1.275.000



ECMI Externally Funded Projects 2014

Responsible	Donor Institution	Title	Grant size	Project period
ECMI HQ	European Commission	ERASMUS + project 'Fighting Right Wing Populism'	4.000.00 €	2014
ECMI HQ	Carnegie Corporation	Soviet Legacy and European Standards	5.500.00 €	2012-2014
ECMI HQ	ERASMUS	SMILE-Strengthening Minority Identity and Lang. Education, partner	5.000.00 €	2013-2014
ECMI HQ	Azerbaijchan NGO Council	Cooperation for a stable future: international and intercultural dialogue as a tool for sustainable development	60.337.00 €	11.2013-07.2014
ECMI HQ	MFA Denmark	Eastern Partnership Programme (frame 600.000 €)	600.000.00 €	2014-2017
ECMI HQ/ University Uppsala	Riksbanken Foundation/Sweden	Inter-ethnic coalition building	35.890.00 €	2015
ECMI HQ/ Kosovo	MFA Finland	Support to minority communities III	400.000.00 €	2014 - 2016
ECMI Georgia	EU, EIDHR & AAH Georgia	Facilitating Civil Integration & Promoting the Rights of the Meskhetian Repatriate Community in Georgia	100.000.00 €	1.11.2012 - 1.02.2014
ECMI Georgia	EU Civil Society/MRG	EaP Minority Networks	80.000.00 €	01.03.2013 - 28.02.2016
ECMI Georgia	USAID, UNAG, OSGF	Facilitate Raising Awareness and Inclusion of Ethnic Minorities in Euro-integration and EaP	26.200.00 €	27.06.2014 - 27.12.2014
ECMI Georgia	FNF	Involvement of National Minorities in Local self-governance	25.000.00 €	09.2014 - 12.2014
ECMI Georgia	Dutch Embassy in Tbilisi	2nd Regional Conference of Freedom of Religion and belief in South Caucasus	49.000.00 €	07.2014 - 11.2014
ECMI Kosovo	Embassy of Finland in Prishtina	Promotion of a Transparent Media Environment in Northern Kosovo	49.184.00 €	01.09.2013 - 31.08.2014
ECMI Kosovo	The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo	Supporting Civil Society Members of the Consultative Council for Communities	158.163.95 €	01.05.2013 - 31.12.2014
ECMI Kosovo	UNICEF	Enhancing Access to and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children	151.212.40 €	01.05.2013 - 30.10.2014
ECMI Kosovo	EU funded project managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo	Empowering Civil Society to Participate Effectively in Policy and Decision-Making Processes through Dialogue with Government Institutions	249.945.26 €	01.12.2012 - 01.12.2014
ECMI Kosovo	EU/UNDP/UN Women	Empowering Minority Communities in Kosovo against Gender-Based Violence	342.966.00 €	01.01.2014 - 01.01.2016
ECMI Kosovo	The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo	Improving Minority Communities Access to Higher education in Serbian Language and Public Employment	300.530.90 €	01.04.2014 - 01.04.2016
ECMI Kosovo	US Embassy in Pristina	Increasing Voter Education among Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups	6.621.12 €	15.05.2014 - 15.07.2014
ECMI Kosovo	UNDP, OLC/OPM	Monitoring and Evaluation of Language Rights in Kosovo: Towards Strengthening Institutional Compliance with the Kosovo Law on the Use of Languages	30.024.50 €	01.05.2014 - 28.02.2015
ECMI Kosovo	OSCE/HCNM, OLC/OPM	Official Language Acquisition for Municipal Officials in Kosovo	65.738.00 €	01.01.2014 - 31.12.2014
ECMI Kosovo	UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Promoting Good Governance and Enhancing the Capacity of Kosovo's Newly Established Municipalities in Protecting Community Rights	26.129.40 €	01.05.2014 - 31.01.2015
ECMI Kosovo	Embassy of Finland in Prishtina	Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Growth for all Newly-established Municipalities in Kosovo	404.599.10 €	01.02.2014 - 31.01.2017
ECMI Kosovo	EU Office in Kosovo	Community Mobilization – Capacity Building Program for CSO's in the North of Kosovo	25.276.00 €	01.01.2014 - 01.06.2015
Total			3.201.317.63 €	



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