



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

20
23

PERSPECTIVES



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)

Schiffbrücke 12, 24939 Flensburg, Germany

T: +49 (0)461 1 41 490

E: info@ecmi.de

W: www.ecmi.de

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ABOUT THE ECMI

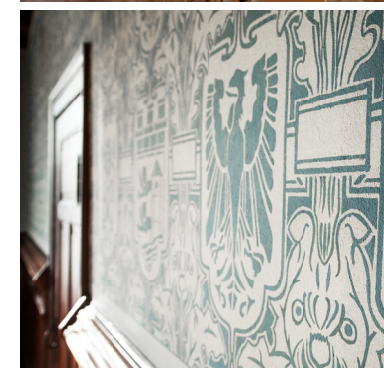
The ECMI conducts academic and policy-oriented research, provides information and documentation, and offers advisory services concerning minority-majority relations in Europe.



The Centre was founded in 1996 by the governments of Denmark, Germany and Schleswig-Holstein. As an independent research centre it is based in the German-Danish border area and occupies an historic building, the Kompagnietor, in the

centre of Flensburg. A highly specialised Library on interethnic relations, cultural-linguistic diversity issues and ethnic conflict in Europe with more than 3,000 items in more than twenty languages is affiliated to the Centre.

The ECMI sees ethnic diversity as a European heritage and cultural pluralism as a human asset. Aiming to facilitate respect for diversity in all aspects of society, the ECMI is committed to work for the improvement of the situation of Europe's national minorities through heightened awareness of minority rights and minority issues among all relevant actors.



OPENING PERSPECTIVES

JØRGEN KÜHL: CHAIR, ECMI EXECUTIVE BOARD



The ECMI's commitment to expanding its presence in the Danish-German border region has yielded its first fruits through the creation of a specially designated research cluster.

In 2023, this activity will grow with the hiring of more staff and the launch of formal project activities. Overall, the ECMI has been heartened by the strong support expressed over the last few years by our German and Danish Founders, including in numerous high-level political declarations mentioning the ECMI by name. Our mission as an institution helping to set the minority agenda at both regional and European levels will continue.

VELLO PETTAI: ECMI DIRECTOR



For 2023 the ECMI is on track to grow as never before.

With a Flensburg staff that will slowly approach 20 people, we will be reaching a new level in terms of critical mass and organizational performance. Our international presence will be rejuvenated through the start of a new action-oriented project in Serbia. And we will maintain our relevance for European policy-makers by hosting an Expert Meeting for the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. Even as international conflict casts an ever darker shadow over minority issues, the ECMI is set to strengthen its efforts to counter these trends.



HIGHLIGHTS

NEW PROJECT: MINORITY PROTECTION FOR EU ACCESSION

The ECMI is back with a major action-oriented initiative in 2023 thanks to the launch of a two-year project on “Minority Protection for EU Accession” in Serbia. Funded by the German development agency GIZ, the project will have four pillars:

- assisting Serbian authorities with the monitoring of a new Action Plan for the protection of national minorities;
- civil servant awareness training;
- capacity building for newly elected National Minority Councils;
- organizational training for Councils on Inter-ethnic Relations in major Serbian cities.

The project will be carried out in close collaboration with the Serbian Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and other stakeholders. The overall objective is to support Serbia on enhancing national minority protection as part of its EU accession pro-

cess and in particular its compliance with Chapter 23 on securing the rule of law.

During the project, the ECMI will have collaborators on the ground in Serbia helping to organize training events and coordinate policy monitoring processes. The whole team will be led by Ljubica Djordjević, Senior Researcher and Head of Cluster for Justice and Governance.

For the ECMI, the project represents a return to project work “in the field” that has been a pillar of the Centre’s activities since its founding in 1996. It allows the ECMI to engage directly with all stakeholders (national minorities, government authorities, civil society organizations, the academic expert community, etc.) in order to bring together comparative knowledge and local practice.

For 2023, the project will start with a series of training seminars in the spring and pivot to preparing a policy implementation monitoring process toward the autumn.



NEW PROJECT: SPARKING EVENTS, EMOTIONAL CLIMATES, AND CASCADES OF CULTURAL IDENTITY CONFLICTS (SPARK)

SPARK is the acronym for a new three-year research project the ECMI is launching in 2023 in collaboration with the Institute of Political Science at Heidelberg University. Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), the project will focus on emotional and situational factors that engender ethnic conflict.

Cultural identity conflicts behave like the proverbial powder keg or wildfire, often resulting in unexpectedly escalating and conflictive mass behaviour such as riots and mass protests. Prominent examples include the 2010 clashes between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks, which were sparked by a dispute outside a casino in Osh. Likewise, there were the spontaneous mass protests and riots that spread in the USA following the death of George Floyd in police custody in 2020.

SPARK will seek to explain these non-linear, short-term escalation dynamics on a global scale. Ethnic conflict can be seen as “cascades”, which are propelled by self-organizing conflictive mass behaviour

of varying intensity and scope. According to the theoretical model, an emboldening emotional climate provides the “fuel” for such cascades. If such an emboldening emotional climate coincides with a triggering event, collective mass behaviour is sparked.

Equally, of course, the model presupposes a degree of organization within the cultural group itself. The emergence of both an emotional climate and mass behaviour follows a self-organizing bottom-up process. By combining triggering events, collective emotions and self-organization, SPARK offers an innovative and comprehensive explanation for the non-linear, short-term escalation dynamics of collective mass behaviour in cultural identity conflicts.

The research team at the ECMI includes Felix Schulte (Principal Investigator) and Doğukan C. Karakuş. Other team members at the Institute of Political Science at Heidelberg University are Christoph Trinn (Principal Investigator), Marzia Raza and Marlit Claussen.



EXPERT MEETING, “THE OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES: 30 YEARS”

The Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) of the OSCE will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2023. As a kick-off event for these festivities, the ECMI has been asked to host an Expert Meeting in May examining the three decades of the HCNM's work.

The discussions will be focused around three themes: the HCNM as persona, the HCNM as changemaker, and the HCNM as norm-builder. Specially commissioned reports will look at each of these dimensions. The first will examine how the personality and prior professional experiences of the High Commissioners have impacted on their ability to carry out the “quiet diplomacy” called upon by the office.

Secondly, the Meeting will reflect on years of project work that the HCNM Office has implemented on the ground in a number of OSCE countries. These projects span topics such as independent media, integration policies and multilingual education. Thirdly, a retrospective will be given to the nine sets of recommendations and guidelines that the HCNM has issued over the years, asking the question: what kind of added contribution have these documents given to the overall European minority rights regime?

The reports will appear as special ECMI publications and made available by mid-summer. They will constitute a new

pillar in research on the HCNM, while also examining new challenges for the institution in an era of renewed geopolitical tension and conflict in Europe.



ANNUAL SUMMER SCHOOL MINORITIES & ETHNIC CONFLICT 27 August – 3 September 2023, Belgrade (Serbia)

Ethnic conflict has once again become a threat to peace in Europe. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, while often cast as an overarching geopolitical escapade, has also been linked to ethnopolitics and the safeguarding of ethnic minorities. The 2023 ECMI Summer School will examine what our collective knowledge about ethnic conflict – both in Europe and elsewhere in the world – can tell us about why this torment is rising again and what can be done to stop it.

Alongside more micro-level precipitators like local disputes or triggers in specific contexts, attention will also be paid to long-term, structural causes like poverty, discrimination and exclusion. Likewise, participants will examine arrangements for resolving ethnic conflict, including both institutional mechanisms as well as person-to-person programmes. Lastly, the Summer School will include a quantitative

component, where scholars linked to the Ethnic Power Relations project will introduce the wealth of comparative datasets available to examine conflicts on a more systematic level.

The keynote address for the 2023 Summer School will be given by Erika Forsberg (Uppsala University). Other lecturers will include Andreas Juon (ETH Zurich), H. Zeynep Bulutgil (University College London) and Daniel Bochsler (CEU & University of Belgrade).

The Summer School will take place in cooperation with the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade and will draw on synergies with the ECMI's new project on “Minority Protection for EU Accession” in Serbia (p. 8) as well as a high-level research project on trigger events that precipitate ethnic protest and conflict (SPARK, p. 9).



CLUSTER HEAD: KYRIAKI TOPIDI

European society is epitomized by cultural diversity, reflected not least by the history and tradition of national minorities. As a consequence, understanding the contours of this diversity and managing its intricacies is at the heart of the Culture and Diversity Cluster. This agenda includes overarching studies of diversity management as well as narrower foci on specific areas of change.

MINORITY DIGITAL CULTURE: OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

The use of technology has been shown to weaken core aspects of democracy, representation and human rights. More than that, it has pushed societies towards the re-evaluation of their moral, cultural and socio-economic values in polarizing terms. From instruments leading to the creation of surveillance-states, to the re-emergence of digital forms of public bigotry and at the same time the persisting unaccountability of 'black-box' algorithms, minority groups are very often victims of narratives and actions that institutionalize norms that defy equality, social inclusion or fairness.

The research that will be undertaken under this theme will engage with the study of narratives, laws and technologies that obstruct the pursuit of pluralistic societies, placing ethno-cultural minority groups at the margins and the periphery instead of at the core. Three research priorities will be pursued: the formation of cultural minority identity processes online; the impact of the digital ecosystem on ethno-cultural minority groups (e. g. algorithmic governance, multi-stakeholder regulatory frameworks, prevailing legal models); and the position and role of minority groups within digital democracy and citizenship.

NATIONAL MINORITY INTERSECTIONALITIES

The concept of intersectionality in equality studies is far from unknown. It has been devised to describe and explain disadvantage and patterns of oppression of specific categories, women in particular. And yet, it has been less studied within minority studies beyond employment and race, especially in the ways it can affect members of minority groups with multiple identities. As a cross-cutting trajectory, it can offer valuable insights on how single-axis perspectives on gender, ethnicity but also culture, religion or socio-economic status capture only partially the experiences and socio-legal positionality of minority groups and their members.

For this theme the Cluster will team up with researchers from Eurac Research to organize a workshop tackling this expansive issue. Areas of focus will include establishing a conceptual grounding for the concept as an analytical tool, but also a framework for use in the digital sphere in order to study processes of cultural identity formation online.



CLUSTER HEAD: FELIX SCHULTE

Violent conflict has tragically become a renewed focal point of minority issues and geopolitics in Europe. For 2023, the ECMI's Conflict and Security Cluster will have a special focus on monitoring these threats as well as harnessing existing knowledge for their resolution.

TRACKING CONFLICT RESURGENCE

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has upset the security balance across Central and Eastern Europe. It has also rattled ethnopolitical situations in countries where minority populations, particularly Russian-speaking communities, are torn over the events. Nationalist policies problematizing or even curtailing minority rights are on the rise. Kin-state activism (as a response phenomenon) is more and more palpable.

Both within the Conflict and Security Cluster as well as across other research groups at the ECMI, our analysis of the situation will remain a priority in 2023. This will include special Minority Blogs, interview series and background publications. Our coverage will also encompass other areas of tension in Europe, be they in the Balkans, Western Europe or within European minority institutions.

TERRITORIAL SELF-GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT REGULATION

Territorial autonomy and political power-sharing schemes continue to be widely used instruments for resolving violent conflicts in divided societies. The scholarly literature features numerous studies as to why some conflict-regulating autonomy arrangements work while others don't; how success can be measured empirically; and what lessons can be drawn for practical conflict resolution.

In our current day and age, a new variable has emerged that undermines many of these presuppositions. Democratic backsliding as well as outright autocratization has cast a shadow over the legitimacy and effectiveness of power-sharing arrangements. This has led in some cases to local conflicts in autonomous regions.

How is the current global wave of autocratization affecting "minority nations"? Under what conditions does subnational autocracy result in new ethnic conflicts? What impact do various institutional designs have on these dangers? The Conflict and Security Cluster will address these issues through special publications in 2023.



CLUSTER HEAD: MARTIN KLATT

The Danish-German border region (encompassing all of the minorities of the area) is a flourishing but also complex amalgam of peoples, histories, politics, and economics. Widely perceived in the 20th century as a best-practice example of border delineation, conflict resolution and minority accommodation, the 21st century has brought with it new challenges such as resource conflicts and reborderings incited by global and regional crises.

MINORITIES – AN ASSET IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

Regional development is an essential issue for border areas. Instead of languishing as peripheries within a centralized nation-state, frontier regions can seek to foster transborder connections that will open up new horizons and prospects for all. Especially in regions where national minority populations straddle the border area, economic and social development can gain much from incorporating these players into policy planning and implementation.

To what extent, however, is this potential being realized in the German-Danish border region? Although the area's minority populations (Germans, Danes, Frisians and Roma-Sinti) are often cited as a special asset for regional identity and cultural heritage, they are not necessarily integrated into more far-reaching plans for cross-border development and integration.

The Cluster will therefore begin a range of consultation exercises meant not only to gather information about stakeholder attitudes, but also disseminate best practice from other European regions. A workshop will be organized during the second half of 2023 to highlight these findings and generate policy discussions.

MINORITIES IDENTITIES IN TRANSITION

National minorities rely on a strong sense of generational and communal continuity. Stability contributes to deepening cultural heritage and maintaining social vitality. However, over the last decade or so the German and Danish minority communities in Syddanmark and Schleswig have been going through considerable transformation thanks to generational change, new streams of minority adherents and a restructuring of their social-communicative spheres through digitalization.

This research strand will begin with a comparative study of how the two communities are processing these challenges. How do young members of the community see the minority in a world of integrated opportunities across both Germany and Denmark? How are new German residents in southern Denmark or Danish movers to Flensburg connecting with the existing minority communities? And how is all this change reflected in local media as well as other social communicative platforms?

Based on principles of citizen science and community engagement, the Cluster will initiate a series of activities involving data collection and participatory discussion in order to better understand and track this evolution.



Vulnerability and marginality are often a hallmark of minority communities, due to either societal discrimination, socio-economic underdevelopment, geographic peripherality, or a combination of these. The Equality and Inclusion Cluster seeks to address these chronic harms not only by understanding their adverse effects, but also seeking positive remedies for minority communities and individuals.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

The participation of national minorities in socio-economic life is increasingly present on the agenda of international organisations. Not only has the Council of Europe restructured its Framework Convention monitoring reports to give more weight to socio-economic aspects of participation, but also – and perhaps even more consequentially – the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) plans to launch a new set of guidelines on this subject in 2023.

The Cluster's activities regarding these developments will focus on finalising a pair of edited volumes which will analyse the legal and conceptual scope of socio-economic participation for national minorities (Vol. I), while providing a comprehensive outline of the policy areas and best practices pertaining to this area of participation (Vol. II). In parallel with these publication activities, the Cluster will seek to broaden and institutionalise the existing network of scholars working on these issues.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Education is often seen as a powerful context for integration and for expanding social equality. However, it is far from a neutral place, suffering its own share of discriminatory phenomena and prejudice. Interethnic bullying and microaggressions are one such set of problems, which particularly affect marginalized minorities like Roma and Sinti.

Drawing on an international workshop conducted in November 2022, the Equality and Inclusion Cluster was able to set up a network of scholars examining a number of key dimensions to these problems. These included both the role of individual actors (teachers, majority group peers, and minority pupils themselves) as well as the effect of more structural issues such as curriculum content or legal frameworks.

For 2023, the Cluster will prepare an edited publication drawing on the workshop's papers. Both Head of Cluster Andreea Cârstocea and ECMI staff member Oana Buta will lead the work.



Since the late 1980s, European minority issues have been embedded in a multilateral and multi-institutional system of legal norms, standards and practices. The ECMI's Justice and Governance Cluster is devoted to the study of this European minority rights regime in terms of both its evolving structure as well as practical effectiveness.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MINORITY PROTECTION FRAMEWORKS/INSTRUMENTS

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) contains a wide range of legal provisions promoting the rights of national and ethnic communities in Europe. However, the coverage of these different rights is uneven across the participating states of the Council of Europe. Why are some aspects of the FCNM implemented with greater ease and others with more difficulty? What kinds of specific country-related circumstances condition national implementation of these norms? And how specifically has the Advisory Committee of the FCNM engaged in dialogue with governments over these issues across several cycles of FCNM monitoring?

Using a comparative analytical approach across several countries and monitoring rounds, the Justice and Governance Cluster has been investigating the role of the Advisory Committee in spurring dialogue and more consistent application of the FCNM across Europe. Based on a minute analysis of Advisory Committee documentation, but also fieldwork, one-on-one interviews and expert workshops, the Cluster will be developing a book-length study in 2023 that will profile the evolution in FCNM monitoring and implementation over the last two decades.

KIN-STATE POLICIES AND ACTIVISM IN MINORITY AFFAIRS

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has brought renewed scholarly and societal focus on how certain states attempt to act as protectors for kin-minorities in other countries. In Russia's case, this has resulted in all-out invasion. Elsewhere, however, governments have used different policy instruments to support minorities either culturally or economically. They have even encouraged minorities to take their citizenship in order to bolster social and political ties with the kin-state.

These are tricky issues within the realm of minority protection. While international norms concur that kin-states may have a legitimate interest in the well-being of co-ethnics in other countries, this condition does not allow states to exercise jurisdiction over such persons. Likewise, while kin-states may be encouraged to establish bilateral treaties with countries, where kin-minorities live, these should not undermine the multilateral nature of the European minority rights regime.

For 2023, the Cluster will build on a special workshop it organized in December 2022 on "Re-visiting kin-state policies". In addition to taking stock of the current scope of kin-state activism in Europe, the Cluster will encourage a comparative framework across countries such as Albania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Serbia.



CLUSTER HEAD: SERGIUSZ BOBER

Although often small in a demographic sense, minority communities still constitute social microcosms characterized by structural complexity. These might include autonomous internal self-government institutions, bodies facilitating dialogue with national authorities, and political parties or media available in languages of minority communities. The aim of the Politics and Civil Society Cluster is to follow these dynamically evolving and highly contextual organizational networks and to offer topical research outputs concerning them, frequently of a comparative nature.

THE IMPACT OF MEDIA ON THE REVITALIZATION AND USE OF MINORITY LANGUAGES

What is the significance of media consumption for the revitalization of minority languages as well as for their subsequent maintenance and use? Whilst some scholars claim that regular exposure to media content in different formats (print, broadcast, online etc.) positively affects the ability to actively use a given language, others argue that the causal link is dubious at best and they point to the 'mass-media fetish' affecting some minority language activists, revitalisationists and scholars. Methodologically, this project addresses this research controversy through the use of a Delphi analysis. Currently the project is administering (in collaboration with the University of the Basque Country) several sequential questionnaires involving a gender-balanced panel of academics, who cover a variety of linguistic spheres in their research. For 2023 the results of the project will be disseminated via presentations at international conferences and initial publications.

MINORITY LANGUAGE JOURNALISM AND ITS PRACTITIONERS

This thematic track is inspired by the conviction that the topic of minority language journalists, although by no means ignored by the field, still offers plenty of space for new research initiatives. It aspires to give more attention to this professional group, whose efforts not only keep minority communities informed but also result in important content focusing on minorities' intellectual and creative lives or different kinds of internal deliberations, whilst continuously contributing to language normalization. This will be done through a comparative study of Basque and Galician language journalists working for different media outlets, specifically involving such aspects as their professional identity, career choices and strategies, intersectionality, responses to precarization, digitalization that affects day-to-day work, as well as the long-term influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on minority language journalism. In order to further expand the comparative scope of this topic, in the course of 2023 the Cluster will convene a panel during the XIX International Conference on Minority Languages (ICML), as well as organize a workshop bringing together scholars and media practitioners.

PRESENCE

The ECMI was created as an international institution, intended to network and operate across the European region broadly defined. One aspect of this is a tight connection to European policy institutions related to minority affairs. This relationship starts with having high-level representatives from the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) of the OSCE on the ECMI's Executive Board.

At the same time, the ECMI gives back to these institutions by contributing to their policy-making processes either by participating in their consultative bodies or providing specialised policy analyses. Amongst the former are the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and its Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM). In both bodies, ECMI experts are accredited as regular participants.



The participants of the 'Future Minority Leaders Initiative' in 2022 came from Moldova and Ukraine. They spent one week together in Berlin to learn more about the minority protection regime in Germany.

Equally, the ECMI has produced reports on the socio-economic participation of national minorities for the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, including a 2021 comparative analysis of OSCE member-state policies in this realm. In 2022, experts from the ECMI were selected to be part of a special HCNM working group on developing this topic further. For 2023, the ECMI will contribute to the launch of a new set of HCNM recommendations on socio-economic participation.

A second dimension of presence involves research and policy work 'on the ground' in other countries. Despite Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine, the ECMI's monitoring of the minority situation in the country continues. During 2023 special attention will be given to tracking the evolution of minority legislation and the fate of specific minority groups in the country. The multi-level nature of minority issues in Ukraine (involving national minorities, indigenous peoples, kin-state relations and Ukrainian state-building) all merit sustained engagement with regard to both research and practical activities. Much of this monitoring will be reflected in our electronic media outputs.

EDUCATION

Minority issues are about more than just research or policy. They also encompass education and outreach. The ECMI's Annual Summer School (p. 11) is, of course, one important part of this. But our commitment to dissemination goes further to include university teaching, training programs for minority organizations, and practical materials for awareness-raising and empowerment.

One reason the ECMI has been able to flourish over 25 years is that we have been able to nurture new generations of researchers through our internship programme as well as cooperate directly with university partners. In particular, the ECMI has developed strong collaboration with the Europa-Universität Flensburg (EUF), where we have taught courses as part of their MA programme in European Studies and organized separate training seminars for interested students. The ECMI is also an institutional partner in the EUF's European Wasatia Graduate School for Peace and Conflict Resolution. The Graduate School encompasses a dozen doctoral candidates working on reconciliation issues, including minority-majority ethnic relations.

For 2023, the ECMI will also participate in the release of a special textbook on non-territorial autonomy led by the European Non-Territorial Autonomy Network (ENTAN). The open-access volume includes contributions by three ECMI Senior Researchers (Ljubica Djordjević, Kyriaki Topidi and Martin Klatt).

Closer to home, the cluster for German-Danish minority issues will be preparing a German-language handbook on national and ethnic minority communities in Germany. Again, the objective will be to provide university instructors and students with a resource for learning about minority issues in a concise, but also comparative manner.



PUBLICATIONS

ECMI MINORITIES BLOG



Multidisciplinary exchanges about challenges faced by minority communities across the world. The Blog is research-led and engages critically with public policies and laws that concern the protection of minorities and their crosscutting relevance.

In 2023, the Blog will continue to publish inputs under the miniblog series “National Minorities and the War in Ukraine” which is dedicated to reflections on the situation and impact of the war on national minorities in and outside of Ukraine.

Editors: Sergiusz Bober,
Andreea Cârstocea

EUROPEAN YEARBOOK OF MINORITY ISSUES

A critical review of contemporary developments in minority-majority relations in Europe. It combines analysis, commentary and documentation in relation to conflict management, international legal developments and domestic legislation affecting minorities in Europe. The Yearbook plans special events at a meeting of the Association for the Study of Nationalities in June 2023 as part of its push to make the Yearbook an open-access publication.

Editor: Ljubica Djordjević

JOURNAL ON ETHNOPOLITICS AND MINORITY ISSUES IN EUROPE (JEMIE)

A peer-reviewed electronic open-access journal edited under the auspices of the ECMI. The journal addresses minority issues across a broad range of disciplines. JEMIE operates a two-step review process, consisting firstly of an internal review by the editorial team and then followed by an external double-blind peer review.

In 2023, JEMIE will continue on a specially dedicated website using OJS software that allows for an easier and more efficient submission process. The journal is currently indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and the editorial team will apply for inclusion in the Scopus database.

Editor: Kyriaki Topidi
Assistant Editor: Craig Willis



MEDIA OUTPUTS

ECMI CONVERSATIONS WITH EXPERTS

ECMI Conversations with Experts are a series of video interviews between a prominent expert in the field of minority issues and a researcher from the ECMI. In 2023, the ECMI researchers will continue to invite scholars to discuss minority related topics.

One video interview per month is envisaged for 2023.



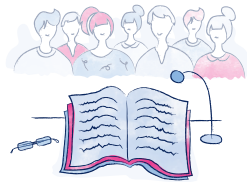
ECMI ONLINE TALKS

The Online Talks are organised as online panel discussions around a topic closely related to the research activities at the Centre. Hosted by an ECMI researcher, they bring together experts or practitioners and the audience through lively discussions and Q&A sessions. The Talks require pre-registration but are also freely live streamed on the ECMI social media.

For 2023, each Head of Cluster is supposed to host at least one Online Talk.

ECMI WORKSHOPS

By bringing together select specialists for policy horizon-scanning, joint publications or research exchanges, expert workshops at the ECMI spread the word about minority issues in Europe and create new linkages for future cooperation. Workshop topics for 2023 will include:



Danish-German minority issues

convened by
Martin Klatt

Emotions and ethnic conflict

convened by
Felix Schulte

Handbook on minority communities in Germany

convened by
Martin Klatt and Jørgen Kühl

Intersectionality in a minority context

convened by
Kyriaki Topidi

Journalism in minority languages

convened by
Sergiusz Bober and Craig Willis

Socio-economic participation for national minorities

convened by
Andreea Cârstocea and Aziz Berdiqulov

ECMI TEAM

Vello Pettai

Director

Viktorija Ayyül

Researcher

Sergiusz Bober

Senior Researcher

Aziz Berdiqulov

Researcher

Andreea Cârstocea

Senior Researcher

Polina Sulima

Researcher

Ljubica Djordjević

Senior Researcher

Craig Willis

Researcher

Martin Klatt

Senior Researcher

Maj-Britt Risbjerg Hansen

Head of Secretariat

Felix Schulte

Senior Researcher

Oana Buta

Information Officer

Kyriaki Topidi

Senior Researcher

Stanislav Černega

International Communications Coordinator

Doğukan Cansin Karakuş

Postdoctoral Researcher

Katharina Jürgensen

Regional Communications Coordinator



EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board is the supreme authority of the ECMI. It comprises nine members representing the founders, the scientific community, as well as European institutions. The Board convenes at least biannually to approve the budget, the annual plan of activities, and other business in line with the statutes.

Jørgen Kühl

Chair Honorary Professor of Minority Issues, Europa-Universität Flensburg

Elise Cornu

Director, Division of National Minorities and Minority Languages, Council of Europe

Johannes Callsen

Schleswig-Holstein Commissioner for Matters related to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, Border Area Activities and Low German

Annemarie Falktoft

Deputy Director General, Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science, Denmark

Sönke Rix

Member of the German Parliament

Christel Schaldemose

Member of the European Parliament

Garbi Schmidt

Professor, Department of Culture and Identity, Roskilde University, Denmark

[new appointment pending]

Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

[new appointment pending]

Academic expert appointed by the German Founders:

Linda Pieper

Substitute for Mr. Callsen

Thorsten Afflerbach

Substitute for Ms. Cornu

ECMI NETWORK

To reinforce its work, the ECMI draws also on an international Advisory Council that meets every 18 months.

ECMI ADVISORY COUNCIL (2022–2025)

Florian Bieber

University of Graz

Joshua Castellino

Minority Rights Group

Nicole Dołowy-Rybińska

Polish Academy of Sciences

Aliona Grossu

Jewish Community of the Republic of Moldova

Rainer Hofmann

Goethe University Frankfurt

Jennifer Jackson-Preece (chair)

London School of Economics and Political Science

Erin Jenne

Central European University

Helen Kelly-Holmes

University of Limerick

Angéla Kóczé

Central European University

Nils Langer

Europa-Universität Flensburg

Laura Morales

Institut d'Études Politiques, Paris

Nils Muižnieks

Amnesty International

Stefan Oeter

Universität Hamburg

Francesco Palermo

Eurac Research

Bo Petersson

Malmö University

David Smith

University of Glasgow

Fernand de Varennes

UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues

Myra Waterbury

Ohio University

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Federal Ministry
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and Community



by decision of
the German Bundestag



Ministry of Higher
Education and Science
Denmark

