ANNUAL
PROGRAMME

EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

2019

CONTENTS

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FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2019!

Another year of successful project implementation, teaching and research at the ECMI lies behind us. At the end of 2018, a decision of the German UNESCO Commission attracted worldwide interest to the direct neighbourhood of our headquarters: Being already on the national list in Denmark, the Danish-German border region – more precisely the peaceful togetherness of majorities and minorities in the Danish-German border region – is since 11th December 2018 also on the German list of immaterial cultural heritage.

The ECMI has been a strong supporter of this effort from the beginning, and I am delighted that the decision was positive.

Motivated and encouraged by this positive news, we start a new year of action & research in the field of minorities.

In 2019, we look forward to the realisation of new projects such as the COST Action project, which aims to examine comparatively and comprehensively the concept of non-territorial autonomy (page 13).

Other new, exciting projects are the regional development project (page 25) and the DMD-Project (Diversity Management for Sustainable Economic Development of Local Self-Government Bodies within the context of the decentralisation process in Ukraine). The DMD-project has started last summer and will accompany us during 2019 (page 27).

Apart from new initiatives and cooperation, the ECMI team will continue its research in their permanent projects, such as the Minority Map and Timeline of Europe-Project (MMTE) (page 37).

After a successful finalization of the Teaching in Diversity-project last year (Teach-D) (page 24), the ECMI offers 2019 tailor-made training courses – in-house and at various locations.

Of course, there will also be a Summer School in 2019: The ECMI Summer School 2019 will take place in Berlin this year and it will offer the chance to students from all over Europe to deepen their knowledge on minority issues and on international standards and practices regarding the protection and promotion of minority rights. This year`s topic: 1989 and its aftermath – we hope to see you all there and look forward to cooperating with you in 2019.

Prof. Dr. Tove H. Malloy
ECMI Director

Prof. Dr. Tove H. Malloy
ECMI Director

HIGHLIGHTS 2019

NEW PROJECTS IN SIGHT...

EUROPEAN NON TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY NETWORK (ENTAN)

ENTAN is a COST Action aiming to comparatively and comprehensively examine the concept of non-territorial autonomy (NTA), in particular NTA arrangements for reducing inter-ethnic tensions within a state and for accommodation of the needs of different communities while preventing the calls to separate statehood. The main objective is to investigate the existing NTA mechanisms and policies and to develop new modalities for accommodation of differences in the context of growing challenges stemming from globalisation, regionalisation and European supranational integration. The Action will tackle recent developments in theories and practices of cultural diversity; minority rights (including linguistic and educational rights); state functions and sovereignty; conflict resolution through policy arrangements; policy making and inclusiveness; self-governance and autonomy (see page 13).

NATIONAL MINORITIES IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In a new research endeavour, the ECMI is setting out to explore the role of minorities in regional development, particularly in border regions, through a discussion of concepts, methods, and empirical observations. Three fields of research are particularly relevant in this endeavour; Regional Development, Border Region Studies, and Minority Studies. While research in these three fields occasionally overlaps, it is not on a regular basis that researchers of these fields interact. However, analysing the role and potential of minorities in border region development requires knowledge from all three (see page 25).


Independence Square Kyiv / Ukraine ©shutterstock

HIGHLIGHTS 2019

DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE DECENTRALISATION PROCESS IN UKRAINE (DMD)

Acknowledging that social cohesion is an important developmental factor that often remains neglected and/or misunderstood and noting that the ongoing decentralisation in Ukraine is an opportunity for establishing functioning institutions so that sustainability of achievements is guaranteed, the ECMI has conceptualised this project to support the ongoing U-LEAD with Europe Programme. It aims to foster the socio-economic development of the ethnically diverse communities in Ukraine by building the capacities of the Local Self-Governments (LSG) and by supporting the contribution of the national minorities to the processes at the local level (see page 27).
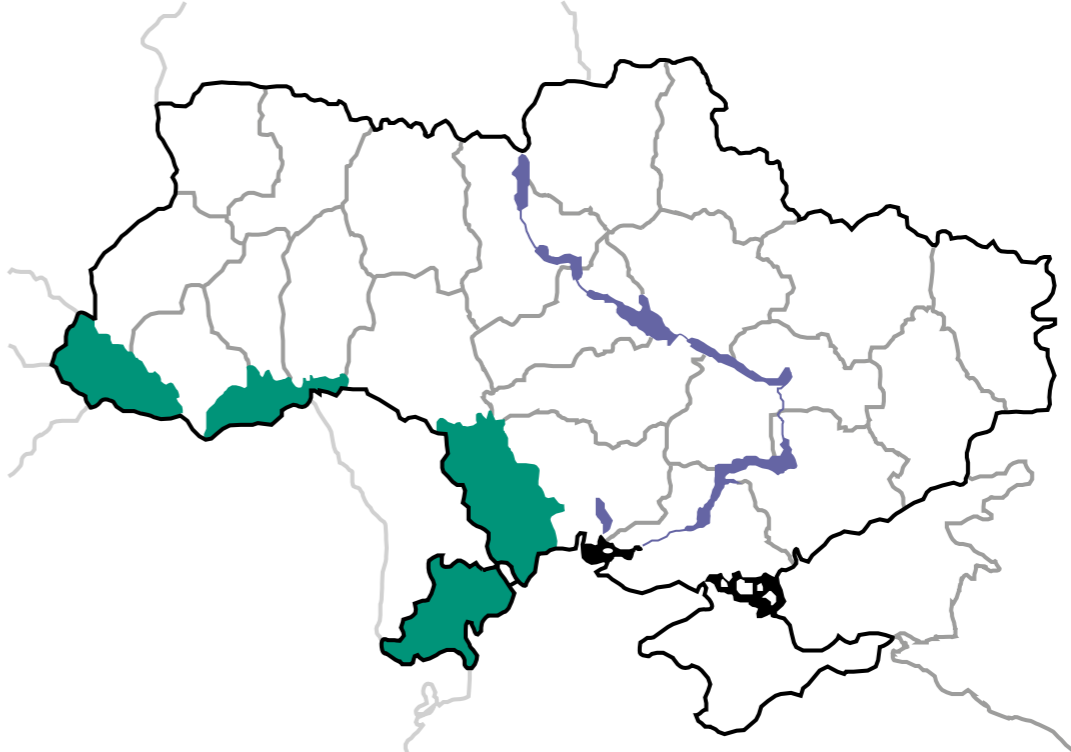
Regions with ethnically diverse populations in Ukraine.

HIGHLIGHTS 2019

ECMI SUMMER SCHOOL GOES BERLIN…

NATIONAL MINORITIES IN BORDER REGIONS:
1989 AND ITS IMPACT 30 YEARS LATER –
GERMAN AND EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES

1989 was a year of seismic change for Europe, and for Germany. Regimes fell and emerged, and a new political map of Europe was drawn, containing new countries and delineated by new borders. Particularly in Germany, the fall of the Berlin Wall meant the beginning of a reunification process between two separate and substantially estranged entities. Now, thirty years later, what can we learn from the experiences and transformations of diverse communities in Europe during 1989? What is the legacy of this year, and what might it be able to teach us about the future of both borders and national minorities in Europe? Students from all over Europe are welcome to deepen their knowledge on minority issues (see page 47).

ECMI Summer School 2018

HIGHLIGHTS 2019

WORKING CLOSER TOGETHER WITH UKRAINE…

The ECMI has been now active in Ukraine for several years. The ECMI Eastern Partnership Programme NATIONAL MINORITIES AND ETHNOPOLITICAL ISSUES: BELARUS · MOLDOVA · UKRAINE (EPP), supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, finished in 2018 and resulted in a substantial amount of findings. As part of the EPP, the ECMI has collected extensive data about current ethno-cultural relations in Ukraine. This has resulted in a number of recommendations on how to improve existing frameworks and design new measures to enhance national minority protection. The results of the Programme will continue to be disseminated among Ukrainian stakeholders in 2019. Thanks to the Programme, the ECMI was able to found a significant cooperation with the Ministry of Culture in Ukraine and will continue the cooperation in the form of expert support and consultations.
An ECMI representative in Ukraine received a status of an observing member of The Expert Council of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine for Ethnopolitical Affaires which allows the ECMI to continue its work as an important monitoring and observing entity in the area of national minorities in Ukraine. It is the vision of the ECMI to continue its work in the promotion and protection of the rights of national minorities in Ukraine. The research focus includes mainstreaming in decentralisation, indigenous rights, IDPs' rights, equality in education and the media.

ECMI UKRAINE PROGRAMME

HIGHLIGHTS 2019

Team Ukraine (from left-to-right): Ms. Olha Hlushko (Logistics and Travel Assistant), Ms. Nataliia Mekahal (ECMI Kyiv Representative), Ms. Olha Sribniak (Project Assistant) and Ms. Anna Chernova (Public Relations Specialist).

The team of the ECMI Ukraine Programme is based in Kyiv and assists with the implementation of projects, designing of new projects, and maintaining contacts to the authorities and the minority representatives.

The research focus includes mainstreaming in decentralisation, indigenous rights, IDPs' rights, equality in education and the media.

Specific research objectives for Ukraine include:

••• Reviewing legislation to clarify the legal situation by mainstreaming minor ity protection in all relevant legislation that supports the substantive minority rights spelled out in a revised Law on National Minorities,

••• Analysing of the specific situation of indigenous peoples and IDPs,

••• Examining of decentralisation efforts to assess the level of attention put on national minority participation and protection,

••• Analysing education legislation and programmes,

••• Exploring methods of data collection.

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JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

An effective protection of national minorities presupposes a clear and consistent legal framework, established institutional arrangements which provide efficient implementation of set norms, and effective remedies and protection mechanisms in case of violation of guaranteed rights. Exactly these areas form a core of the interest of the Cluster and the main strategic areas for research and action-oriented projects.

••• Normative Framework(s) for Minority Protection: The work in this area focuses on legal guarantees of national minority rights set in domestic legislation throughout Europe. The research addresses the quality of legal frameworks in general, plus the legal setup of specific national minority rights in particular. It also analyses to what extent established legal (normative) setups in domestic legislation provide a channel for the implementation of European standards (set in the FCNM and the ECRML).

••• Implementation and Protection of National Minority Rights: Even a perfectly formulated legal act can remain a façade, impotent to produce effects. Thus, the quality of minority protection depends to great extent on the quality of the implementation of set norms and especially of guaranteed rights. Thus, the focus here lies on identifying shortcomings in implementation and the causes of such shortcomings. In addition, the focus lies on justiciability of national minority rights, on remedies which are on disposal if national minority rights have been violated, on effectiveness of such remedies, and on analysis of the case-law relevant for national minority protection.

••• Institutional Arrangements: Here our interest lies in varying institutional arrangements at different levels of governance related to minority protection, in particular: decentralization of powers and mechanisms at regional and local level of governance for protection of national minorities, impacts of autonomy arrangements on the quality of minority protection, and consultative mechanisms established to channel participation of national minorities in public affairs.

••• Minority Protection Dynamics (New Trends): Protection of national minorities should not lead to their conservation and underdevelopment. Minorities as well as minority protection should keep pace and follow the developments in modern society. Thus, the focus in this respect lies in new challenges in minority protection, as well as the specific dynamics in minority protection. In this respect, the following can be of relevance: the collection and protection of ethnic sensitive data, the impact of the development of e-administration on the enjoyment of national minority rights, mobility and migration, multiple-identities, and dynamics within minority groups (with the emphasis on the democracy from within).

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JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

PROCESSING OF ETHNIC SENSITIVE DATA

In 2019, the Cluster will continue its work on exploring the issue of the processing of ethnic sensitive data throughout Europe. The preliminary analysis of the European standards in this area has already been done, same as the preliminary mapping of the practice of the states parties to the FCNM. Against this background, further analysis will be performed with respect to legal frameworks and practices of the individual states.

MAPPING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MONITORING OF THE FCNM AND THE ECRML

In 2018, the Cluster has begun its research on the degree to which the states parties to the FCNM comply with the recommendations resulting from the monitoring. A pilot case study has been developed, and some general trends have been identified. The research over the FCNM will continue, with the aim to cover as many states as possible. The research over the monitoring of the ECRML will also be initiated in 2019.

NEW IN 2019

EXPLORING THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE PROTECTION OF THE STATE LANGUAGE AND THE PROTECTION OF MINORITY LANGUAGES: THE OFFICIAL USE OF MINORITY LANGUAGES

The use of minority languages is not only one of the central minority rights, but also one of the most problematic. Whereas the private use of minority languages seems to be uncontested throughout Europe, the difficulties with the public use persist to various degrees almost everywhere. Against this background, the focus of the cluster will be on the use of minority languages in communication with public authorities. It will be explored to what extent persons belonging to national minorities can use own language in communication with the administration and whether, and if yes, to what extent states enable the use of minority languages before courts that goes beyond the general guarantees set out in Articles 5 and 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

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JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

MINORITY ISSUES IN THE JURISPRUDENCE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS IN EUROPE

The fact that in 2018, the Constitutional Court of Moldova examined the constitutionality of certain legal provisions on the use of Russian language and adopted an interesting and controversial decision, has provoked the idea to explore deeper the role of the constitutional courts in the protection of minorities. Two aspects are relevant here. First, the interpretations of constitutional courts when they decide in the cases of the constitutional review of the laws and their impact on the scope of minority protection: to what extent are those interpretations widening or limiting minority rights. Second, whether and if yes, to what extent, the constitutional complaint is used and is effective as a tool for the protection of national minority rights.

NATIONAL MINORITIES AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY: PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN LOCAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The right to participation in public affairs counts among one of the key minority rights and is a crucial tool for integration of a diverse society. Participation of national minorities can be much more effective at the lower levels of governance, those which are closer to citizens and directly affect their everyday life. In this respect, participation of national minorities in local affairs can not only strengthen the local democracy, but also contribute to the cohesion of a local community. Nevertheless, the focus is usually put at the instruments established at the central level. Against this background, the Cluster aims to explore the practice of the states parties to the FCNM regarding the instruments for minority participation in local public affairs. In the first step, legal and institutional frameworks for minority participation at the local level in individual states will be explored. In the second step, comparative analysis will be performed with the aim to identify similarities, differences and potential patterns.

CONSTANTLY IN FOCUS: NON-TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY ARRANGEMENTS

Although not set as a standard in none of the international documents relevant for national minority protection, autonomy arrangements can foster the quality of implementation of national minority rights and participation of national minorities in public affairs. More generally, they can foster democracy and sense of "ownership" among national minorities. The aim of the research is to examine existing non-territorial arrangements, their good and weak points, to identify good practices and possibility to export them or some elements in other, similar, environments.

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AUTONOMY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE WORLD

As a part of its work on non-territorial autonomy arrangements, the ECMI will further contribute to the project on "Autonomy Arrangements in the World", a network involving, besides the ECMI, EURAC (Italy), Center of the Study of Democracy of the Babeş-Bolyai University (Romania), and Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities (Romania).

For further information, please visit www.world-autonomies.info

EUROPEAN NON TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY NETWORK (ENTAN)

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For more information, please visit the Cluster page at www.ecmi.de/clusters/justice-governance/

POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

The capacity of national, ethnic and linguistic minority groups to exert influence over decisions taken at various levels (e.g. central, regional, local) constitutes a fundamental benchmark of a genuinely peaceful, democratic and inclusive society. At the same time, it indicates both the level of protection of such minorities and the level of their empowerment within a particular polity. The perspective of political and civic engagement of minorities also allows the observer to analyse how the playing field created by normative, political, social and economic realities in which they operate is put to use by them. Additionally, the multi-faceted category of politics creates the opportunity to investigate various dimensions of majority politics vis-à-vis minority groups, e.g. how the playing field mentioned above is created, what strategies the political parties of the majority use with regard to minority issues, which factors determine recognition (or lack of it) of a given minority group etc. As a result, the Politics and Civil Society Cluster is primarily focused upon the following set of distinct but at once intersecting research areas (dimensions), which below are dived into exemplary research questions:

Institutional dimension
●●● What kinds of institutional frameworks for minority groups' participation and cooperation in both political and civic life are implemented in various countries?

●●● To what extent and how they vary within the context of different political systems?

●●● At what levels of government (e.g. local, regional, central) is the political and civic activity of minority groups most salient and why is that so?

Organizational dimension
●●● What are the organizational patterns of minority groups' political and civic engagement (e.g. political parties, civic associations, ad hoc political campaigns)?

●●● What are the membership patterns of the political parties and civic organizations of the minority groups (e.g. the level of political/civic activism of various age/educational/gender groups among the minority communities)?

●●● How the political and civic activity of minority groups is funded?

Activism dimension
●●● What types of political/civic strategies/actions minority groups employ?

●●● How (and why?) political and civic organizations of minority groups cooperate with each other, with public institutions as well as with non-minority political parties and organizations?

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••• In what kind of activities political and civic organizations of minority groups are involved on the international level?

••• What are the communication strategies and tools used by minority organizations?

••• Which factors contribute to the political and civic mobilization of minority groups?

••• What are the patterns of activism of minorities within minorities (intersectional perspective)?

Ideological dimension
••• Which political ideas (ideologies) inspire minority groups political and civic engagement?

••• What types of political discourses and ideologies minority groups produce themselves and what kinds of ideological and discursive reactions they cause among the majority?

••• How political and civic activity affects the collective identity of minority groups as well as individual identities of their members?

••• How the institutions of the state and political parties/civic organizations/pressure groups of the majority are justifying the empowerment of minorities or the lack of it?

During 2019 the Politics and Civil Society Cluster intends to continue focusing upon the following specific projects fitting into earlier indicated research areas.

MINORITIES IN FEDERAL AND DECENTRALIZED POLITICAL SYSTEMS
The project focuses upon both normative and operational contexts in which minorities function in various kinds of federal and decentralized polities. The basic research questions are: (1) To what extent those contexts differ? (2) Which of them is more favorable for minority groups in terms of their empowerment? (3) To what extent they affect the identity (primarily political) of the minority groups?

NEW NATIONAL/ETHNIC MINORITIES
Aside from minorities officially recognized by the states in which they reside, there are also other minority groups striving to achieve such recognition. The broad aim of the project is to analyze the processes of identity formation of such minorities as well as their interaction with the state (exemplary research question: what kinds of organizational and discursive strategies do the new minorities use in order to achieve recognition?).

POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND NATIONAL MINORITIES
Academic and policy-based literature have until now mostly linked socio-economic inequality to the Roma minority, with a limited amount of literature devoted to other minority groups in Europe. As such, this project will explore the impact of the contemporary retreat of the welfare state and the rising socio-economic inequality on national minorities. The project will address a broad range of topics, including a mapping exercise attempting to outline the unequal socio-economic status of national minorities across Europe; a comparative analysis of governmental responses to the impact of socio-economic inequality on minority groups; an assessment of the impact of socio-economic inequality on women belonging to selected national minorities; the responses of national minority groups to rising economic inequality and the retreat of the welfare state, in particular the commodification of their culture and traditional objects.

**For more information, please visit the Cluster page at
www.ecmi.de/clusters/politics-civil-society/**

CONFLICT & SECURITY

The Conflict and Security Cluster is primarily focused on issues relating to promoting reconciliation and inter-community dialogue, identifying and preventing threats to security, and analysing the functioning and impact of institutional mechanisms developed for the protection of minorities' security. The Cluster will approach contemporary challenges relating to the security of minority groups under the broader umbrella of minority rights' protection.

MONITORING SPECIFIC ISSUES/SITUATIONS THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO THREATEN SECURITY OF MINORITIES

This research focus aims to, in a sense, create an early warning system of potential escalations in conflict affecting minorities, and deteriorations in the protection of minority rights. Through careful preliminary examinations, a series of specific issues or situations will be identified, that are considered to be particularly volatile or regionally-significant for the security of minorities. For each issue or situation, a set of indicators will be established, and through regular monitoring, trends will be mapped in an effort to identify future potential research foci.

MAPPING RESPONSES TO ETHNICALLY-MOTIVATED HATE CRIMES IN POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES

The institutions developed for the protection of minority rights, and particularly security mechanisms, are important not just for addressing specific security concerns of minorities, but in also for promoting a broader sense of inclusion and well-being. The classification of crimes and incidents that the victim perceives as being ethnically motivated as general crime (for example vandalism, theft) have a significant negative impact on security perceptions. This area of research aims to go beyond investigating the institutional and legal frameworks of minority security protection mechanisms and additionally focuses on how they operate in practice and how they are perceived by the affected communities.

EXAMINING THE CRUCIAL LINK BETWEEN THE PROTECTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS AND SECURITY PERCEPTIONS OF MINORITIES

This cross-cluster area of focus considers minority security issues within the broader framework of minority rights. Protecting and respecting minority rights enhances the general sense of inclusion of minorities into wider society, which in turn enhances security perceptions. By contrast, when demands for greater rights are rejected, or existing rights are not adequately protected, this can lead to an increase in inter-ethnic tensions and decreased security perceptions.

••• Albanian language rights and inter-ethnic relations in Macedonia

In recent years, demands for greater language rights have increased tensions between the Macedonian majority and the Albanian minority in Macedonia and have been used as a political bargaining chip by Albanian politica parties. This study aims to map the history of language rights for Albanians since the Ohrid agreement against trends of heightened inter-ethnic tensions to identify correlations.

••• Elections in Bosnia as indicator of security of ethnic minorities

This project will closely monitor the election campaigns in the lead-up to the Bosnian general elections of 2018. Focus will be on how minorities were portrayed by electoral candidates and what place minority issues have in electoral discourse, as well as the inclusion of minority communities in the democratic process. The monitoring will give an indication of the degree to which minority rights are on the agenda and the general level of inter-ethnic relations. It will also be a useful indicator of minority inclusion and participation in the democratic process, which is an important factor in the overall security perceptions of minorities.

INTER-ETHNIC DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION AS AN INVESTMENT IN INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONS AND THE LONG TERM SECURITY OF MINORITIES

In recognising the valuable contribution that investment in inter-ethnic dialogue makes to the reconciliation process, this area of research aims to utilise the lessons learned from past initiatives to build the capacities of local actors in developing their own dialogue projects.

••• Mapping of dialogue processes in former Yugoslavia

This project aims to map major inter-ethnic dialogue initiatives in Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia and Kosovo in order to identify the most common approaches to dialogue and focus on 'success story' projects. After careful analysis of the factors that contributed to the success of these projects, the aim is to create a 'manual for dialogue' that can be used as a tool for non-governmental organisations and institutions in the region, to develop new projects on inter-ethnic dialogue.

••• Assessing the legacy of the ICTY

The focus of this research will be on how the ICTY is perceived by different actors and communities in Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo and Serbia and what impact it has had on inter-ethnic relations. Bringing together academics, journalists, human rights activities, war veterans, victims' organisations, missing persons associations, government and communities' representatives, as well as representatives from key international organisations working in the region, the project aims to conduct events in the four territories, facilitating discussions on the legacy of the ICTY and its contribution to inter-ethnic reconciliation in the region, as well as conducting semi-structured interviews with participants.

CONFLICT & SECURITY

HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS
IN NON-RECOGNIZED ENTITIES

Non-recognized territorial entities, often referred to as 'de facto states', are one of the biggest conundrums in international law and relations. There is not even a grey zone to which such entities can be relegated; there are simply no tools in the toolkit that allow for describing and accommodating these outcomes of what is also called 'frozen' conflicts. While some have been constituted largely like small states with constitutional agreements regulating internal affairs, others survive on systems of strong authoritarian rules imposed by totalitarian rulers. While a few have appeared to take on board international normative standards on human rights, none have adopted regulations on minority rights and protection. International organisations have their hands tied with regard to access to these entities due to the strict lines adopted by their member states. They regularly denounce the rulers of these entities, including their approaches to human rights. Many NGOs operate in these regions, especially with humanitarian and educational issues. At present, only two authoritative reports on the human rights situation have been issued by the independent but highly respected Norwegian expert, Thomas Hammarberg. In 2013, he published a report on Transnistria upon the request of the UN, and in 2017, he published a report on Abkhazia on the request of the EU. Since the ECMI is an independent institution and given that there exists no systematic monitoring in entities, such as Northern Cyprus, Transnistria, Crimea, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Nagorno Karabakh, the ECMI will include these entities as a separate initiative in its geographic portfolio.

●●● **THE INITIATIVE WILL HAVE ONE MAIN RESEARCH OBJECTIVE**
Compile, systematize and analyse human and minority rights information on an annual basis in all relevant entities and publish this in one or several reports.

●●● **THE PROJECT** aims to analyse human and minority rights in such non-recognized entities as Nagorno-Karabakh, Crimea, Northern Cyprus, Transnistria, South Ossetia, Abkhazia. The ECMI goal is to fill in the gap in research and data collection that is connected with the status of these territories.

For more information, please visit the Cluster page at www.ecmi.de/clusters/conflict-security/

CITIZENSHIP & ETHICS

The Citizenship and Ethics Cluster focuses on minority existence from two perspectives: active citizenship and respectful intercultural exchange. Active citizenship sees members of ethno-cultural minorities as contributors to society in a number of areas related to minority culture and democratic life in general. Respectful intercultural exchanges are essential for fostering an open society that allows members of ethno-cultural minorities to promote and develop their cultures and their communities. Research efforts examine frameworks of governance for citizenship action and open, respectful dialogue. The Cluster also explores initiatives taken by ethno-cultural minorities to improve intercultural dialogue as well as governance networking aimed at improving the lives of both minorities and majorities. Other aspects of Cluster research include citizenship education and methodology of respectful dialogue.

NON-TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Public administration procedures for implementing non-territorial autonomy (NTA) arrangements are not well described in the academic literature. Usually knowledge about cultural autonomy arrangements is confined to legal frameworks and policy descriptions, but the actual implementation is rarely described and analysed. This leaves a gap in our knowledge and prevents us from attaining a holistic picture of how such arrangements function and develop. Scholars have argued that there needs to be a measurement of 'institutional completeness' in order to ascertain the viability and compliance of NTA models. This project aims to map the frameworks and function of NTA arrangements in Canada, Germany and Serbia with a view to study the institutional completeness of these. By assessing the completeness or incompleteness of models in these three countries, the project will be able to identify good practices as well as lacks in policy-making.

THEORIZING BRIDGE BUILDING ACTORS AND ACTIONS

Following on the previous project, "Bridge Building and Integration in Diverse Societies," this project seeks to examine the examples from that study in terms of 'acts of citizenship.' In focus will be the actors who took initiatives to create bridges between communities. How were they empowered to take action? What human capital and support networks facilitated their action? The examples will be studied for capabilities and competencies as well as personal autonomy in order to assess what has contributed to the acts and actions happening. What motivates members of ethno-cultural groups to take action – often on a voluntary basis – to seek reconciliation and co-operation across cultural divides? This project will be implemented in parallel with the on-going project on "Cultural Competencies and Ethno-Cultural Minorities."

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CITIZENSHIP & ETHICS

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO NON-TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY

New modes of cultural autonomy seem to be forming in modern and democratic societies where ethno-cultural communities are increasingly diverse due to migration or the long-term existence of mixed cultures. Members of ethno-cultural minorities may take matters of governance into their own hands by participating actively in local civil society actions. This may be in matters of local development or in more personal matters, such as family affairs. Either way, new approaches to public management appear to become valid and accepted, thus creating alternative ways of managing diversity. This project aims to study the acts of citizenship that members of ethno-cultural minorities perform in areas where they feel they may contribute or where they wish to have greater freedom and self-management. Models of cultural autonomy and normative pluralism are thus in focus in this project.

MINORITY DISCOURSES

Minority studies have traditionally focused on the security and legal aspects of ethno-cultural minority existence and the protection of minority rights at the national and international levels. This has been studied mainly in the disciplines of history, law and international relations. Cultural aspects of ethno-cultural minority existence have been examined in anthropology but rarely connected to the disciplines studying ethno-cultural diversity management. Security and legal discourses have thus dominated the fields of minority studies. This is rapidly changing, partly due to statecraft becoming increasingly diverse in terms of methods of management and actors. Policies of Europeanisation and territorial cohesion have rendered minority issues relevant, especially in local and regional development management, while policies of diversity management have opened up for cultural actors participating in local community networks. This project seeks to unpack the genealogy of minority discourses throughout the centuries of relevance. The aim is to examine whether new types of discourses have formed challenging the traditional security and justice discourses.

CULTURAL COMPETENCIES AND ETHNO-CULTURAL MINORITIES

Cultural competencies of ethno-cultural minorities are vastly overlooked in the policy-making on social cohesion in Europe. Due to multicultural backgrounds and hybrid identities, members of ethno-cultural groups often develop human and social capital as well as strong dialogue skills that enable them to interact in several cultures successfully. This phenomenon is potentially beneficial to modern societies, both in terms of respectful dialogue and societal development but also to Europe as a whole in terms of territorial cohesion. This project aims at identifying areas where members of ethno-cultural minorities participate on the basis of their cultural capital and intercultural skills in governance networks focusing on developing a European polity.

CITIZENSHIP & ETHICS

THE EU AS A POTENTIAL SUBSTITUTE FOR 'EXTERNAL HOMELAND'

The study of relations and power dynamics within the nexus – national minority, nationalizing state, and external homeland is well-known in Minority Studies. But how to study this phenomenon with regard to minorities without a kin-state? What would be the role of the EU in such cases? How do minorities without kin-states perceive the EU as their potential external mother country? In focus is the Rusyn minority in Slovakia. The main aim of the study is to uncover understudied relations and power dynamics within the nexus and adapt the classic Brubaker's triadic nexus (and its critique) to the situation where a minority does not have a kin-state. The main objectives of the study are twofold: first, to assess the role of the EU in the nexus, and second, to analyse the discourse and images of the EU within the minority itself. The study relies on the social constructivist views of nationalism and national minority relations and employs analysis of the EU legal documents relating to the protection of national minorities as well as discourse analysis of Rusyn media and interviews with representatives of the Rusyn minority from various fields.

MINORITIES AS AGENTS IN (CROSS-)BORDER REGION DEVELOPMENT IN THE EU

Minority communities contribute to regional development in many European border regions. However, these contributions are not the same everywhere and it is not clear, what motivates them. What are the structures and processes that empower minority communities to participate in regional development, and do they take initiatives beyond governance structures? Is there a factor of civil society engagement and self-empowerment that drive these actors to participate? The objective of this study is to understand which institutional and political conditions foster the empowerment of minorities in border regions and enable them to actively contribute to regional development. To this end, a theory of minority contributions to regional development will be built, drawing on a number of theoretical approaches from the fields of community psychology, political sciences, and sociology, as well as empirical observations from the Danish-German border region. Following this process, a small-scale comparative study, analysing the political opportunity structure, community organisational structure, and societal participation of various minority communities in border regions across the EU will be undertaken to test and improve the theory.

For more information, please visit the Project page at www.ecmi.de/clusters/citizenship-ethics/

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CULTURE & DIVERSITY

●●● Is diversity a societal asset or a key challenge to integration and social cohesion?

●●● What are the mechanisms that foster societal cohesion of culturally diverse societies?

●●● What are the challenges to, and the prospects for, ensuring minority rights in education, media, and language policies?

Through a number of research projects, the Cluster addresses one of the key challenges that societies and governments face today – the management of cultural diversity. Acknowledging the rise of cultural conflicts at the end of the 20th century, the research programme departs from the assumption that "cultural differences such as language, religion, traditions and ethnicity are non-negotiable, but being politically relevant they have significant potential to fuel tensions if manipulated or abused"[1]. The Cluster therefore aims to contribute to the policy-making process devoted to fostering intercultural dialogue and societal cohesion with respect to democracy, human and cultural rights.

DISCURSIVE CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITIES
Focusing on the constitution, construction, maintenance, and recognition of identities, on their articulation and interaction, the Culture & Diversity Cluster will launch a series of research projects under this new thematic line. The multi-dimensional approach to the topic will allow that the cultural diversity is explored as key element underlying the constitution of self-perceptions and group identities, of social norms and values, of public interactions and policy frameworks.

The research topic consists of three sub-projects:

LEGAL STATUS OF MINORITIES IN EUROPE
What is "minority"? What is the difference between "ethnic group", "ethnic minority", "ethnic community", and "national minority"? Departing from these questions that often invoke passionate debates, the research project aims at bringing into focus the terms and the definitions that the European states refer to in their national legislation. By comparing the similarities and the differences between the concepts underlying the minority protection and its projection in the public policies, the research questions the feasibility of a common policy in a situation of a lack of coherent articulation of cultural diversity.

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1   B Crawford &R Lipschutz, The Myth of 'Ethnic Conflict': Politics, Economics, and 'Cultural' Violence, University of California International and Area Studies Digital Collection, Research Series, Vol 98, 1998; p.11

CULTURE & DIVERSITY

RECOGNITION AND BELONGING IN THE "NEW" MINORITIES LANDSCAPE OF GERMANY
This study will investigate how the categorisation of groups as "minorities" contributes to a sense of belonging, from a political and social point of view. Do communities resulting from migration seek recognition as minorities under national and European instruments? How useful are such instruments to these groups? What are the differences between the way the term and category of "minority" is used between academia, policy, and wider society? Using Germany as a case study, the research will examine political discourse, media discourse and the self-identification of both "old" and "new" minorities to identify areas of tension and build an understanding of how minority recognition shapes the way diverse communities are included or excluded from national narratives and state structures.

NARRATED SELF-IDENTIFICATION
Shared characteristics, traditions and historical past are some of the most important building blocks of the collective (minority or national) identities and their continuous re-affirmation through history books, monuments and/or collective commemorations. Past is therefore playing an active role in shaping the present and the future of communities, in legitimising social norms and in group interactions. Analysing narratives and historical myths in a comparative perspective, the research project aims to explore the foundations of the current inter-community dynamics and to identify not only the clashing interests and conflict issues but also the elements that could become the basis for the building of tolerant and inclusive multicultural societies.

MINORITY RIGHTS IN EDUCATION
The overall goal of the project is to look at the specific power of education as a fundamental human right and at the same time as a mechanism for minority empowerment, for strengthening democracy, and for fostering social cohesion and respect for diversity. To obtain a better understanding of the current issues and to identify needs for further research and action, the programme focuses on exploring different types of educational models and the provisions of minority rights to and within education. It also aims to provide a comparative analysis of the existing minority schooling practices with regard to the impact on community, regional and social development. The research focuses on the identification of positive and negative practices in the process of the implementation of the FCNM throughout the European countries.

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CULTURE & DIVERSITY

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TEACHING IN DIVERSITY

Under the ECMI leadership, 10 partners from 7 countries implemented the "Teaching in Diversity" project funded by the ERASMUS+ KA2 Strategic Partnership programme. To support teachers from all over Europe in facing the challenges that come with increasing cultural diversity in the classroom, and to adequately address the issues that they face on a daily basis, the project developed a training module for teachers to introduce them to the human and minority rights agenda, to the values and practices of multilingualism, active citizenship and societal cohesion. The project developed a training course and a Handbook, an online learning platform and a network of teachers to exchange information and provide self-support to its members beyond the project lifetime.

In 2018, the ECMI conducted a pilot training-course and a final event in Flensburg. The seminar covered six key modules: Introduction to diversity management; Minority rights in education; Linguistic diversity; Religious diversity; Non-discrimination and preventing hate-speech at schools. After a successful finalization of the project, the ECMI offers 2019 tailor-made training courses – in-house and at schools.

MEDIA AND DIVERSITY

As a key tool of public communication, media is a crucial factor for enabling pluralism and intercultural dialogue, increasing levels of tolerance, and encouraging inter-community cooperation. By disseminating manipulative messages, promoting fear and hostility and spreading negative stereotypes, media can also hamper any integration efforts. Therefore, by examining the structural and cognitive projection of diversity in media, the research aims to identify and reflect upon successful practices of and challenges to societal cohesion within plural cultural societies. With the assumption that a dialogue needs two active parties, the research looks at both (1) the behaviour of the official (majority) public media regarding minorities and the protection of minority rights through the media policies, and (2) the role of minority media outlets in fostering or impeding societal cohesion.

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY AND LANGUAGE POLICIES

With its 225 indigenous languages, diversity cannot be considered an exception but rather a norm in Europe and in the world. With its dual role – a (pragmatic) tool for communi-cation and a (symbolic) marker of identity and culture – language is a complex social construct and a powerful constructor of societies. Protecting minority rights and managing diversity through language policy while ensuring societal cohesion and possi-bilities for active interaction between individuals and communities is therefore a parti-cularly challenging task before any government. Accounting for the multiple challenges before states to handle linguistic diversity, the research project will explore the interaction between policies on languages, education and media and their impact on minority rights.

For more information, please visit the Cluster page at
www.ecmi.de/clusters/cdhome

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NATIONAL MINORITIES IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Throughout its work in the field of minority issues, the ECMI had the chance to observe and analyse the peaceful and prosperous development of minority-majority relations in many regions across Europe. These positive relations are often intimately linked to the quality of life in the region and the socio-economic well-being of its inhabitants. However, when it comes to regional development, the true potential of minorities is often untapped and remains under-researched. Mostly living in peripheral and border regions, their strategic and structured involvement in regional development activities and bridge building is especially important and could be a tool to increase social cohesion. By combining three fields of research (Regional Development, Border Region Studies and Minority Studies), the ECMI aims to explore the role of minorities in regional development, particularly in border regions.

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ECMI ROMA EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Analysing the current situation of the "European minority" of Roma – de facto a number of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities present in almost every European country – the ECMI researchers have come to believe that the approach to the development of policies for Roma integration is scattered and hardly coordinated, based on theoretical assumptions rather than on evaluation of project outcomes and field findings. The top-down international and national agendas have failed to bring about a significant change. The lack of a synchronised and coordinated approach to the problems, regarded as a national matter, is another impediment to the finding of efficient and working solutions at a trans-national horizontal level. With its Cross-Cluster research programme, the ECMI aims not only to address the complexity of Roma inclusion objective, but also to promote the need for a general policy shift from integration to 'Roma empowerment'.

●●● **ROMA INTEGRATION POLICIES IN A CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE** aims, through the analysis of current policies, to identify the common challenges and the respective positive measures for addressing them in a coordinated and synchronised manner. The project ambition is to develop a system of integration indicators and a standardised EU Instrument for monitoring and evaluation of the policies targeting Roma and their impact.

●●● **ASSESSING THE MECHANISMS FOR ROMA REPRESENTATION** examines the effectiveness of the mechanisms for political representation of Roma in selected European countries. Acknowledging that political representation is one of the essential paths toward empowerment and integration, the project will focus on legal/institutional arrangements and their implementation and impact in practice.

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ECMI MAINSTREAMING PROGRAMME

While most attention with regards to minority protection is generally paid to rights aimed to preserve specific minority identity, it is rarely examined how a wide range of laws and public policies affect national minorities, i.e. a whole range of issues (sectoral programs) which can have an impact on the lives of minorities remains neglected. Stakeholders developing diverse sectoral policies not directly related to national minorities usually tend to ignore or simply overlook the impacts such policies can have on national minorities. For this reason, the ECMI has pointed out the lack of awareness about the need to mainstream minority rights across domains of policy-making.

With the ECMI Mainstreaming Programme, the ECMI will continue to pay specific attention to mainstreaming, trying to identify if the adopted regulations or public policies are sensitive to the needs of national minorities and how their implementation affects national minorities. In general, mainstreaming minority issues can take several forms, including: a) considering the effects of particular initiatives on minorities; b) assessing whether initiatives require additional measures to be effective among minority communities; and c) securing the relevance of initiatives for the needs of minorities. Special focus should be laid on legal frameworks (their impact on the status of national minorities), minority participation (institutionalized mechanisms which provide that minority needs are heard and taken into consideration at all levels of government), education access (as an inevitable channel for minority empowerment, their vertical promotion, and integration), and access to social services and labour market (as a crucial precondition for economic empowerment, and social inclusion). Mainstreaming should help to identify not only sectors of direct relevance for minorities, but also those of indirect relevance for minorities, i.e. those which could produce impacts on national minorities, and which are usually neglected. Bearing in mind the importance of local communities for the quality of minority protection and majority-minority relations, special attention will be paid to mainstreaming minority issues at the local level of governance.

See further, the ECMI mainstreaming guides here:
http://www.ecmi.de/uploads/tx_lfpubdb/Minority_Issues_South_Caucasus_fulltext.pdf
http://www.ecmi.de/uploads/tx_lfpubdb/EAR_Practical_Guide_on_Minority_Issues_Mainstreaming.pdf

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As a sub-project under this thematic line, *promoting ratification of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (ECRML)* research will be initiated jointly by the Clusters Justice and Government and Culture and Diversity. Although they have committed themselves to signing and ratifying the ECMRL when acceding to the Council of Europe, Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, and Russia have not yet done this. The ECMI will build on its activities in 2011, examine the current state of affairs with special emphasis on reasons for which the ratification in these countries is still pending, and accordingly develop its strategy for promoting ratification of the ECMRL.

NON-TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY PROGRAMME

The public management of equality in diverse multicultural societies has implications for all levels of government. In terms of territorial management, devolution of powers to ethno-cultural minority groups residing in homeland regions requires self-government institutions. In terms of non-territorial management, non-discrimination measures ensure equality of individuals, while special rights for ethno-cultural groups protect alternative ways of life. The latter has proven not only controversial to justify but also difficult to transpose into public policies. Special policies for ethno-cultural minority groups that are not territorially defined and wish to have a say in maintaining and nurturing their own culture pose challenges especially to policy-makers constrained by traditional views of Westphalian sovereignty and state-centrist institutional approaches. They are now coming under pressure from unexpected forces. New migration flows, diminishing and environmentally unsafe natural resources as well as global crises contribute not only to the emergence of a new global order of inequality but also to unpredicted pressure on power structures. This forces policy-makers to rethink diversity management concerning ethno-cultural minority groups. Thus, new paradigms of public management have to be found and institutionalized in the changing power structures of late-modern society.

Non-territorial autonomy (NTA) for ethno-cultural minority groups range from formal self-government arrangements to informal programmatic co-decision type arrangements. The aim is to protect against assimilation and to give ethno-cultural minorities a voice in matters related to them. NTA arrangements are special rights that pertain to ethno-cultural minorities whose identity forms on the basis of ethnicity, religion, race, mother-tongue language or kin-state identity as opposed to universal, non-discrimination rights for social groups, such as the disabled or the poor. While the overall goal is social cohesion, the specific purpose is justice and equality.

Unfortunately, NTA policy-making is vastly under-explored in academia. While policy studies have focused mainly on territorial autonomy settlements and anti-discrimination policies, and the social sciences have focused on justification of NTA, little has been written about how to design viable NTA policies. The design,

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functioning and implementation of NTA policies in public management have been neglected. There exists, therefore, a gap in academic knowledge with regard to the public management of NTA arrangements for non-territorial ethno-cultural minority groups. This series of five books seeks to remedy this gap.

The ECMI embarked on a new research effort with a number of partners in 2012 to address the role of ethno-cultural minorities in the public management of diverse societies. While the overall aim is to inform the diversity management policy discourse about viable strategies, the specific goal is to fill the knowledge gap in academic research on NTA arrangements. Through descriptions, analyses and evaluation, the challenges to the application and implementation of existing and emerging models of NTA will be examined. Through this research effort, the ECMI wishes to

- ●●● Improve academic knowledge of models and policies of NTA through a compilation and description of comprehensive empirical data;

- ●●● Assess the good and bad examples of NTA policy through a categorization and critical analysis of the aims of models;

- ●●● Explain the challenges of NTAs to policy-makers through a contextualization and critical assessment of contemporary Westphalian discourses on diversity management;

- ●●● Assess the potential for new paradigms through examination of alternative and emerging NTA arrangements.

The results will be disseminated through the ECMI publications and a 5-volume series in co-operation with Oxford University Press. Two edited volumes have been published in 2015. **See the ECMI webpage on External Publications here: http://www.ecmi.de/publications/category/external-publications/**

The Programme also co-operates with the multi-partner co-operation *Autonomy Arrangements of the World.* **See website: http://www.world-autonomies.info/tas/styrol/Pages/default.aspx**

NATIONAL MINORITY INDICATORS

Indicators to measure the performance of international human and minority rights treaties are increasingly a requirement in the assessment of the impact of legal standards. Once a legal framework exists, specific measurement tools need to be designed and implemented. This raises a number of questions with an often technical nature, and which ought to be addressed in the general perspective of "policy analysis"— where the notion "policy" has to be clearly distinguished from the notion of "politics." However, there is relatively little information, whether in terms of analytical tools or practical experience, on the evaluation of policies addressing minority issues. Whereas there is considerable technical know-how, in a policy analysis perspective, on other types of issues (for example, in the case of policies that address economic inequality between groups, making it possible to apply such knowledge to the reduction of socio-economic disparities between majorities and minorities), much less is known about how to evaluate rigorously various minority protection policy options.

To investigate more closely the techniques (whether already available or in need of further elaboration) for the ex ante assessment and ex-post evaluation of the organisational and financial consequences of measures in favour of minority protection, as well as for the general assessment of the effectiveness of policy measures, the ECMI has since 2000 implemented ad hoc indicator projects aimed at designing indicators for minority rights. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), indicators are parameters or values derived from information describing the state of a phenomenon. As such, they are an attempt to gather facts and information despite conditions of uncertainty due to lack of comprehensive data and to the ever-changing nature of the phenomena under analysis. Different types of indicators have different aims.

Through this research effort, the ECMI wishes to

- ●●● Improve the application of minority indicators through a conceptualization of policy-to-outcome indicators;

- ●●● Design context relevant minority indicators for specific legal instruments and governance policies;

- ●●● Produce toolkits and handbooks that may be of use not only to monitors, but also to public servants and NGOs that are involved in monitoring minority protection;

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The results will continue to be disseminated through the ECMI publications. See further:

ECMI Report #6, "Evaluating policy measures for minority languages in Europe: towards effective, cost-effective and democratic implementation" **(http://www.ecmi.de/uploads/tx_lfpubdb/report_6.pdf)**

ECMI Working Paper #61, "Policy-to-Outcome Indicators and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages" **(http://www.ecmi.de/uploads/tx_lfpubdb/Working_Paper_61_Final.pdf)**

ECMI Handbook, "Qualitative Minority Indicators: The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities," **(http://www.ecmi.de/publications/detail/qualitative-minority-indicators-the-framework-convention-for-the-protection-of-national-minorities-345/)**

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BORDER REGIONS GOVERNANCE

National and ethnic minorities are frequently not only pro-active actors but also proponents of border region co-operation. They apply their bilingual and multilingual skills as well as bi-cultural knowledge to regional development projects and to enhancing people-to-people dialogue. Studying national and ethnic minorities in border regions has been an integral part of the research of the ECMI for many years. However, with the drive to secure territorial cohesion in Europe, the involvement of national and ethnic minorities in creating and managing open borders becomes more relevant. In some regions, the continued protection of the rights of minorities in border regions also needs attention. Academic knowledge of this area of Minority Studies is limited and often confined to local studies in local languages. The ECMI's symbolic presence in one of Europe's most peaceful border regions presents an opportunity to conduct comparative studies and suggest recommendations for other border regions in Europe. With the ECMI Border Region Governance Programme, the ECMI will intensify its focus on these regions in order to set the issues on the agenda not only for research but also for international politics.

The ECMI Border Region Governance Programme aims at multidimensional analyses of cross-border co-operation involving national and ethnic minorities as well as local actors and authorities. As a consequence, our research fields will include but may not be excluded to:
- Minorities' contribution to and influence on governance in border regions as well as normative frameworks organizing cross-border cooperation;

- Minorities as actors in cross-border endeavours;

- Discourses and narratives produced by minorities with regard to borders, cross-border activities, experiences of the other side of the border and borderlands as common living- and cultural spaces;

- Minorities' identities as influenced by border region reality;

- Cross-border cooperation as an example of secondary foreign policy and minorities as contributors to initiatives dealing with difficult past.

The research on the topic started in 2018 with a focus on the *Minorities and the cross-border cooperation.* In the contemporary Europe, cross-border cooperation steadily turns into a fairly ubiquitous phenomenon in the transborder regions. The aim of this project is to analyse the patters of minority groups' involvement in such endeavors. Exemplary research questions are: (1) In which aspects of cross-border cooperation are minority groups most active? (2) How the activity of minority groups in the field of cross-border initiatives is perceived by the authorities (local, regional and central), political parties of the majority, media and public opinion?

CENTRAL ASIA PROGRAMME

As some scholars argue, the Soviet regime institutionalized ethnic and national identities to put those into knowable categories, and ultimately communities started embracing and mobilizing around them. Ethnic and national identities were used as building blocks for construction of nation-states within the Soviet Union. Thirty years after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, policies towards ethnic and national communities in the successor states differ to a great extent. Looking at the individual country cases and building a comparative regional and cross-regional perspective, the research aims at identifying areas which can benefit from the adaptation of existing models for minority protection as well as issues that can provoke rethinking and/or further development of the current European frameworks.

Since its establishment in 1996, the ECMI has been very active in the post-Soviet space. After successful projects in such countries as Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (some of those projects are still ongoing), in 2019 the ECMI's team intends to additionally turn its attention towards the Central Asian countries, that is Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In terms of research, the ECMI's team is willing to focus primarily upon such topics of regional relevance as: (1) border regions, (2) national, ethnic and linguistic minorities, (3) nation building and identity formation, (5) language policies and language rights, (5) the patterns of political mobilization of ethnic communities. In spite of its manifold particularities, Central Asian countries share numerous common features (the most obvious ones are post-Soviet and post-colonial legacies). As a consequence, the ECMI's methodological approach to the region will be a comparative one, aiming at identifying common threads as well as divergences.

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In 2019, the ECMI- team will continue the comparison between the patters of the Russian and Soviet colonization policies and those employed by the Western states focusing on the respective impact on ethnic identity formation. The multi-layered comparative analysis will cover Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan and will address intertwined subjects as: (1) the dynamics of ethno-national identity formation in the region; (2) the patterns of political mobilization of ethnic communities in the region; (3) the access to natural resources and ethnic tensions in the region.

MINORITY MAP AND TIMELINE OF EUROPE (MMTE)
www.mmte.eu

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 diverse communities, minority issues, and community relations within all states and regions of Europe. The user interface of the MMTE website – including complementary interactive and detailed maps, timelines, and analyses – provides new, varied, and interconnected ways to interpret Europe's ethnic diversity. The MMTE utilises a visual and hands-on approach to present data and information for better comprehension of relationships and associations concerning diverse communities and the countries they are living in. To this end, the website is composed in a thematic format to promote consistency, uniformity, and comparison between entries.

The MMTE is an ongoing flagship project of the ECMI. First created in 2001 as the Ethnopolitical Map of Europe, in 2010 the project was re-evaluated and redesigned to reach the widest audience. 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, non-governmental organisations and policy-makers, and the informed public. The Minority Map and Timeline of Europe endeavours to act as a central clearinghouse website that provides information on diverse communities in a timely, straightforward, and reliable manner. Additionally, the MMTE project is intended to help develop the ECMI's own goals and projects to better understand minority issues as well as implement corresponding programmes.

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YOUTH DIGITAL ENTRPRENEURSHIP ACADEMY (YDEA)
The Youth Digital Entrepreneurship Academy is a cross-border initiative funded by the European Commission and aimed to foster digital networking and entrepreneurship and for socio-economic integration of youth in Kosovo and Albania. The academy will grant incentives to young people from Prizren and Lezha, including women and members of non-majority communities, to develop their own professional capacities and opportunities for (self) employment. This will be achieved by a training program on digital skills and entrepreneurship, complementing and cooperating with the local business sector or other young entrepreneurs, as well as facilitating the exchange of best practice among vocational and educational institutions. As a result, young people will improve their knowledge of digital entrepreneurship and develop skills, increasing their networking and employability opportunities.

During 2018, Expert/s have been recruited in Kosovo an in Albania and have identified the market needs of the several local business sectors that operate in Prizren and Lezha that would also profit from Web-design and IT services. The programs of the local vocational and educational schools are evaluated to set the starting point for the YDEA training program, filling the gaps in the current curricula, advancing and modernizing teaching methods. Furthermore, the training scheme has been developed and it will correspond to the needs of schools and local business sectors in the two regions as identified in the report. This training program will compromise four modules: INTRODUCTION TRACK- Introduction to Computer Science, TRACK 1: Front-End Development, TRACK 2: Back-End Development, TRACK 3: Mobile App Development (Android Apps) and TRAC 4: Business Management.

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL COALITION (ERAC)
In 2018, ERAC worked on more than 100 human rights and discrimination cases, while providing efficient legal aid and support to members of minority communities, women, youth and LGBTI community. This year we reached approximately 280,000 citizens in the territory of Kosovo. We managed to publish 9 policy reports and recommendations directed to the relevant government institutions, as well as 10 success stories on the violation of fundamental rights and freedoms in Kosovo. 9 conferences were organized to publish the policy reports. Apart from the organization of several on-the-job workshops for paralegals and capacity-building activities for CSOs in the field, ERAC organized a study visit to Podgorica, Montenegro, for exchange experiences and practices with CSOs working there on the domain of law and fundamental rights. Lastly, within ERAC, ECMI launched different awareness-raising campaigns including the publication of promotional videos, brochures, leaflets, stickers, tote-bags, in-depth journalistic pieces and billboards. Moreover, ECMI Kosovo, through ERAC, joined forces with USAID Kosovo to promote access to free legal aid for marginalized and vulnerable groups.

For more information, please visit: www.equalrightsforallcoalition.com or www.ecmikosovo.org/en/Current-Projects/

Adrian Zeqiri
Executive Director
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ECMI KOSOVO

SCALING UP THE RESULTS IN ENHANCING ACCESS TO AND RETENTION IN EDUCATION FOR VULNERABLE AND DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN (UNICEF)

The actions of this project in 2018, coordinated and harmonized with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), have been very successful with regard to the early identification of children at risk of dropping out and responding in real time to situations where abandoned children were identified by supporting and empowering school and municipal officials trained to find sustainable solutions to identified cases. Furthermore, the activities of the project have provided continuous support to the 10 municipalities covered for the technical and substantial use of the Early Warning System module. ECMI Kosovo have trained and supported school and municipal officials, and MEST in all actions undertaken to address the issue of out-of-school children.

SUPPORT TO EDUCATION IN THE SERBIAN LANGUAGE IN KOSOVO

In the course of the diploma verification mechanism established in this project, the Kosovo Government has stipulated a Commission that to date received 1,535 applications, of which 1,350 were approved, 144 are currently being reviewed and 38 diplomas were denied due to not falling under the mandate of the Commission.

Taking into account the fact that the process of diploma recognition has been unresolved for the past 17 years, these developments represent a success story in Kosovo. ECMI Kosovo facilitates the verification process both as part of their mandate as the mediating party between the Commission and University of Mitrovica North (UMN), and also by providing technical support to the work of the Commission for the Verification of degrees.

ECMI Kosovo has assessed the impact of the project and conducted three surveys in December 2016, in April 2017 and October 2018, in order to assess the impact of the verification process and to monitor how the successful applicants have used their verified diplomas. The third survey shows the following statistics:
Out of 811 applicants contacted, 261 applicants applied for jobs and 99 applicants or 38% individuals of those successfully obtained a job. Many Serbs and those from the Serbian-speaking community who received diplomas from University of Mitrovica North were working in various public institutions in Kosovo. However, their status as permanent civil servants was unconfirmed, and they usually worked with short term contracts. The number of applicants who had this status in Kosovo Institutions and have verified their diplomas to confirm their status as permanent civil servants at various Kosovo institutions is 205 or 25%. In total 57 or 7% of applicants have verified diplomas in order to take further professional examinations in Kosovo (such as the bar examination, or professional licenses –notary, mediators etc.)

ECMI KOSOVO

A total of 334 or 41% verified their diplomas in order to complete their personal documentation so these would be ready should an opportunity arise for employment at Kosovo institutions. A significant number of these applicants work in Serbian institutions in Kosovo (schools, hospitals, education, etc.) and are waiting for further discussions and agreements between Kosovo and Serbia for their future work status in Kosovo.

Furthermore, ECMI Kosovo is working with the MEST and other relevant partners in education sector, to address both short term solutions – as it is the case with diploma verification process by expanding its mandate for verification of the high school and professional school diplomas – but also very importantly to finding long term solutions to the existing situation where education in Serbian language is completely separated from the education system of Kosovo, and therefore not recognized by it. It was agreed to work with Ministry of Education, for a longer term vision and strategy for finding a suitable solution to the current situation. In this respect, it is of paramount importance that the Kosovo Government and MEST have a clear strategy to the inclusion of education in Serbian language within the overall framework of Kosovo education system.

**For more information, please visit:
www.ecmikosovo.org/en/Current-Projects/**

DEVELOPING TEACHING MATERIALS TO ASSIST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACQUISITION BY MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS IN KOSOVO

During 2018, ECMI Kosovo has continued the implementation of the project 'Developing Teaching Materials to Assist Official Language Acquisition by Municipal Officials in Kosovo'. This project foresees new textbooks, along with the associated workbooks, as well as new teachers' manuals to be developed for both Albanian and Serbian language courses. The textbook materials are developed and correspond with the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages" (CEFR) standards A1, A2 and B1. A total of 18 documents are produced and will be published during January 2019. Textbook materials are tailored for the needs of municipal administration officials working in Kosovo. This way, the teaching methodology and materials are overhauled for both Albanian and Serbian language courses produced for municipal officials working in mixed ethnicity municipalities, thereby enabling them to provide services in both official languages. This project is funded by OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM).

ECMI KOSOVO

UPCOMING

••• Conference to present a qualitative and quantitative report on Serbian language schools in Kosovo within the project Support to Education in the Serbian Language in Kosovo and the map of Serbian schools in Kosovo – January 2019.

••• Within ERAC project; Publication of 10 research papers and organisation of 6 conferences concerning current human rights concerns in Kosovo.

••• Publication of promotional videos on illustrative daily-life of vulnerable and marginalized groups' concerns with access to legal services and free legal aid.

••• Publication of handbooks to assist paralegals and citizens in the cases of fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as the promotion of community based paralegal work.

••• Organization of on-the-job workshops to strengthen the capacities of the Coalition team and paralegals to: 1) provide legal aid to vulnerable and marginalized groups, 2) monitor the work of the human rights structures, 3) conduct researches, 4) lobby and advocate for human rights.

For more information, please visit ECMI Kosovo homepage at: www.ecmikosovo.org

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ECMI GEORGIA

In 2018, the ECMI relaunched its activities in Georgia. With new initiatives, new representation and a new format, the ECMI will continue to promote minority rights in Georgia.

In February 2018, the ECMI organized a workshop on "Interethnic Relations and Protection of National Minorities in Georgia" that gathered ECMI senior research associates and five external experts (two from Georgia, one from Armenia and two from Germany) to discuss the current state of affairs in the respective field and to elaborate the possibilities for further ECMI research and action in Georgia. The agenda of the workshop was formed around five of the most pressing issues, which the ECMI has preliminary identified together with its partner organization, the Centre for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CSEM): political participation, decentralization, education in and for a diverse society, challenges to the ratification of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (ECRML), and gender and minorities. The focus in 2019 will continue to be on research and mapping the developments in the identified areas necessary to develop adequate ECMI actions in Georgia.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

National minorities remain quantitatively and qualitatively underrepresented in Georgian politics. The electoral system does not provide measures for fostering participation of national minorities, and the mainstream political parties only sporadically address the issues of interest for national minorities. Furthermore, forming political parties on ethnic grounds remains outlawed in Georgia. The ECMI will continue its in-depth analysis of the Georgian electoral and party systems (especially in the light of the constitutional changes and the transformation of the electoral system) and their effects on the participation of national minorities. The aim is to identify potential for the introduction of measures that can foster participation of national minorities in political processes and thus strengthen integration and cohesion of the society as a whole. Special attention will be paid to the instruments for minority participation at the local level of governance and the quality of local democracy in multiethnic municipalities. Initial research will be performed with regards to the participation of national minorities in public administration, both at the central and local levels.

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ECMI GEORGIA

DECENTRALIZATION

It is common sense that decentralization fosters democracy and provides a better quality of minority rights at the local level. With this presumption, the ECMI team will analyse the vertical organization of powers in Georgia, the competences of the local level governance, and the quality of minority protection at the local level. The aim is to identify how the ongoing decentralization reform affects the status of minorities, and which instruments can be imposed on the local level to foster participation of national minorities in public life and to improve the quality of implementation of minority rights at the local level.

EDUCATION IN AND FOR A DIVERSE SOCIETY

The starting assumption is that education in minority languages in Georgia is below average and that teaching of Georgian for students attending minority schools is insufficient and does not successfully mitigate the shortage of the state language proficiency among the minority population. Although there is a general (political) will to improve the quality of minority education (seen primarily as a tool for integration), the effects of the imposed measures are rather weak (although they should not be underestimated; for instance, the "4+1"-programme for the enrolment into the universities). Several issues remain current: teaching of the state language, increasing the quality of education in minority languages, monitoring of the outcomes of the measures, programs and reforms in education, and participation of national minorities in adopting education policies (textbooks and curricula, teaching staff etc.). The issue of education is not limited to minority education, but also covers the way minorities are presented in the curricula and textbooks developed for the majority and the promotion on diversity as a societal value in both majority and minority education. The ECMI will perform a certain mapping of the current state of affairs in the area of minority education, and in the second step the mapping of the openness of majority education for minority issues and promotion of the diversity of Georgian society.

CHALLENGES TO RATIFICATION OF THE ECRML

The problem of the ratification of the ECRML has been persistent in Georgia for years. Although a ratification document has been drafted, its quality is disputed and the issue remains unsolved. The ECMI will further examine the current discourses about the ECRML (both among majority and minorities) and the potential for the issue to escape a dead-end situation. It is crucial to promote the ECRLM as a "tailor-made" instrument and to emphasize the benefits for all parts of the society (i.e. the majority as well) from the linguistic diversity of the country. The ECMI will also work on the relationship between the state language and minority languages and will promote the principle that protection and promotion of the state language and of minority languages do not collide, rather should be put in a fine balance to promote multilingualism.

ECMI GEORGIA

GENDER AND MINORITIES

It has been generally assumed that men still dominate the decision-making in the Georgian society and that women need additional support for empowerment. Furthermore, women belonging to national minorities are exposed to a twofold level of discrimination: because of their sex and ethnic affiliation. Despite this, or even because of this, women are often being neglected when developing minority-oriented policies and instruments, making gender mainstreaming extremely necessary in dealing with national minority issues in Georgia. Against this background, the ECMI finds it essential to perform a comprehensive research on the position of women belonging to national minorities in Georgia. Education, employment, discrimination, access to justice, just to name a few, are issues that define the position of minority women in Georgia and will be subsequently analysed in depth. Furthermore, the gender aspect will also be considered in all issues listed above, and it will be examined whether (and if yes to what extent) the policies addressed to national minorities affect women.

ECMI partner in Georgia: Centre for Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CSEM), http://csem.ge/

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ECMI UKRAINE

DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE DECENTRALISATION PROCESS IN UKRAINE (DMD)

The project started on the first of July 2018. Supporting the process of decentralisation of Ukraine and the U-LEAD with Europe Programme, the project aims to foster the socio-economic development of the ethnically diverse communities in Ukraine by building of capacities of the Local Self-Governments (LSG) and by fostering the contribution of the national minorities to the processes at the local level.

BACKGROUND

With the adoption of the *Concept for the Reform of Local Self-Government and Territorial Set-Up of Power* in April 2014, the Ukrainian government included the process of decentralisation among its key priorities. Supported by the international community, the implementation of the territorial and administrative reform and the enhancement of the capacities of local self-governance achieved significant progress in just a couple of years - the first elections have been already conducted in more than 700 amalgamated hromadas (AH) throughout Ukraine. As a result, the AHs have experienced a developmental push, which had a directly positive impact on the living standards of people. As a study conducted by the ECMI with the support of the German Chairmanship of OSCE 2016 has revealed, these positive effects can be significantly maximised if human capital is managed adequately so that ethnically diverse groups actively cooperate with and contribute to the work of the LSG.

By focusing primarily on the areas where national minorities live compactly, ECMI activities aim to facilitate the ongoing amalgamation process by featuring its socio-economic aspects and transfer of knowledge and positive practices. With a focus on diversity management and sustainable governance for economic growth, the ECMI project will support the building of capacities of the local self-governments of hromadas as well as of already amalgamated hromadas.

DMD ACTIVITIES

The project activities cover a full range of services, including the delivery of:

●●● **Research outputs**
 - Study on the situation in Ukraine
 - International experience and practices
 - Policy recommendations

●●● **Information materials** about the decentralization process in Ukraine

●●● **General and tailor-made trainings** in 2 modules, conducted in the 3 targeted project regions

ECMI UKRAINE

●●● **Study-visit to Schleswig-Holstein**, Germany

●●● **Workshop with national authorities** of Ukraine

●●● **Expert workshops** in support to local and national authorities in Ukraine

●●● **Final project event** for dissemination of project findings and achievements

DMD AIMS & OBJECTIVES

●●● Building capacities of LSG and communities in diversity management for fostering economic growth

●●● Awareness raising about the advantages of the multi-stakeholder partnerships in the context of the amalgamation process

●●● Knowledge transfer to LSG and central government; planning facilitation and provision of structural support to LSG

●●● Empowerment by supporting the establishment of mechanisms for structured dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders

PROJECT SCOPE

To foster societal cohesion and hence support the social and economic development at the local level and regional levels, the project will target regions with ethnically diverse populations

●●● Chernivtsi

●●● Zakarpattya

●●● Odessa
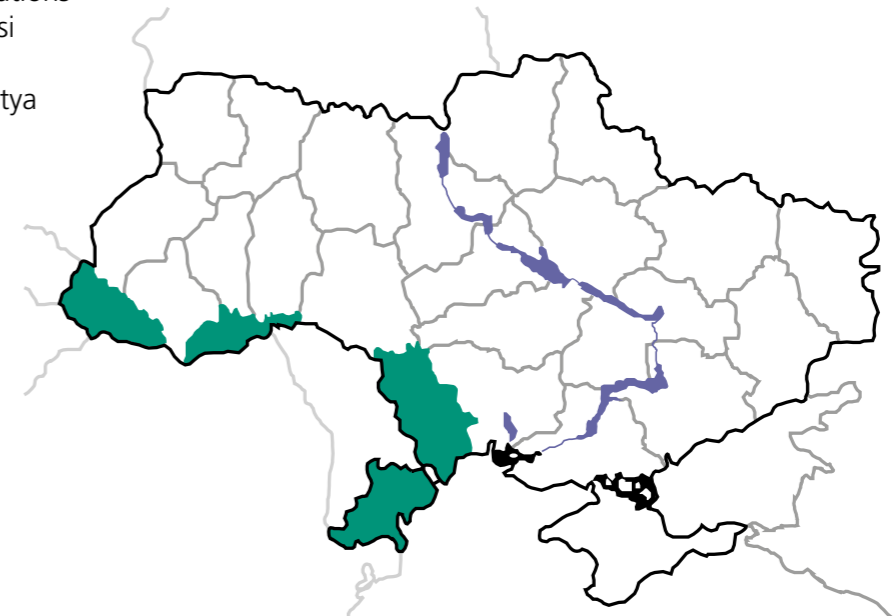
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Regions with ethnically diverse populations in Ukraine.

ECMI HQ FLENSBURG

ECMI ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council (AC) is a 15 member body of eminent experts in the area of minority studies appointed by the ECMI Executive Board in consultation with the founders of the Centre. The overall aim of the AC's support to the ECMI is to help ensure the Centre's position as a leading research and competence institution in Europe in the area of minority issues and as a primary sparring partner for governments, international governmental organisations, and the European Union in this field.

The members of the AC support the ECMI mission by establishing contacts with persons, institutions and organisations, by assuming duties of representation and promotion of the activities of the ECMI to European institutions and in specialist circles. The AC is thus seen as an added value to the ECMI's combined research and competence capacity, as well as to the Centre's international networking capacity. The purpose of the AC is therefore to support the ECMI in its efforts to fulfil its mandate as stated in the Centre's mission statement. The tenure of each Council is three years. For membership and chairperson, please refer to the ECMI website.

For more information, please visit: www.ecmi.de

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ECMI EDUCATION

ECMI SUMMER SCHOOL
**Theme 2019: National Minorities in Border Regions:
1989 and its impact 30 years later – German and European Perspectives**

In line with our previous successful editions of the Summer School, the ECMI Summer School 2019 will again offer the chance to students from all over Europe to deepen their knowledge on minority issues. This year the summer school will take place in Berlin and focus on the year 1989 and its (international) consequences:

1989 was a year of seismic change for Europe and for Germany. Regimes fell and emerged and a new political map of Europe was drawn, containing new countries and delineated by new borders. Particularly in Germany, the fall of the Berlin Wall meant the beginning of a reunification process between two separate and substantially estranged entities. The economic, structural and political differences between the two Germanys had to be reconciled, ideological rifts mended, and people (re)connected, including new and old minorities in both East and West Germany. As the GDR disappeared, new states formed east of Germany, causing new border disputes and ethnic conflicts along with a national awakening in many European states. Today, the GDR is integrated into Germany, several states of Central and Eastern Europe have been integrated into the EU, borders have opened and many regions see significant cross-border cooperation. These developments heavily affected the lives of minorities in these regions and in many countries changed how they were perceived. Now, thirty years later, what can we learn from the experiences and transformations of diverse communities in Europe during 1989? What is the legacy of this year, and what might it be able to teach us about the future of both borders and national minorities in Europe?

For more information about the application process and deadlines, please visit: www.ecmi.de/trainings/summer-school/

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ECMI EDUCATION

ECMI INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

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

For more information about the application process, please visit: www.ecmi.de/about/recruitment/interns/

ECMI TRAINING COURSES

ECMI offers tailor-made training courses – in-house and at various locations – for academia and professionals from a range of fields: human rights, development work, humanitarian work, education, law and law enforcement, social work, healthcare, and media. The courses, in English but also in a number of other European languages, are designed to serve the needs of NGOs, public institutions, governmental agencies, international agencies and organisations, and pay particular attention to regional, national and international human and minority rights mechanisms, addressing topics like advocacy, monitoring and evaluation. A full description of the courses is available online at **www.ecmi.de/trainings/**

For more information, please visit: www.ecmi.de/trainings/other-courses/

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Head of Secretariat and
Project coordinator

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ECMI EDUCATION

'THE EUROPEAN MINORITY RIGHTS AND MINORITY PROTECTION REGIME' UNIVERSITY COURSE

The multi-disciplinary Master level course aims to provide in-depth knowledge and robust skills on the basis of which participants develop an informed understanding of minority issues in the 21st century. Minority issues are examined from the perspectives of political science, law, sociology, anthropology, history, and cultural studies. The target group of the course are graduate students who are interested in a career in national or international institutions and NGOs, as well as students who wish to continue their education in the social sciences or humanities.

Since 2011, ECMI has been delivering the course at the Europa-Universität Flensburg on an annual basis. The course is divided into three parts:

Part I: History, International Law and International Relations
- ••• The historical emergence of minority rights
- ••• European international law and inter-governmental institutions
- ••• Inter-state relations and European integration

Part II: Concepts and Theories
- ••• Culture, language and ethnicity
- ••• Conflict and unity
- ••• Ethnographic and anthropological approaches to minority issues
- ••• Theories of nationalism
- ••• Late modernity

Part III: Politics and Policy
- ••• Conflict mitigation
- ••• Democracy, participation and empowerment
- ••• Minority education
- ••• Diversity management

For more information about the application process, please visit:
www.ecmi.de/trainings/the-european-minority-regime-seminar/

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JEMIE

Journal on Ethnopolitics and
Minority Issues in Europe

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European Yearbook
of Minority Issues
Volume 9, 2010

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THE ECMI LIBRARY

The ECMI Library is an independent collection of books, journals, and grey literature of more than 3,000 items covering many aspects of minority issues. The highly specialised collection offers public access to a variety of materials in more than twenty languages on inter-ethnic relations, language and cultural diversity issues and ethnic conflict in Europe. The Library is especially strong in the area of minority protection with regards to international law.

INFORMATION ON THE NEW LIBRARY LOCATION:
To provide a better access for students and wider public, in November 2016 the ECMI Library has been moved to the premises of the Danish Central Library (Norderstr. 59, Flensburg) where the books now may be consulted on a daily basis: Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. / Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

JOURNAL ON ETHNOPOLITICS AND MINORITY ISSUES IN EUROPE

The Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE) is a peer-reviewed electronic journal edited under the auspices of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI). Addressing minority issues across a broad range of studies, JEMIE is a multi-disciplinary journal that seeks to publish critical analyses of policies and developments in European institutions and member states, and their relations with the countries of the European neighbourhood and other immediate neighbours. ECMI welcomes contributions on non-European perspectives on ethno-politics in the wider Europe and on minority issues in Europe in a global context.

EUROPEAN YEARBOOK OF MINORITY ISSUES

The European Yearbook of Minority Issues (EYMI) is edited and published in collaboration with the Institute for Minority Rights at the European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen. EYMI provides a critical review of contemporary developments in 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 unique annual overview of minority issues is an indispensable reference tool for libraries, research institutes, governments and international organisations.

EYMI volumes can be obtained from *Brill Academic Publisher* www.brill.com
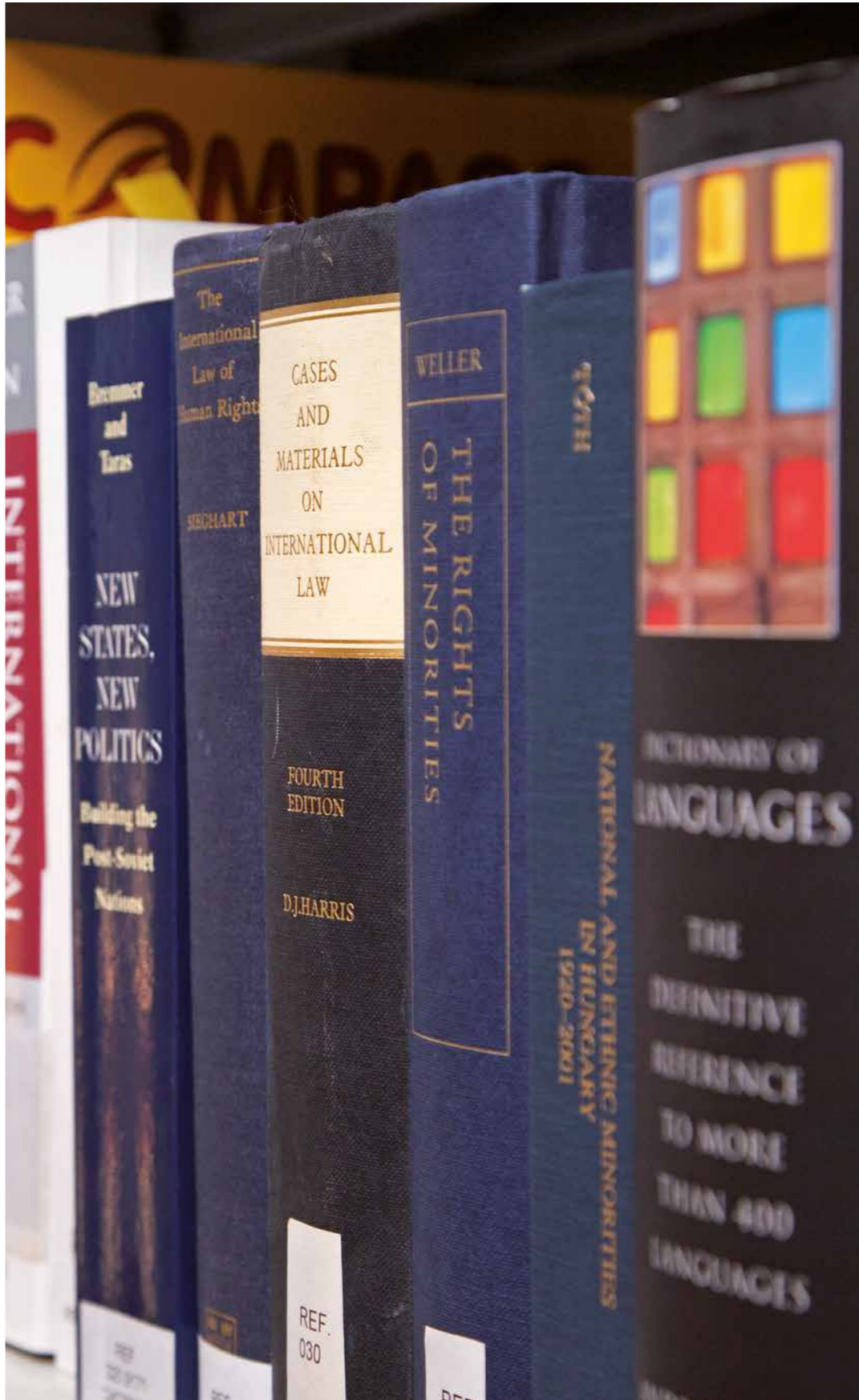
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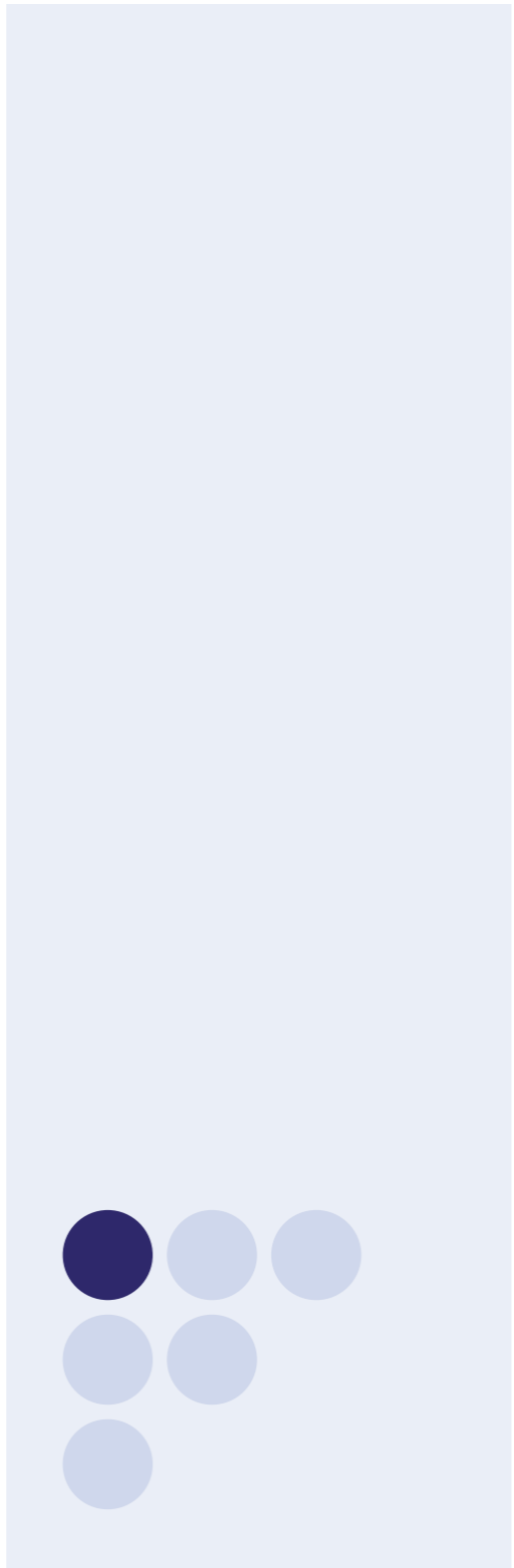
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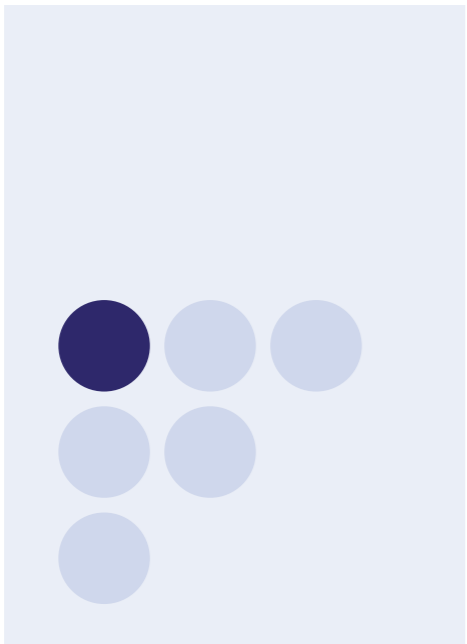Prof. Dr. Tove Hansen Malloy
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